



# HORIZON EUROPE

## INFO DAYS

CLUSTER 5  
**CLIMATE, ENERGY  
& MOBILITY**

6 May 2025





# Plenary session

Implementation best practices –  
how to prepare a good proposal

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CINEA - Horizon Europe Energy

*09:30-10:00*



# Tip 1: Be ambitious and realistic

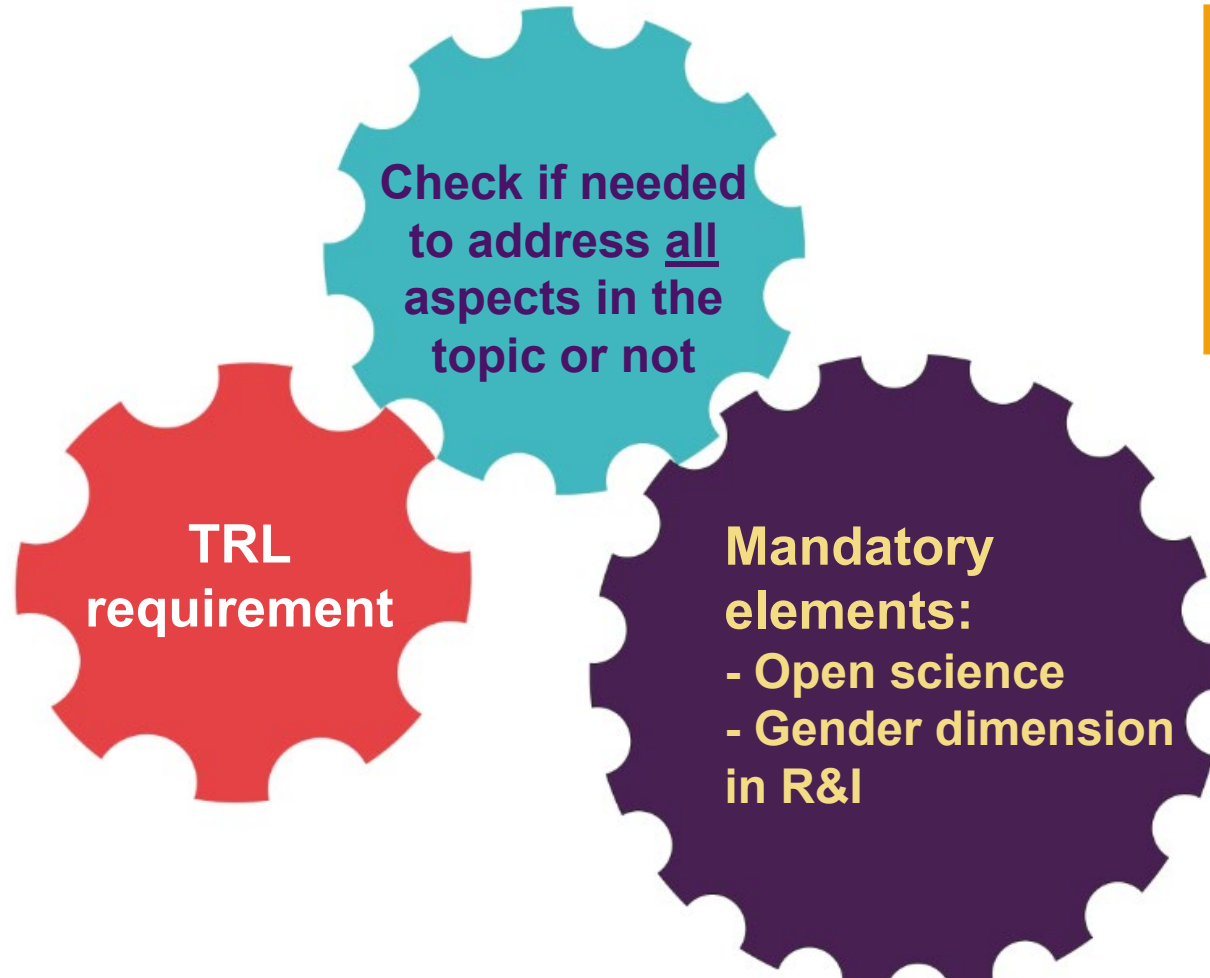
## 1. Calls are very competitive

- success rate is ~30% for 1<sup>st</sup> stage calls and ~30% for 2<sup>nd</sup> stage calls
- for single stage calls success rate is ~10-15%

