Maximize international funding *opportunities* with Horizon Europe in South Korea

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Advancing human progress together

Horizon Europe is the EU's *key funding program* for research and innovation

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Contents

Chapter 1

Strengthen international *collaboration* with the EU

1.1

Horizon Europe: your gateway to global research and innovation

Since January 1, 2025, South Korea has been officially associated with Pillar II of Horizon Europe, the closest form of international cooperation with the European Union (EU) in research and innovation.

This comprehensive resource helps you better understand Horizon Europe, including funding mechanisms to support the development of effective strategies and how to leverage analytical tools to build successful applications while upholding the EU's fundamental values.

Horizon Europe, which runs until 2027, has a sizable budget of €95.5 billion and represents the world's largest multilateral research and innovation funding initiative, designed to address global challenges through international collaboration while promoting core EU values of human dignity, freedom, democracy, equality, the rule of law, and human rights.

Horizon Europe has three interconnected pillars:

- **Pillar I: Excellent Science** - supporting frontier research and world-class science
- **Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness** - primary pathway for international cooperation
- **Pillar III: Innovative Europe** - fostering market-creating innovation

Source: Horizon Europe, Research and Innovation, European Commission

1.2

Structure and key pillars

The three interconnected pillars each serve distinct objectives in advancing research and innovation:

Pillar I: Excellent Science	Pillar II: Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness	Pillar III: Innovative Europe
• Supports frontier research through the European Research Council • Funds fellowships and researcher exchanges via Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions • Provides access to world-class research infrastructures • Creates foundation for long-term European research partnerships	• Represents the majority of Horizon Europe's €95.5 billion budget • Addresses major global challenges through six key clusters: 1. Health 2. Culture, Creativity, and Inclusive Society 3. Civil Security for Society 4. Digital, Industry, and Space 5. Climate, Energy, and Mobility 6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment	• Supports breakthrough innovations and market-creating solutions • Accelerates business growth through the European Innovation Council • Strengthens innovation ecosystems through collaborative networks

The agreement establishes South Korea's association with Pillar II as the main entry point for international collaboration for South Korean organizations. This supports South Korean researchers and organizations in accessing direct funding from the program and participating in and leading consortia. Funding through existing Pillar I activities creates valuable foundations for long-term partnerships with European research organizations as a collaborator in, for example, synergy grants.

The Korea Horizon Europe Multilateral Cooperation team provides systematic researcher support through collaboration with the Korea-EU Research Centre (KERC) and National Contact Points (NCP). The Korea-EU Cooperation Program offers support to researchers in South Korea by forming consortia with researchers in Europe to build successful Horizon Europe collaborations and develop research proposals to secure funding.

South Korea has achieved a historic milestone by becoming the first Asian country to join Horizon Europe as an associated member.

1.3

Explore more opportunities for international collaboration

South Korea has a long-standing relationship with the EU and, coupled with established research partnerships with global leaders, including China, Japan and the United States, provides a strong foundation for expanded European collaboration, upholding the shared values of research excellence and ethical research practices.

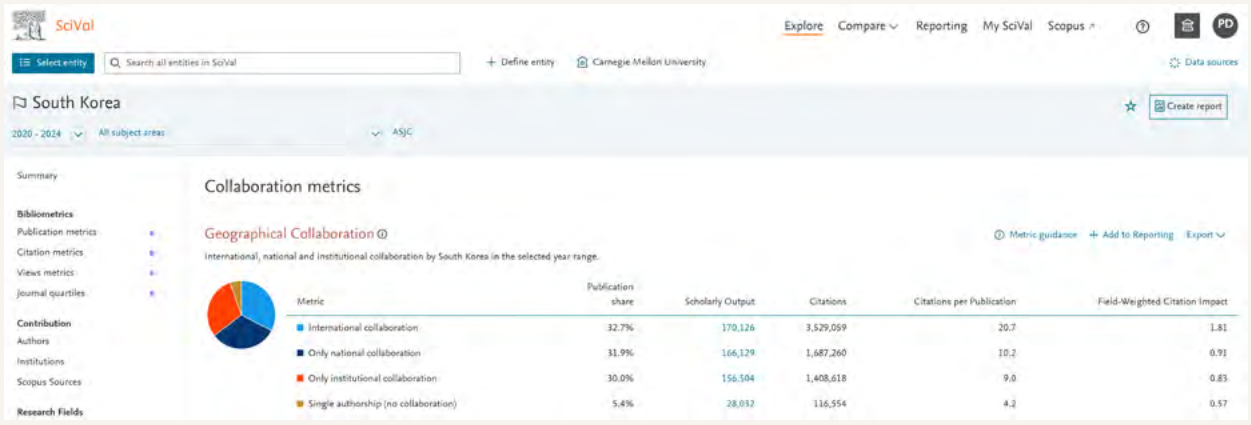
South Korean researchers and organizations participating in Horizon Europe projects have the same rights and obligations as EU member states. Be part of and lead consortia, beyond being an international collaborator to EU member state grants, and uncover opportunities to engage further in critical research areas that align with EU and South Korean values and priorities, including:

- UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Climate change initiatives
- Digital transformation with ethical considerations
- Health sciences promoting equality and accessibility
- Social innovation addressing inclusivity and diversity

In addition to the expanded opportunities to secure funding and cooperate with leading experts in Europe as an associated member country, bibliometric analyses, such as those in Figure 1, demonstrates that South Korean publications involving international collaborations tend to achieve higher citation levels, building further global visibility, reputation and scholarly impact.

Figure 1:

Geographical collaboration and citation profile of South Korean publications from 2020 to 2024 in SciVal



1.4

State of international collaboration between South Korea and the EU

Understanding historical collaboration patterns is essential. Successful Horizon Europe projects typically involve partnerships across multiple countries and institutions, reflecting the program's emphasis on international collaboration. When seeking international collaborators, it is important to consider not only past collaboration history but also research strengths and relevant political factors. These elements collectively inform strategic decisions about which partners to engage, ensuring alignment with Horizon Europe's priorities and enhancing the likelihood of funding success.

