



HORIZON EUROPE

THE EU
RESEARCH &
INNOVATION
PROGRAMME 2021 – 27

RESEARCH
AND
INNOVATION



PROPOSAL WRITING CAMP

Decoding the Call

- How to understand and analyse a call
- How to deconstruct a call text
- Group work: Practical exercise on call decoding



Considerations before you start

WHY TO PARTICIPATE

- Budget vs wide-scale impact that is crucial
- Multi-country, multi-stakeholder and interdisciplinary partnerships
- Boosting scientific excellence and innovation capacity

KEY TO SUCCESS

- Ambitious project **advancing the state-of-the-art**
- **Innovation potential** (e.g., ground-breaking objectives, novel concepts and approaches, new products, services or business and organisational models)

TIPS BY EUROPEAN COMMISSION

- The project must be within the scope of a work programme topic
- Demonstrate interdisciplinarity, gender dimension, open science practices
- Clearly outline the pathway to impact
- Demonstrate the quality work plan resources and participants

From where to start?

- Call text
- Team
- Consortium

- Have there been similar calls and funded projects before (CORDIS database)?
 - ✓ Topics
 - ✓ Set-up of the consortia
 - ✓ Budget



Deconstructing a call text

- **Specific Conditions:** main information about the call
- **Expected Outcomes:** what is supposed to be achieved
- **Scope:** presents what exactly is expected to be done



Example 1

Topic ID

HORIZON-CL6-2021-BIODIV-01-11: What else is out there? Exploring the connection between biodiversity, ecosystems services, pandemics and epidemic risk

Specific Conditions

Expected EU contribution per project: between EUR 4 and 6 Million

Indicative budget: Total budget for the topic is EUR 12 Mililion

Type of Action: Research and Innovation Action

Eligibility conditions: see Annex B

Technology Readiness Level: Activities are expected to achieve TLR 3-5

Expected Outcome

Successful proposal will contribute to European Green Deal priorities and the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030, whilst supporting the EU's response to the coronavirus and other zoonotic outbreaks, in the context of EU's goal of leading just digital, economic and ecological transitions that will leave no one behind, One Health approaches, and the future European Health Union. **Projects results** are expected to contribute to [...]

Scope

Wildlife microbiomes, whether symbiotic, commensal or pathogenic, and their potential to spread by crossing interspecies barriers, eventually reaching humans via transitional interfaces (e.g. peri-urban, farming areas), are still largely unknown. [...] The impacts of land use and climate change on biodiversity, ecosystem services and pandemics should be also taken into account, as well as any recent IPBES reports on the links between biodiversity and pandemics [...]

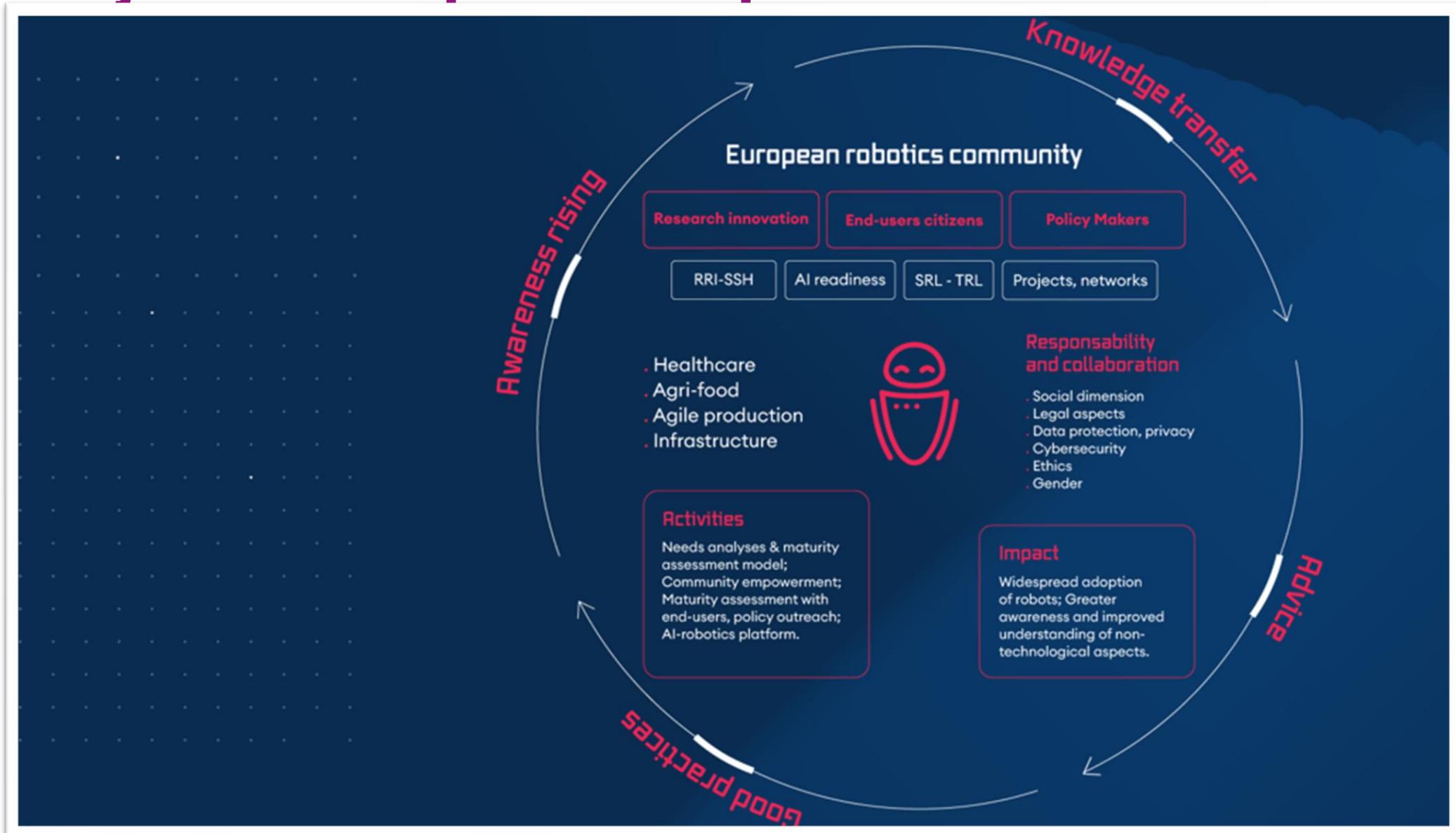
Example 2: ICT-46-2020, H2020 (3 mil EUR)

