

HORIZON EUROPE CLUSTER 6

International cooperation A global approach to R&I

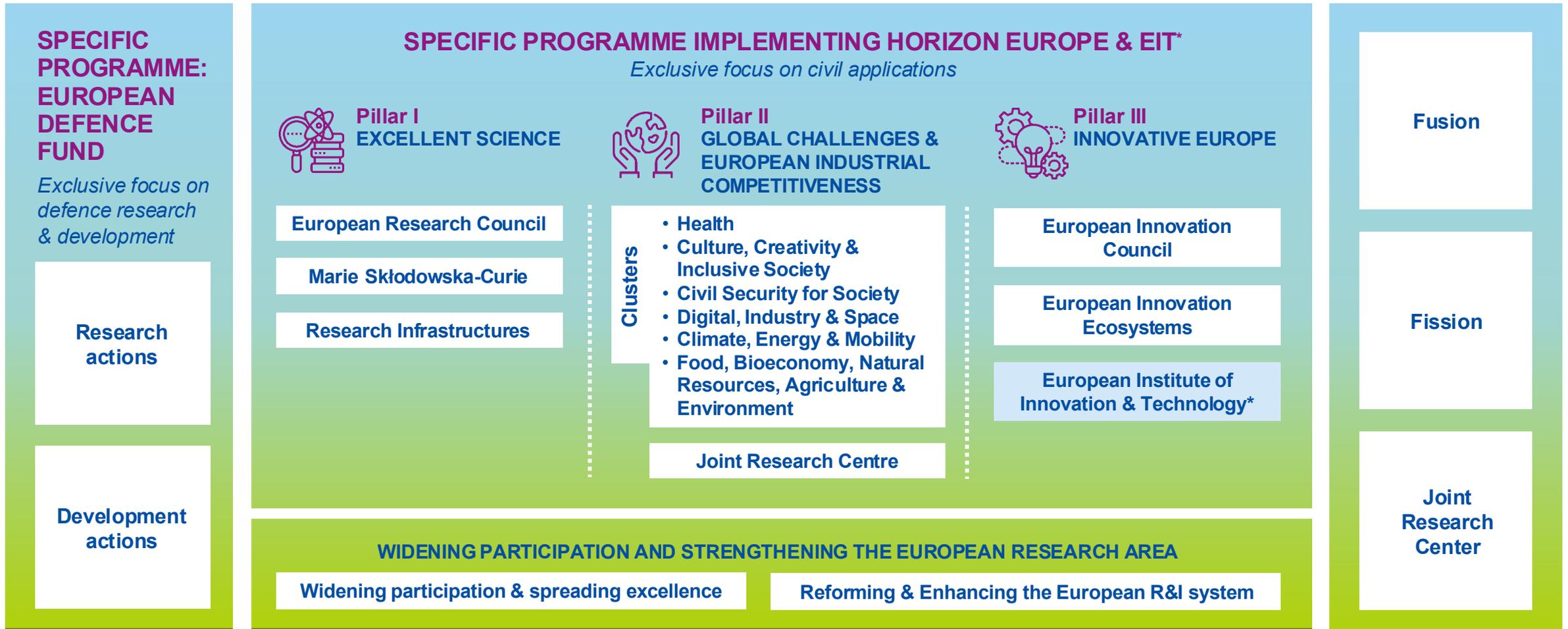
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HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

Guiding principles

- ✓ Commitment to openness
- ✓ Values & Principles
- ✓ Pursuit of a level playing field and reciprocity
- ✓ Pool global efforts to tackle global challenges

Horizon Europe's openness

- Horizon Europe **'by-default'** as open as possible to almost all countries
- Almost any **project consortium can include an entity from a third country partner** (with or without EC funding) unless specified otherwise in the call text.
- **Countries' Association to Horizon Europe** is the deepest form of integration. Entities in these countries participate under almost the same conditions as EU Member State entities and are funded directly by the programme. [list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-
euratom_en.pdf](#)
- Association it is **not a prerequisite** for participating to the Programme.

Access to EU funding and modalities

Automatically eligible for EU funding (“Beneficiaries”)

- Low- and middle-income third countries (see [General Annex B](#))
- Countries associated to Horizon Europe

Other third countries are not (automatically) eligible for EU funding (can participate as “Associated partners”):

- Exceptions on a case-by-case basis + specified in topic calls
- **Complementary funding mechanisms (CFM):** Guide on CFM on the Funding &Tenders Portal: [Complementary funding mechanisms in third countries and territories](#) (e.g. Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, China, Monaco, Taiwan)

Access to EU funding and modalities

✓ Consortia submitting a proposal must include as beneficiaries (ie receiving EU funding) at LEAST* three legal entities independent from one another and each established in a different country as follows:

- at least one in an EU Member State

- at least 2 other independent legal entities, each established in a different MS or Associated Country

*Unless otherwise provided for in the specific call conditions

Targeted international cooperation actions

Flagging of call topics specifically relevant for international cooperation in the work programmes, e.g. in

- Strategic thematic areas (topics)
- Geographical areas (countries/regions)
- Multilateral initiatives
- Collaboration with key partners

International Cooperation in Cluster 2

Over 24% of all topics in Cluster 2 WP 2026-2027 encourage international cooperation.

These include:

- Certain topics that require international cooperation (eligibility condition)
- Certain topics that specifically encourage international cooperation with certain countries/ regions like LAC, Africa, etc. (though not exclusively!)
- Proposals on any topic can include international partners.



Limitation to participation

- Work Programme 2026-2027: **prohibition** of participation by legal entities established in **Russia, Belarus, or non-government-controlled territories of Ukraine**
- Exceptions on case-by-case basis for justified reasons:
 - Note **newly introduced China-specific restrictions** with expanded scope. These restrictions **cover all Innovation Actions in CL2**.
 - Chinese entities are eligible to participate in all Research and Innovation Actions in CL2

'Any capacity' : includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties.

Check [HE Programme Guide](#) and [WP General Annexes](#) for updated information

Conclusion

- ✓ HE is fully open to applicants from 3rd countries with very few exceptions.
- ✓ Current Work programme 2026 is well balanced as far as targeted international participation is concerned
- ✓ Interested researchers and research entities from associated and non-associated countries are encouraged to seek partners and apply.



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Thank you for your attention!