Utilizing data from SciVal, we can analyze the pattern of the research collaboration between South Korean and EU countries as well as between individual institutions and researchers. Table 1 and Figure 2 highlight the top 10 EU countries by number of publications co-authored with South Korean researchers, as well as the Field-Weighted Citation Impact (FWCI) of these publications across for the last five years. The analyses demonstrate a large increase in the number of co-authored outputs over time with the co-authored outputs also achieving high citation impact as measured by FWCI in all cases.

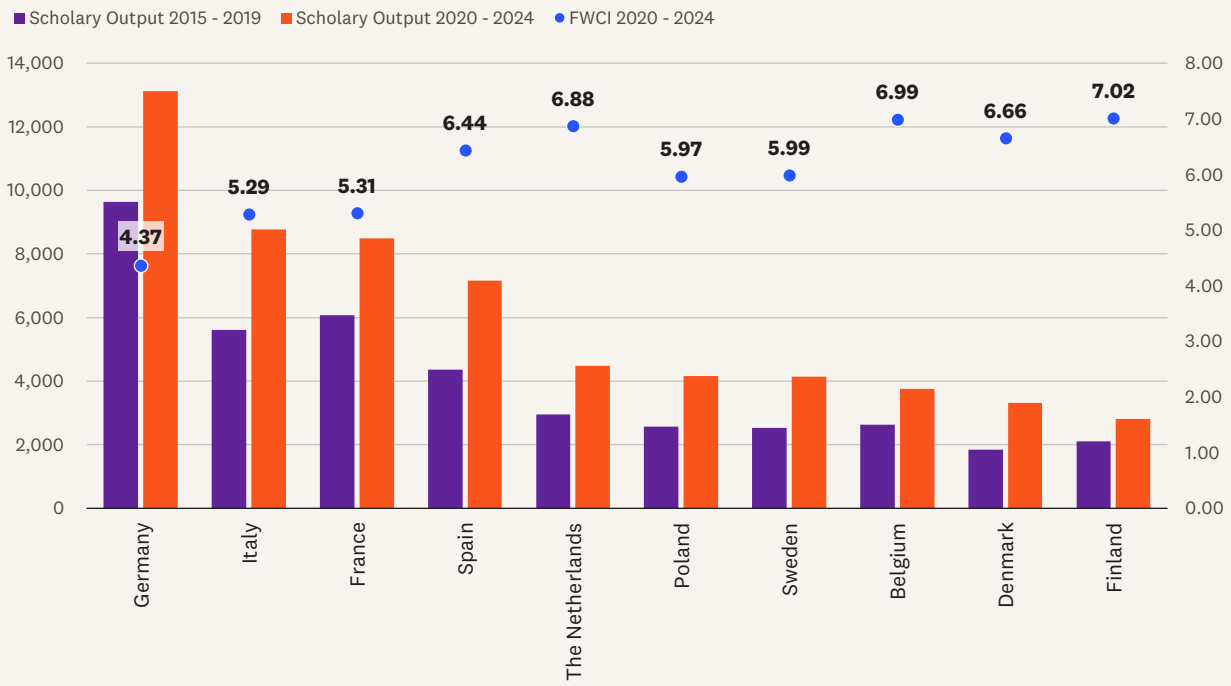
Table 1

Top 10 EU countries by number of publications co-authored with South Korean researchers

Country	Scholarly Output (number of publications)			FWCI
	2015 - 2019	2020 - 2024	Variation	2020 - 2024
Germany	9,632	13,132	36%	4.37
Italy	5,615	8,780	56%	5.29
France	6,070	8,482	40%	5.31
Spain	4,371	7,152	64%	6.44
Netherlands	2,956	4,493	52%	6.88
Poland	2,578	4,168	62%	5.97
Sweden	2,537	4,147	63%	5.99
Belgium	2,624	3,754	43%	6.99
Denmark	1,842	3,313	80%	6.66
Finland	2,111	2,820	34%	7.02

Figure 2:

Trends in the number of publications co-authored with South Korean researchers and the Field-Weighted Citation Impact for the last five years



Explore six South Korean case studies in the KERC Horizon Europe Korea Participation Casebook 2024.

Use the KERC Horizon Europe Tracker to keep up to date with signed grants, participation, success rate and Net EU Contribution as well as project names.

Discover The Ministry of Science and ICT of Korea 'Korea-EU Cooperation Program' to support Korean researchers in forming consortia with European researchers and developing research proposals for Horizon Europe.

1.5

Where to apply

Explore multiple funding mechanisms, including:

- Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) with 100% funding coverage
- Innovation Actions (IA) with 70% funding coverage
- Coordination and Support Actions (CSA) with 100% funding coverage
- Programme Co-fund Actions with 30-70% funding coverage

Top tip

When preparing applications, explicitly demonstrate how the proposed research aligns with EU values and contributes to the broader goals of promoting peace, wellbeing and sustainable development while combating social exclusion and discrimination. Success in securing funding requires scientific excellence and a clear commitment to upholding and advancing EU principles through research and innovation activities.

Access Horizon Europe funding opportunities through the EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Chapter 2

Impact your *performance* with Horizon Europe

2.1

Opportunities for South Korea

- South Korean researchers and organizations can apply for Pillar II's large collaborative grants on almost the same conditions as entities in EU member states
- Receive direct funding from Horizon Europe and lead research consortia. Enable full participation in collaborative projects and provide access to large-scale grants under Pillar II, significantly expanding the scope of your institution's research possibilities
- Focus on participation across several strategic research areas, aligning with national strengths and EU priorities. These could build on South Korea's global leadership in digital and industrial technologies, such as semiconductor research
- Additional focus areas could include biotechnology and health sciences, green technologies and advanced manufacturing, all of which represent sectors where South Korean expertise could contribute significantly to EU research objectives

Looking for tools to support funding discovery and application processes?