- **Specific Challenge:**
- While robots originated in large-scale mass manufacturing, they are now spreading to more and more application areas. In these new settings, **robots are often faced with new technical and non-technical challenges**. The purpose of this topic is to address such issues in a modular and open way and **reduce the barriers that prevent a more widespread adoption of robots**. **Four Priority Areas (PAs) are targeted: healthcare, inspection and maintenance of infrastructure, agri-food, and agile production**.
- **In each of these** PAs it is critical to develop appropriate autonomous capability that has impact on the efficiency of key applications in the PAs and moves beyond the current state of the art. This capability is built from core technologies and is proved and tested through pilot demonstrators that embed within real or near real environments.
- **User needs, safety, ethical, gender, legal, societal and economic aspects** should be addressed in order to **raise awareness and take-up by citizens and businesses**. **Privacy and cybersecurity issues, including security by design and data integrity** should also be addressed, where appropriate.

Example 2

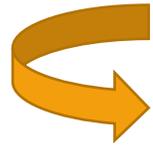
- **Coordination and Support Action (CSA) - Robotics**
- Proposals should address issues concerning the **whole European robotics community** and provide support actions **that develop awareness and knowledge transfer**. Proposals should consider the development of a **high-level stakeholder forum and an associated communication strategy**; the development of mechanisms that create a continuing discussion around legal and societal issues concerning **AI-based robotics** technology that leads to strategic **development and the dissemination of best practice to robotics stakeholders and particularly to developers and policy makers**.
- Proposals should address the issues of **socio-economic analysis, cyber-security, data protection, ethical and privacy issues** that arise from the increased deployment of **robotics to ensure that there is relevant and effective strategic development and best practice advice available to robotics stakeholders**.
- Proposals should address the **public understanding of robotics** through the development of **news articles, public and media engagement and awareness activities**.

Project concept developed



Deconstructing a call text

- **Specific Conditions:** main information about the call
- **Expected Outcomes:** what is supposed to be achieved



Outcomes ... → Impact

- **Scope:** what exactly is expected to be done



Challenges to be solved

Research & Innovation Work
to be done



→ **Check the Destination information for additional background information and to be aware of the expected long-term impact**

Group Work



How to deconstruct a call text?

- Read carefully the *Horizon Europe topic* chosen as an example for the hands-on exercise;
- Sort the information and highlight all words and sentences according to the colour code

Challenges

Work/ Activities

Consortium

Impact

Budget

What goes where in the proposal?

1. Excellence

- Challenges underpinning the call
- Must be explained in the Excellence and will define the Objectives of the project.
- What is the challenge we must solve as a result of the project?