## 2. Ambition, progress beyond the State of the Art (SoA) and soundness of the methodology:

- Clear and pertinent objectives - explain well how you will meet the requirements of the topic
- Is the proposed work ambitious and goes beyond SoA? Is it realistic within the project work plan?
- For CSAs ensure high quality of proposed coordination and support measures

# Tip 2: Understand call conditions and text



Consult **Q&A's** in good time or ask your own [question!](#)

# Tip 3: Define your outcomes and impacts



- **Outcomes** Expected effects of the projects results, over the medium term. Defined per topic.
- **Impacts** Wider, long-term effects on society, economy and science, enabled by the outcomes of R&I investments. Defined per destination.
- **Pathway to impact** How the expected outcomes and impacts of the project will be achieved? How will dissemination, exploitation, and communication of the projects' results will contribute to the expected outcomes and impacts?

## Tip 4: Build an effective work plan & good project team

Effective work plan;  
risks & mitigation  
measures

Resource allocation is in  
line with work plan

Partners have sufficient  
capacity, a clear and justified  
role in the project

Extent to which the  
consortium brings together  
the necessary expertise

# Tip 5: Simple to digest

Use graphics

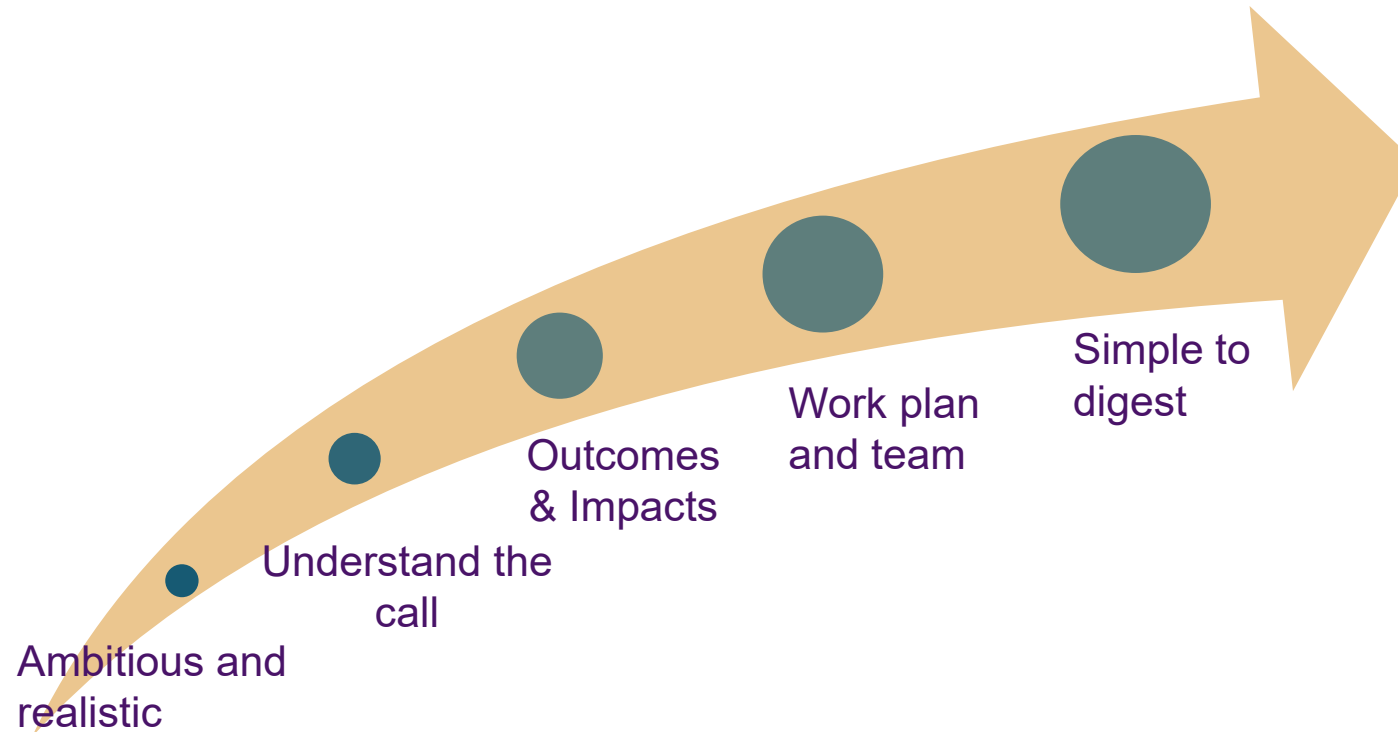
Easy to follow

No tiny fonts  
or tight line spacing

Respect page limits

Easy language for non-native English speakers...

# 5 steps to success





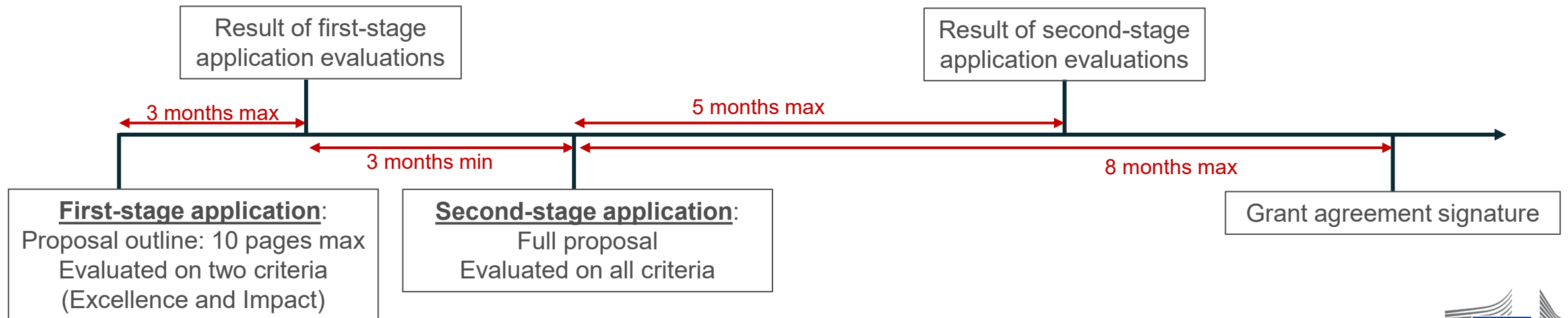