Go to page 28 to learn more

2.2

Trending research topics and European networks

Horizon Europe's Pillar II is designed to address industrial and global challenges as part of the broader push to globalize research and innovation. This strategic focus creates an ideal platform to collaborate internationally, particularly in priority research areas that align with global needs.

Three key research priorities offer significant opportunities for collaboration:

1. The **green transition** focus encompasses research on climate change impact and carbon footprint reduction, addressing urgent environmental challenges
2. **Digital transformation** initiatives concentrate on advancing telemedicine and artificial intelligence applications
3. **Health research** prioritizes disease prevention and personalized medicine approaches

How can you uncover research trends and identify global experts?

Go to page 31 to learn more

Expand international networks

Define your area of analysis

Identify an area of strength

Discover and evaluate potential partners

- Potential collaborators
- Zoom in, zoom out
- Get context

Build and initiate collaborations

Share and use the data

Top tip

Network development forms a crucial component of successful participation in Horizon Europe. Build upon current strong European partnerships or develop new ones with existing European research consortia to expand participation in collaborative projects. Look at those in Germany, France, Italy and Spain, specifically for international collaboration opportunities.

2.3

Research excellence and institutional impact

Create transformative opportunities for enhancing institutional impact through multiple pathways

Collaborations in key areas of global challenge help enable South Korea to contribute and have a broad societal and academic impact.

With Horizon Europe, start evidencing the broader impact on society to enhance research profiles, gain access to European research infrastructure and experience, and build international partnerships that could improve reputation and consequently increase funding levels.

Collaboration advantages extend beyond traditional research outputs and metrics

Participate directly in large-scale European projects and take leadership roles in research consortia. Gain access to world-class research talent and facilities as well as more engagement with European policymakers. Expand your institutional influence beyond just research output to broader societal outcomes and impact.

The strategic advantage of access to Horizon Europe encompasses both immediate and long-term benefits.

Experience strengthened global competitiveness and access to increased research funding opportunities

In addition to the access to more funding opportunities, Horizon Europe participation opens the opportunity to achieve strengthened global competitiveness through partnerships with other world-leading researchers and organizations.

Bring leading expertise from South Korea and the EU together, gain access to funding and additional facilities, and maximize the opportunity to have a broader societal impact through innovation and knowledge transfer.

Impact measurement demonstrates the actual benefits of participation through multiple metrics

By increasing international collaboration, you can help build your international reputation, impact, and visibility in the global academic community. Bibliometric analyses shows that collaborative research, especially international and cross-sectoral, generally leads to higher citation impact.

Top tip

As measures of citation impact and international collaboration form part of international ranking methodologies, maximize your potential in these ranking measures with successful Horizon Europe partnerships and funding.

Chapter 3

Key strategies to improve your *success* rate

3.1

Common pitfalls to avoid

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) has helpful common mistakes to avoid when applying for Horizon Europe funding:

- **Thoroughly prepare before submitting proposals.** Be clear on the specific requirements of the call for proposals and ensure demonstrated alignment between the project objectives and the goals of Horizon Europe.
- **Consider the budget really needed for the project.** Ensure financial plans are realistic and detailed, covering all necessary expenses, including the cost of attending an event to present research, visiting collaborators in person, field trips, tool and technology access, additional equipment requirements, publishing fees if through an open access route, storage of data related to the project, post-publication promotional activity and a contingency budget for unforeseen expenses during and after the project.
- **Successful proposals often involve strong partnerships.** Use tools to identify and engage with your project partners. Ensure roles and responsibilities are clearly defined and agreed upon, including processes and workflows to be adopted.
- **Be clear on the evaluation criteria set by the European Commission.** Address these criteria in the proposal to demonstrate how the project meets the expectations.
- **Clear and concise communication is vital.** Proposals should be well-structured and free of jargon. Make it easier for evaluators to understand your project's objectives and methodologies.

Top tips to improve your success rate

Paul Bramble, Research Funding and Governance Manager, University of Northampton, UK:

- Ensure training is undertaken with all your related existing support tools
- Facilitate exchange of knowledge to improve funding application success
- Use tools to build comparative analysis, including where others are winning awards and provide data, trends and insights to inform your funding strategy, feed into your application and support funder compliance
- Use a combination of reporting, including tools like Pure to provide valuable insights and consistent data to senior leadership, funders, stakeholders and public to demonstrate trends and success in funding
- Be aligned - it's not just your funding call, be clear on your organization's funding priorities, and understand your funder priorities, their language and what that means
- Answer all of the funding criteria – this is expected
- Filling out an application is a team effort – partners, professional staff and research staff make a stronger project
- Manage reputational risk and choose your collaborators carefully within your own organization's risk appetite
- Develop networks and personal connections – instead of just meeting, greet them at the airport as a more personal welcome. Where possible, meet face-to-face
- Relationships don't happen overnight, some collaborations may take months or even years to establish
- Expand collaborations beyond your sector, partner with non-governmental organizations (NGO), charities, societies, non-profits, etc.

Reporting, demonstrating impact and cross sector collaborations are key to success

Poul Meier Melchiorsen, Senior Consultant, Aalborg University, Denmark, together with his team, undertakes 22 reports each year by institution, department, and faculty – one report for every faculty and one for each department in June, and one in December at an institution level report reviewing against other organizations. Poul recommends using a combination of data and tools including SciVal and Pure collated in Power BI and presented in Sway.

Aalborg University mandates publications in Pure and encourages adoption and use of the profiles to provide more detailed information like different content types (beyond those that have citations), memberships and additional work undertaken like committee and board roles to demonstrate the impact of that person's role beyond their funded project. This can help inform negotiations with management and future research bids.

Look at the types of collaborations like organizations that are for profit, public and not-for-profit. How about collaborations across subject disciplines like Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) and Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM)? If an organization is mission-driven like Aalborg University, how can you effectively assess researchers doing mission aligned work without discriminating against those who are focused solely on applied research in other fields? Demonstrating mission-driven research is important for the organization but hard to adopt across all research projects.