2. Impact

- Short-term impacts under the Expected outcomes section
- Long-term impacts under the Destination description
- NB! Analyse the overlaps between the expected target groups and consortium partners. Target groups need to be explained in the Impact section.
- Pay attention to the wording:
 - ✓ Activities vs results vs impact
 - ✓ What must change as a result of the project?

3. Implementation

- Work – activities that you plan to have in the project
- Consortium – partners/ representatives of the target groups whom you should have as consortium partners
- Budget (Part A and B)
- Work Programme document and/ or under the call text published online in the Funding and Tenders portal
- Budgetary must be presented in Part A (Funding and Tenders Portal) and Part B – Resources to be committed

Decoded call

POLITICAL PERSPECTIVES FOR THE EASTERN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND THE WESTERN BALKANS

TOPIC ID: HORIZON-CL2-2023-DEMOCRACY-01-08
Deadline: 14 March 2023 17:00 Brussels time

Budget: The Commission estimates that an **EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million** would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts. The **total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million**.

Type of action: Research and Innovation Actions

Eligibility conditions: The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The following additional eligibility criteria apply: In order to achieve the expected outcomes of the action, the consortium must include at least one entity from the following countries: Georgia, Republic of Moldova or Ukraine

PROJECTS SHOULD:

Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- **improvement of the European Union's neighbourhood policy and accession process**, thanks to a clear vision for the political agenda of the European Union towards the Eastern Neighbourhood countries and the Western Balkans, based on a **deep and nuanced analytical basis**.
- **Forecast and scenarios of the geopolitical ambitions of Russia, China, and other countries towards the countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood and accession candidates**.
- **Strengthened resilience and foreign policy arsenal of the European Union against military threats on the European continent** thanks to **policy recommendations**.

SCOPE:

The political and economic consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine go well beyond Ukrainian borders. The European Union had to change overnight from a neighbourhood policy focused on incremental reform to one that is about the **survival of some Eastern Neighbourhood countries as independent, self-determined states**. Ukraine's application for European Union membership has been immediately replicated by Georgia and Moldova. **Russian and Chinese influence in some accession candidate countries is on the rise**. This opens crucial questions about the European Union's enlargement strategy, requiring not only political answers but also academic reflection and expertise. Therefore, proposals are expected to **analyse the European Union's current neighbourhood and enlargement strategy and toolbox** in the light of the new situation where military aggression or the threat with it and political exploitation of economic dependencies are once more used as foreign policy tools in Europe. Based on this, they should **provide innovative perspectives on the origins and evolutions of policies aimed at stabilising and democratising the Eastern Neighbourhood along with evidence-based policy options to adapt this strategy to the new state of play**.

Furthermore, in the context of the accession process, there is need to **strengthen mechanisms of compliance with the acquis in the area of social policies and to strengthen social cohesion** to avoid brain drain and care drain in Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans countries.

Proposals are invited to take this dimension into account when developing **robust evidence-based, forward-looking visions for the political agenda of the European Union towards the Eastern Neighbourhood and the Western Balkans**.

In addition, the Russian ambition to have a sphere of influence in the former Soviet Union countries puts governments in the Eastern Neighbourhood in a much more vulnerable position. It increased their dependencies on big geopolitical powers, be it the West, China, or Russia. It also highlighted Russia's ambition to play an even more decisive political role in the larger region, including the power to install governments of its choice through a return to Cold War tactics. Is this shift back to brutal military intervention the sign of a new age in international relations and new geopolitical blocks? Proposals are expected to analyse and forecast possible scenarios regarding Russia, but also China and other countries' **geopolitical ambitions** towards the countries of the Eastern Neighbourhood, grounded in a historical perspective. Based on sound and robust analyses, they should provide policy recommendations, scenarios and options to **strengthen the Union's resilience and diplomatic arsenal** in a potential new era of military intervention on the continent. They are also expected to provide **evidence-based advice on whether the European Union should factor military interventions into its foreign policy toolbox, and offer perspectives as to what implications that would entail**.

Proposals are strongly encouraged to **involve stakeholders, including non-state actors and citizens, from the countries in the topic scope**. The consortium **must include at least one entity from the following countries: Georgia, Republic of Moldova or Ukraine. Legal entities from these countries must take part in the project as beneficiaries**.

Participation of Ukrainian researchers in exile with refugee status and employed by eligible beneficiaries is strongly encouraged and would be an asset.

International cooperation is strongly encouraged.