# Artificial Intelligence

- The use of AI in writing the proposals should be given careful consideration, to ensure appropriateness, accuracy and compliance with IP regulations. Applicants are fully responsible for the content of the proposal and must be transparent in disclosing which AI tools were used and how they were utilised. Specifically, applicants are required to:
  - Verify the accuracy, validity, and appropriateness of the content and any citations generated by the AI tool and correct any errors or inconsistencies
  - Provide a list of sources used to generate content and citations, including those generated by the AI tool. Double-check citations to ensure they are accurate and properly referenced
  - Be conscious of the potential for plagiarism where the AI tool may have reproduced substantial text from other sources. Check the original sources to be sure you are not plagiarizing someone else's work
  - Acknowledge the limitations of the AI tool in the proposal preparation, including the potential for bias, errors, and gaps in knowledge

# 2-Stage Calls

## 4 topics earmarked as 2-stage calls:

- HORIZON-CL5-2025-05-Two-Stage-D1-05: Adaptation to Climate Change: Effectiveness and Limits
- HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-Two-Stage-D2-02: Cost-effective next-generation batteries for long-duration stationary storage (Batt4EU Partnership)
- HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-Two-Stage-D3-23: Critical elements for energy security of grid and storage technologies
- HORIZON-CL5-2025-03-Two-Stage-D5-09: Next generation aircraft autonomy technologies for cockpit / pilot assistance applications