3.2

Unique strengths and research capacity

Successful Horizon Europe applications require clearly demonstrating expertise, research excellence, prior broader impact on society and the potential for the project to deliver future impact. A comprehensive approach using multiple evidence types is essential for effectively showcasing research strengths and capacity.

Use tools to provide valuable insights

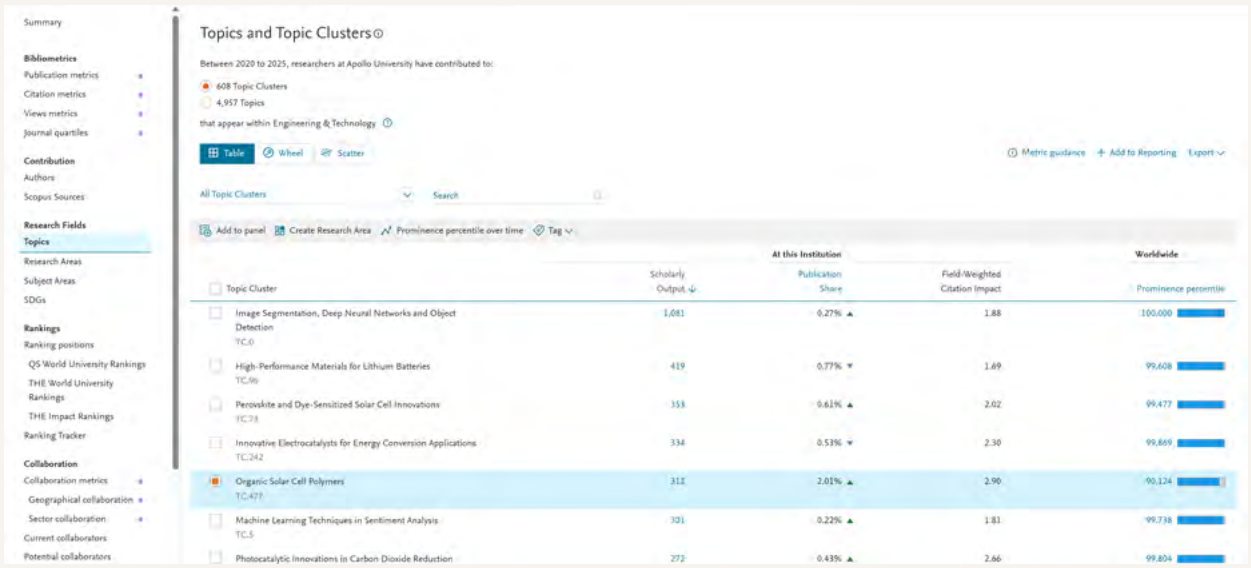
Poul Meier Melchiorsen, Senior Consultant, Aalborg University, Denmark has been using tools to help them find collaborators and assess how much collaboration is happening for their organization across the globe and any trends they are seeing. To benchmark performance across an organization with a broad range of subjects, Poul uses tools to analyze several metrics like SciVal for Field-Weighted Citation Impact and Source Normalized Impact per Paper (SNIP) for weighted indicators.

Poul suggests researchers getting involved with projects outside their remit to improve their capabilities and skillset for future projects. Are there other projects you could be involved with to react to the current economic and political landscape to provide timely research support, to create bigger impact where other research projects can be delayed with funder approval? Poul recommends thinking more strategically about demonstrating real and societal impact.

In addition to effectively showcasing your existing team's research strengths and capabilities, understanding the research strengths of potential collaborators is critical to identify the partnerships that will maximize success rates. Data and analytical tools can provide profiles and metrics to facilitate this. Figure 3 shows a profile of the research topics where an example university has research strengths, which could be used to identify the key contributors to a strategic research field that can represent an excellent partnership opportunity.

Figure 3

SciVal Topics profile from an example university, demonstrating research fields where the university has research strengths and is a significant contributor



3.3

Quantifiable research excellence

We have listed a number of example metrics you can use as part of measuring your output success to help support bidding for Horizon Europe opportunities.

Collaboration and partnerships

Strengthen and leverage global research expertise and opportunities by monitoring indicators such as:

- International collaboration rates
- Number of international and cross-sector co-authors/co-publications
- Number of funding applications and patents with international and cross-sector co-applicants
- Number and share of highly interdisciplinary publications
- Disciplinary differences in publication authors
- Disciplinary differences in references
- Number of inter-disciplinary funding applications and awards
- Cross-sector collaboration rate
- Patent co-applications with industry

A more comprehensive list can be found in our High Performance Never Stops Transforming Report

Reputation

Active marketing and communication of academic excellence and real-world impact build reputation and help attract and retain the best talent and students, including around:

- Clinical trials and guidelines completed
- Influence and participation in local, national and international policy making
- Participation and visibility of academic achievements and excellence in local, national and international media
- Academic excellence related to e.g. the UN SDGs, Grand Challenges or government key technology areas
- Number and value of technology innovations and commercialization activities
- Invitations to participate at prestigious performing arts exhibitions

Ensure impact through monitoring and evaluating areas such as:

- Impact on local communities such as improved health outcomes or influencing local politics
- Platform/websites created for knowledge dissemination or science communication
- Number of local exhibitions
- Citations and mentions in local and national media like altmetrics
- Number of partnerships with local organizations
- Number and share of publications aligned to e.g. the UN SDGs, Grand Challenges or key government technology areas
- Number of sustainability initiatives delivered

Funding

Achieve and maintain sustainable research and innovation funding through monitoring indicators such as:

- Applications/proposals volume and value
- Awards volume and value
- Grant success rate
- Number and value of large, team based interdisciplinary projects
- Income volume
- Funding diversity (volume and value involving international/industry/cross-sector co-applications)
- IP volume and income (patents, designs, trademarks, licenses)
- Sustainable spin-offs and related finances

Strategy

Drive research success and knowledge creation by monitoring traditional bibliometrics such as:

- Number of publications and trends
- h-index, g-index, m-index
- Citations (including field-weighted and percentiles)
- Outputs related to e.g. the UN SDGs, Grand
- Challenges or government key technology areas
- Number of performances and attendance