Proposals are encouraged to **network with and build on previously funded projects under the Horizon Europe calls**, Horizon 2020 or other EU programmes, e.g. Global Europe, as appropriate. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this topic and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged. **Partner's comment: Might influence also your consortium**

[1] in particular HORIZON-CL2-2022-DEMOCRACY-01-09: Global governance for a world in transition: Norms, institutions, actors, HORIZON-CL2-2021-DEMOCRACY-01-04: Democratic politics in the EU's neighbourhood, as well as other relevant projects funded under other clusters and pillars of Horizon Europe

[2] https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/global-europe-programming_en

DESTINATION

Innovative research on democracy and governance (2023/24)

The invasion of Ukraine by Russia, which unfolds ominously while this work programme is prepared, has deep and extraordinary consequences on European security, international relations, as well as trust in democratic systems and in the media. However, it cannot be seen as an isolated event. It is part of an accelerated and ever intensifying movement of **rejection and challenge of democracy** and of the liberal international order. Indexes and reports measuring the overall situation of democracies in the world confirm their **increased fragility and vulnerability** over the last years: a process labelled as a "long democratic recession", a shift in the nature of "autocratisation" or a "global expansion of authoritarian rule", which quantitatively translates into the increase of the number of countries moving towards authoritarianism and the overall decline of the quality of democracies. ([1] Cf. the latest reports from Freedom House or the V-Dem Institute:

<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2021/democracy-under-siege>;
<https://freedomhouse.org/report/freedom-world/2022/global-expansion-authoritarian-rule>
http://www.v-dem.net/static/website/files/dr/dr_2021.pdf;

https://v-dem.net/media/publications/dr_2022.pdf]

interdisciplinary research on the past and present challenges to and facilitators of democracy can help to understand them better, with a view to **strengthen their resilience and stability**. It will also help to counter the shift from governance based on expertise, rules-based multilateralism and consensual policymaking towards majoritarianism, unilateralism, nationalism, populism and polarisation. It will **foster democracy's further development** with a view to enhancing representation, participation, openness, pluralism, tolerance, the effectiveness of public policy, non-discrimination, civic engagement, the protection of fundamental rights and the rule of law. These reflect the European Union's values as defined in Article 2 of the EU Treaty ([Consolidated version of the Treaty on European Union, Title 1 "Common Provisions", Article 2: "The Union is founded on the values of respect for human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law and respect for human rights, including the rights of persons belonging to minorities. These values are common to the Member States in a society in which pluralism, non-discrimination, tolerance, justice, solidarity and equality between women and men prevail".]).

Expected impact:

Proposals for topics under this destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the following expected impacts of the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan:

- **Democratic governance is reinvigorated** by improving the accountability, transparency, effectiveness and trustworthiness of rule-of-law based institutions and policies and through the expansion of active and inclusive citizenship empowered by the safeguarding of fundamental rights.

The implementation of the research activities of the destination will assist in the **re-invigoration and modernisation of democratic governance**. The aim is to develop **evidence-based innovations, policies and policy recommendations**, as well as institutional frameworks that expand political participation, social dialogue, civic engagement, gender equality and inclusiveness. Activities will also contribute to enhancing the **transparency, effectiveness, accountability and legitimacy of public policymaking**. They will help **improving trust in democratic institutions, safeguarding liberties and the rule of law and protecting democracy from multidimensional threats**. Rich historical, cultural and philosophical perspectives, including a comparative dimension, will set the frame for soundly understanding present developments and help to map future pathways. In the medium to long term, **the knowledge, data, scientifically robust recommendations and innovations generated will enhance decision-making on all aspects relevant to democratic governance**. As the Destination aims directly at citizen engagement and at producing **lasting change**, it is of particular importance that the **research and innovation actions promote the highest standards of transparency and openness**. When applicable, it is encouraged to **open up the process, criteria, methodologies and data to full access** in the course of the research.

Questions and discussion



Thank you!

#HorizonEU

<http://ec.europa.eu/horizon-europe>

Matthias Wurch and Anneli Roose

eu-eap_sticooperation@servicefacility.eu

PROCESS OF THE PROPOSAL DEVELOPMENT

Part B

1

Idea concept (abstract) and set up of the consortium

2

Leading the proposal development process

3

Writing the proposal (narrative part)

- Idea development
- Objectives and ambition, concept and methodology
- Activities – work packages, deliverables and milestones
- Budget
- Impact

Part A

4

Filling in the forms in the portal and submission

The submission process consists of 6 steps:

- Step 1: **Log in the Portal**
- Step 2: **Select the call,**
- Step 3: **Create a draft proposal**
- Step 4: Add your **partners**
- Step 5: Complete the web forms (part A) and upload proposal part B
- Step 6: Submit the proposal

NB! Open the project account as early as possible