# 2-Stage Calls

## First-stage applications:

- The threshold for each of both criteria ('Excellence' and 'Impact') will be 4 out of 5
- The level of the overall threshold, applying to the sum of these two individual scores, is dynamic and will depend on the volume of proposals received: it will be set at a level that ensures the total requested budget of proposals admitted to stage 2 is as close as possible to three times the available budget\*, and not less than two and a half times the available budget. The threshold is expected to be set at 8 or 8.5 (summing both criteria)
- The exploitation and dissemination plan is not required for applications at the first stage of 2-stage procedures
- Applicants are informed about the results of the evaluation, but **no evaluation summary report (ESR) is sent for successful stage 1 proposals**. Instead, the Commission provides a general feedback

# 2-Stage Calls

## Second-stage applications:

- Second stage includes one **additional admissibility check** to ensure fair and equal treatment of competing proposals: the full proposal at stage 2 must be **consistent with the short outline proposal and may NOT differ on the proposal content substantially** — otherwise it will be inadmissible
- The Commission ensures systematic screening of all stage 2 proposals for manifest differences and does not rely only on the differences indicated by the applicants. Any justifications that the applicant has given for changes at stage 2 are examined (e.g., **OK: some changes of consortium and/or coordination, absence of a previously mentioned partner.** **NOT OK: e.g., Concept, methodology, objectives, etc.)**

# Lump Sums and other eligibility criteria

- Lump-sum funding
  - why: to simplify and to reduce financial errors
  - all lump sum topics are well identified in the Work Programme
  - see training session on [How to write a Lump Sum proposal](#) and [How are Lump Sum proposals evaluated](#)
- Gender Equality Plan – See [FAQs](#)
- General eligibility condition at proposal stage: if projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used)
- No more exceptions for the page limit – Only 2 additional pages for topics with Societal Readiness pilot
- DNSH, AI robustness and Data Management Plan (DMP) removed from templates and removed from evaluation criteria. DMP to be replaced by deliverable during project life cycle



# General guidance and resources

F&T portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/helpdesks>

HE WP General Annexes

[HE Programme Guide](#)

European Commission | Funding & tender opportunities  
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▼ HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▼ PROJECTS & RESULTS WORK AS AN EXPERT SUPPORT ▼

Support overview  
Guidance & Manuals  
FAQs  
Helpdesk & Support Services  
Support videos

11 items found

**General Process Flow**  
An introduction to the Funding & Tenders Portal IT tools: Business process flow

**HORIZON EUROPE CYBERSECURITY**  
**How to enable 2-step verification for your EULogin account**  
2-step verification for the Funding & Tenders Portal

**FUNDING & TENDERS PORTAL**  
**How to enable 2-step verification for your EULogin account**  
ROLES AND ACCESS RIGHTS  
Roles and Access Rights in the Funding & Tenders Portal

**HORIZON EUROPE EXPERTS**  
**How to evaluate Open Science**

**procurement grants**  
How to assign Legal Signatories (LSign) & Financial Signatories (FSign) for your organisation

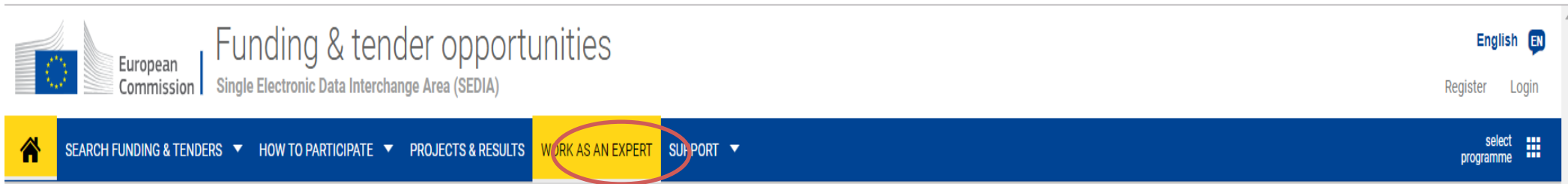
**procurement grants**  
How to assign Project Legal Signatories (PLSign) & Project Financial Signatories (PFSign) for your project/contract

# We are looking for new experts!

**Become an  
evaluator or  
rapporteur!**

**On any topic  
you are not  
personally  
involved in!**

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# Research Enquiry Service

For questions about EU research funding programmes,  
you can contact the Research Enquiry Service via the webform:

[Research Enquiry Service \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/research-enquiry-service/)