Deliver real-world impact through outcomes and impact such as:

- Number of industry standards/clinical guidelines
- Number of exhibitions
- Software/open-coding created
- Citations in patents
- Citations in policy documents
- Citations in media
- Jobs created from spin-offs, etc.
- Number of prestigious exhibitions or performances at prominent venues
- Outcomes and impact related to e.g. the UN SDGs, Grand Challenges or governments key technology areas

Digital transformation and AI

Understand and reference technological capabilities and adoption that align with key EU and South Korean priorities through monitoring and evaluation such as:

- Ensure effective integration and adoption of generative AI in the project through an evaluation structure, such as a committee, and processes to oversee strategy and responsible adoption
- Number of new digital technologies such as workflow solutions implemented
- Integration of new digital technologies across institution functions such as operations, teaching, research and administration
- Availability and participation rates in training programs designed to equip staff and faculty with the skills and knowledge needed for effective AI integration
- Adherence to ethical guidelines, regulations and frameworks that govern the use of AI

Infrastructure, resources and technical expertise

- Detail access and expertise in the use of relevant specialized equipment, digital and physical facilities
- Outline unique technical capabilities, including consultancy and knowledge sharing of technical expertise, including staff qualifications, and specialisms
- Demonstrate access to essential tools and services for delivery of the proposed research, from specific databases, critical equipment through to research support services
- Highlight institutional support systems and services for research management and administration

Broader impact evidence

- Present concrete examples of relevant broader societal impact from past research and associated public benefits, across for example, political, technological, environmental or health outcomes and impact
- Evidence broader impact such as influencing policy making through citations in policy documents, participation on policy making committees and provide details on how you affected the policies or contributed to the policy-making process
- Demonstrate alignment and any contribution your research has made to achieving the United Nations (UN) SDGs, highlighting specific, measurable impacts in for example related policy decisions or technological advancements
- Highlight successful knowledge valorization, circulation or transfer activities, such as through cross-sector partnerships, patents and intellectual property registrations

Evidence research capability, excellence and broader impact

Poul Meier Melchiorsen, Senior Consultant, Aalborg University, Denmark evaluates research collaborations through types of publications and their impact beyond journal metrics, like collaborations with private organizations where publication output is low due to confidentiality and so peer impact plays an important role, as well as equipment and resources that you have access to beyond your own organization's capabilities.

For hard-to-measure societal impact, Poul recommends looking at catalysts for registration. For example, with press cuttings feeding into Pure daily, review those with mentions of your researchers then raise an impact case study or claim that can be evidenced and linked to projects, activities and people. Some projects can demonstrate more impact like a project of a choir of people with dementia who become more connected to the outside world through music. This creates a good story, has a positive impact on the people with dementia, as well as their family and friends around them through emotional connection and impact.

Go Green Next is an EU-funded Horizon Europe project with 19 partners from across the world. The ambition is to support cities and regions in achieving their climate targets through novel nature-based approaches.

Use metrics and key performance indicators responsibly to demonstrate research excellence and impact

Paul Bramble, Research Funding and Governance Manager, University of Northampton, UK highlights top tips to using metrics and key performance indicators to show excellence and impact:

- Align targets to the organization's strategy
- Use a proportion of world-leading internationally excellent outputs
- Consider the percentage of publications that are in the top 10 Field-Weighted Citation Impact areas
- Use the Pure platform for:
  - Reporting research, e.g. grant funding data and data on how many people are accessing publications to make evidence-based decisions
  - Monitoring excellence framework assessment and compliance
  - Develop impact case studies
  - Recording collaborations and outputs have a national and international theme, over a period and joint ventures can occur because of this
  - Recording income, including grant income, and split for exchange knowledge and enterprise projects
  - identifying areas of growth in sector collaborations – e.g. business, industrial and professional
  - Recording public and community engagement metrics
- Our university has its own internal economic impact analysis tool for measuring social innovation and impact that feeds into annual economic impact assessment reporting
- This tool can measure, such as return on investment, in how to bring value locally, and how contribute to economy, including graduates who go on to contribute regionally in full time employment
- Record collaborations and business achieved through research and enterprise

3.4

Leverage past funding records and set clear objectives

Horizon Europe evaluators focus on demonstrated capability and clear impact pathways. Structure your application for improved success:

Previous funding success

- Document track record of managing similar-scale grants
- Highlight successful international collaborations
- Demonstrate effective resource management
- Show completion of project deliverables

Impact framework alignment

Address three key impact pathways:

1. Scientific impact: knowledge creation and diffusion
2. Societal impact: EU policy priority alignment
3. Economic impact: innovation and market opportunities

Measurable objectives

- Set SMART objectives (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Time-bound) to demonstrate progress, impact and return on investment throughout the proposed project
- Define clear key performance indicators and baseline metrics to measure performance against the objectives and make adjustments along the way
- Create realistic timelines for achieving objectives and proposed impact

Help colleagues identify new strategies with key insights

Poul Meier Melchiorsen, Senior Consultant, Aalborg University, Denmark recommends when being unsuccessful, stop and relook at these applications to a specific funder and map against how this can be done better based on other successes. Help identify new ways to think in a department or align to your organization's mission using SciVal, Scopus and Pure to look at past production and see where the strengths and weaknesses are.

Use SciVal Topic Clusters against predicted insights for the next 5-10 years to map future trends and look back to see how the predictions are tracking. This will help you to better understand where you should focus on in the future.

3.5

Promote diversity and inclusion in research teams

Horizon Europe emphasizes diversity as a driver of excellence. Research teams and bids are influenced by the research strengths of those involved. Build competitive teams through consideration of:

Multiskilled integration

- Reduce risk through competence and ability with expertise, plus soft and hard skills at the core
- Improve chances of success, as well as project quality and likelihood of completion
- Identify existing infrastructure, library resources, tools, equipment, support and facilities to enable better output
- Combine humanities and social sciences with STEM fields
- Include researchers across career stages and differing ideologies
- Integrate multiple cultural perspectives
- Build teams with complementary expertise

Enhanced innovation through diversity

- Start with accessibility first to open up more opportunities for people with diverse needs and different abilities
- Lead to more innovative solutions with multi-disciplinary approaches
- Bring broader perspectives to research challenges with cross-cultural teams
- Encourage age diversity to enhance decision-making and performance
- Implement gender-sensitive research methodologies and address gender dimensions in research content
- Demonstrate commitment to equal opportunities

3.6

Demonstrate potential impact and application, and strengthen partnerships

Success in Horizon Europe requires strong partnerships and clear impact pathways. This structured approach to proposal development, emphasizing excellence, impact, and diversity, aligns with Horizon Europe's evaluation criteria and maximizes chances of success.

Focus on areas such as:

- **Industry applications**
  - Identify clear commercial potential
  - Outline market opportunities
  - Present technology readiness levels
  - Demonstrate scalability potential
- **Partnership development**
  - Engage with large European companies or other cross-sector organizations
  - Build consortia with complementary expertise
  - Influence and share knowledge with existing research networks
  - Identify and connect with potential partners using tools like SciVal
- **Cross-sector collaboration**
  - Increase research team capability and diversity
  - Enhance access to research infrastructure
  - Improve pathways to market
  - Maximize potential for societal impact through extensive and broad stakeholder engagement
- **Impact measurement**
  - Define clear impact indicators
  - Establish monitoring mechanisms
  - Plan for long-term impact assessment
  - Include stakeholder response channels and close the communication loop by feeding back the impact of their insights

Support the success of your collaborations

Paul Bramble, Research Funding and Governance Manager, University of Northampton, UK recommends looking at spin off projects in the final phases of your existing project to continue your funding opportunities and what can be commercialized. Look at who your previous partners are that are the best fit, and get in touch. Start being more discoverable as a potential partner and use web profiles like Pure profiles to help increase visibility. Once you have been part of an EU project, it's easier to be on others. Paul's tips include:

- Create a trusted environment and have agreements in place to agree specifics early on, and reference during meetings to maintain focus and manage expectations
- No project is ever the same, ensure that things are not lost in translation with clear and effective communication
- As part of your application, you will undertake stakeholder mapping. Make sure you and your collaborators understand your stakeholders, not just your partnership but all your stakeholders
- Partnerships may be broad and multi-disciplinary covering STEM to arts and humanities. Use project management methodology to ensure a consistent process across the partnership and undertake a project retrospectives for clearer communication and reporting
- Be clear on what this means for you and your organization

Continue measuring the outputs, outcomes and impacts, across bibliometrics such as citations and measures of broader impact for several years after project completion. Use existing research assessment and knowledge valorization/exchange criteria and key performance indicators as part of your evaluation and whether you continue to collaborate.

Chapter 4

Use tools to *maximize* success rate by funding application stage

4.1

Before application

Expected outcome: analyze research performance

Research performance analysis encompasses areas such as citation impact assessment, collaboration patterns, and societal impact metrics. These enable you to showcase the influence and reach of your research, understand partnership dynamics, and highlight your broader impact beyond academia.

By leveraging these insights, you can align your proposals with Horizon Europe's evaluation criteria, emphasizing the team's scientific excellence and impact, maximizing your chances of success. Trend analysis is particularly valuable for identifying research areas that match Horizon Europe's priority sectors, such as climate change, digital transformation, and health sciences.

Use research performance analysis, like those available in tools such as SciVal, Scopus and Pure, to help demonstrate research excellence. SciVal Topics can help you profile and track emerging research trends in areas of strength that are aligned with Horizon Europe priorities, like the example summary in Figure 4, while integration with Scopus AI's emerging themes helps you stay ahead of the latest research in these strategic areas and evolving research directions.

Use a combination of Elsevier tools to improve your success

SciVal delivers more data, helping to fill gaps in the understanding of our collaborations and outputs.

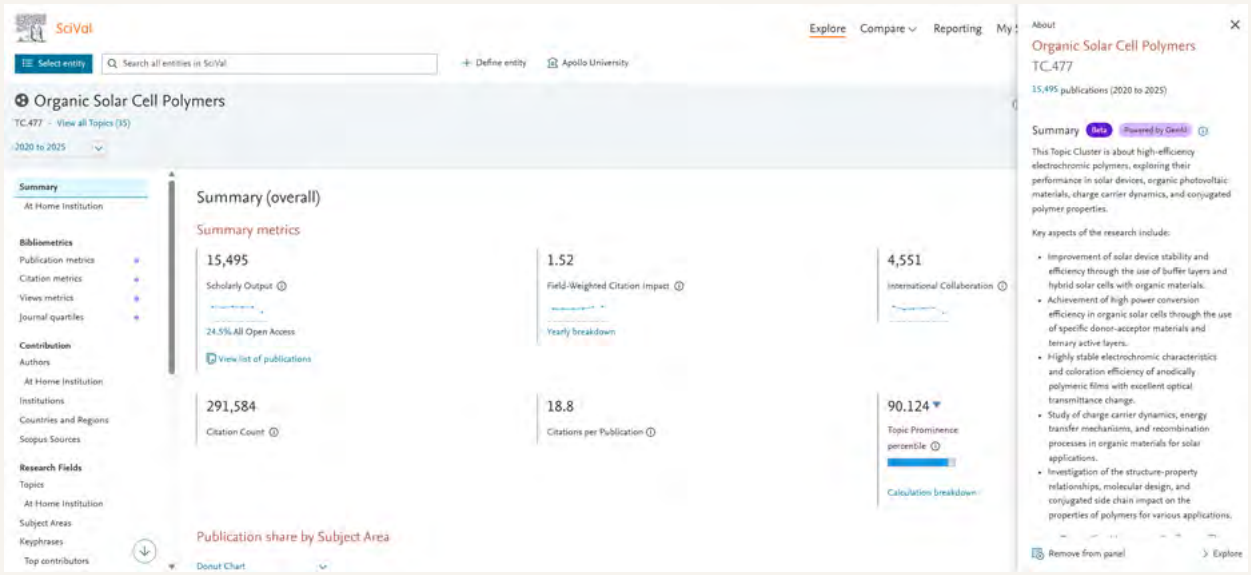
Pure helps increase visibility with projects and research outputs and activities. Easy navigation to look for research, outputs, activities, projects and follow the links to live researcher profiles. The Pure CMS is great for reporting, award management and recording your research.

Funding Institutional includes Horizon Europe funding opportunities as well as other international funding calls and awarded data, e.g. you can search what has been awarded in the last 18 months in specific disciplines and from certain funders, to present to your research community to identify researchers who have successfully received funding to connect with and help strengthen project teams.

Paul Bramble
Research Funding and Governance Manager
University of Northampton, UK

Figure 4

Example summary profile from SciVal Topics in the field of Organic Solar Cell Polymers



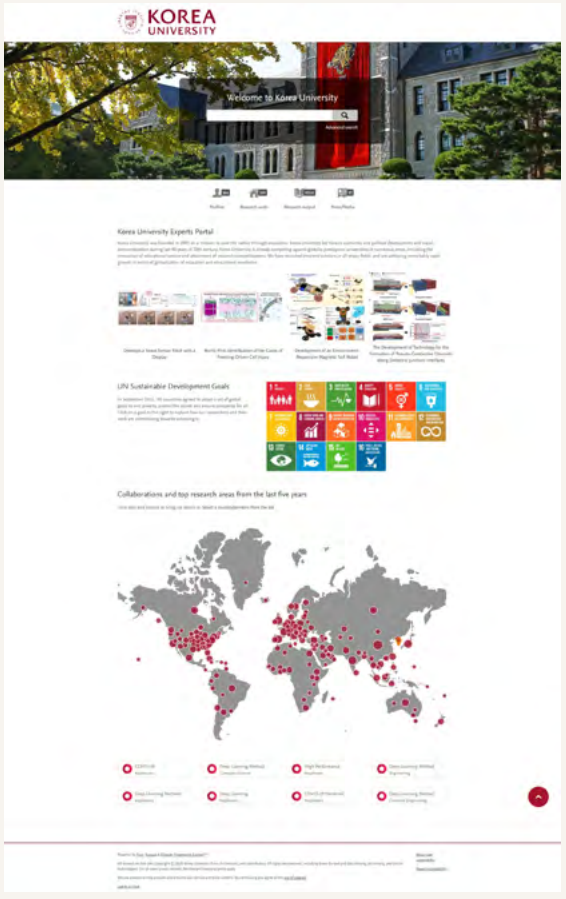
Additionally, you can use Pure to get the most accurate view of your organization's research activities and support efficient research operations and compliance, for example:

- optimize overall research management and reporting by combining and organizing information from disparate internal and external sources
- enhance pre- and post-award management workflows to help manage awards and funder compliance

The Pure Portal, like the example in Figure 5, can help you to showcase and increase visibility of expertise to build reputation and attract talent and potential collaborators through vibrant public profiles and tailored views of organizational research activities.

Figure 5

Korea University Pure Portal



Identify emerging trends and showcase your capabilities

Analytics help you spot rising research topics with strategic fields aligned with Horizon Europe, ensuring your proposals address the most relevant and fundable areas.

It is also essential for teams to showcase what makes them unique, using data and case studies to demonstrate tangible prior impact as well as human stories, resulting in a richer narrative than one mainly built on quantitative data such as bibliometrics.

For example, Scopus AI is an intuitive research companion that enables you to query the comprehensive and curated Scopus database using natural language, bringing into focus meaningful insights, trends and experts to help you build connections, accelerate your research and develop compelling funding bids. For each search, Scopus AI returns emerging themes within the field of interest, an example of which is shown in Figure 6. SciVal newly emerged Topics feature can also be used to identify areas of research that have seen significant growth acceleration in recent publication volume, citations and funding. Figure 7 shows some of the newly emerged Topics identified worldwide in 2024, helping identify the research fields globally which are growing quickly and can represent opportunities when aligned with Horizon Europe priorities.

Leverage the data and advanced analytics in products such as Scopus, Scopus AI and SciVal to demonstrate the expertise and capabilities of your research team in a funding bid. Analyze trends in research and assess potential partners to bring into the research team to enhance your chances of funding bid success. After a successful bid, the analysis and insights can be used to demonstrate progress, outputs and impact, further showcase your expertise, be included in funding body reports and your next funding bid.

Figure 6

An example of Scopus AI emerging themes output for the query "What are the latest developments in the field of solar cells"

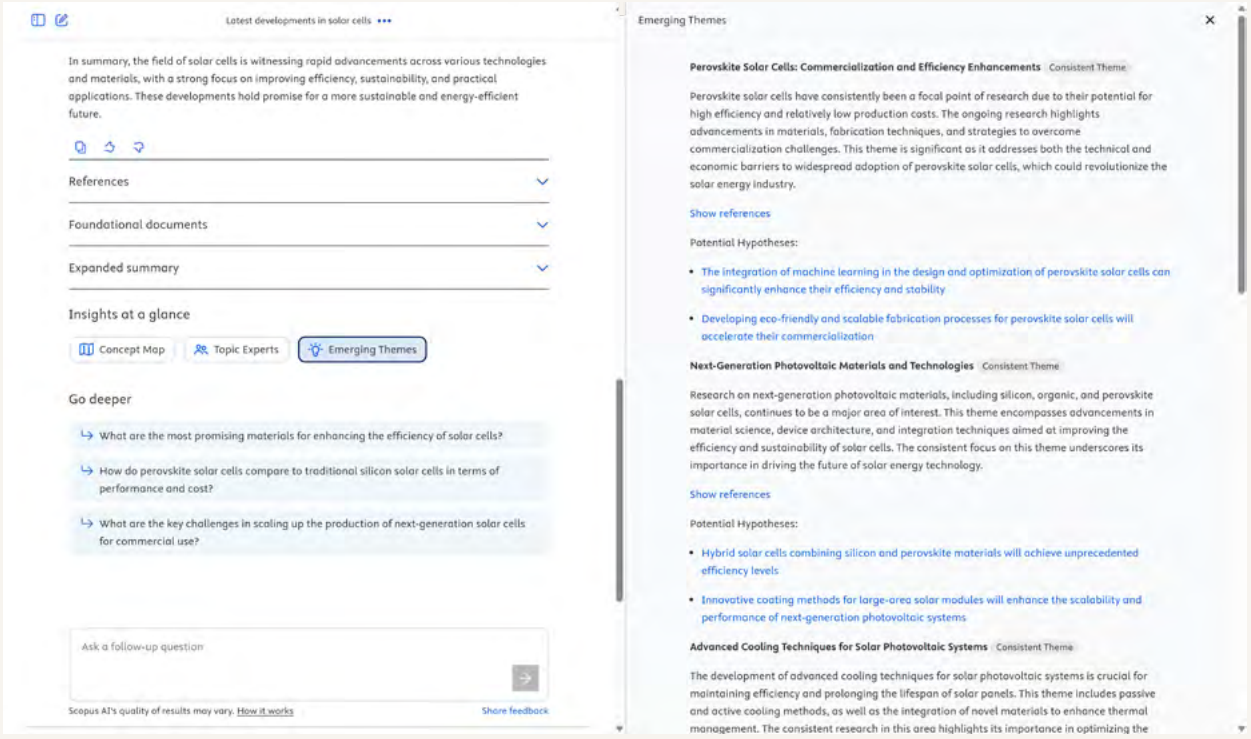
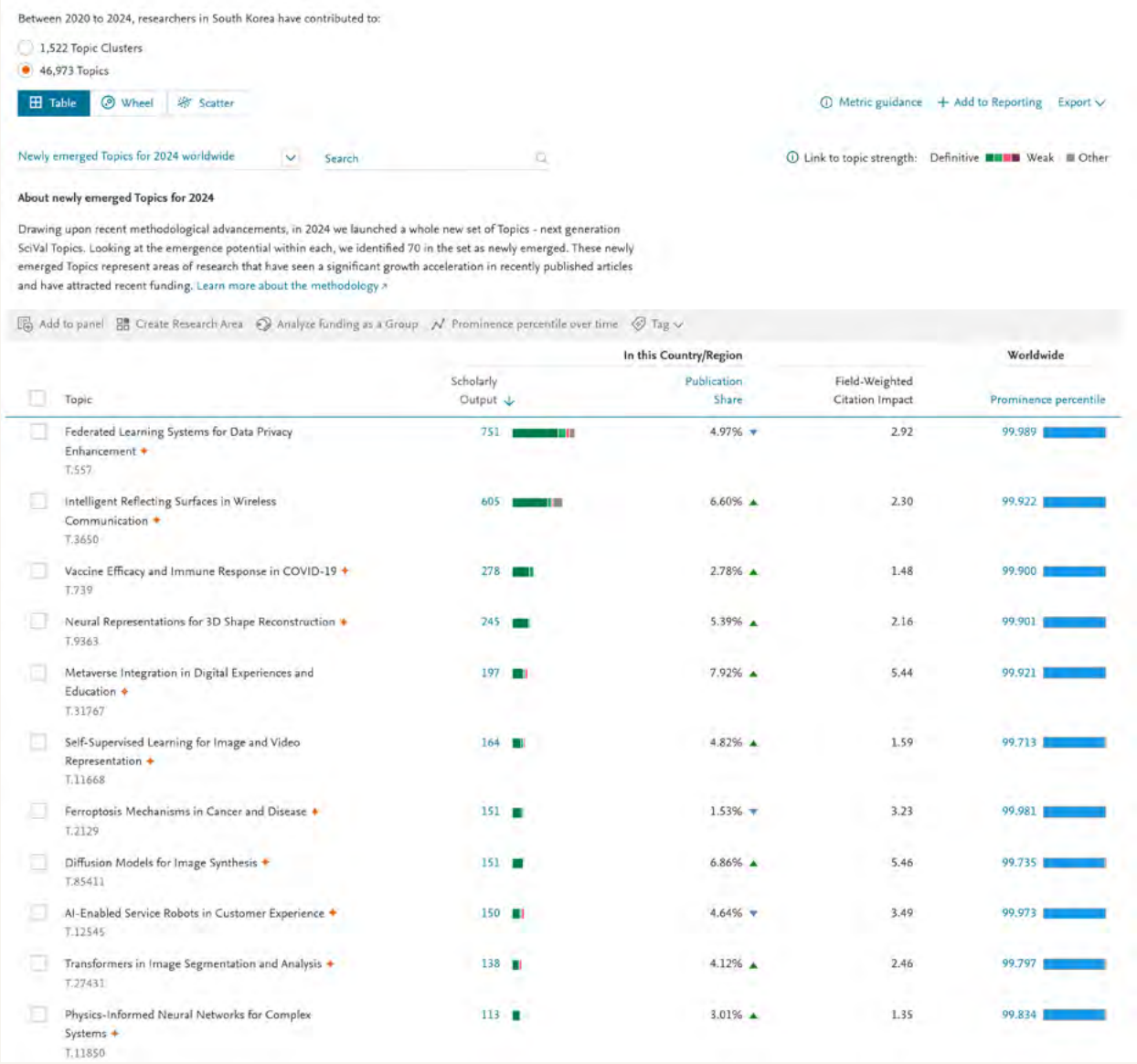


Figure 7

SciVal newly emerged Topics worldwide for 2024



Improve transparency and accuracy

Poul Meier Melchiorsen, Senior Consultant, Aalborg University, Denmark uses SciVal to help find strong research groups and fields across their faculties to identify strengths and weaknesses with Topic Clusters based on publications.

Pure is used extensively as they focus on an overview of their projects to review cost input and publication output. Publication visibility is mandated in Pure for more transparent and accurate award management and compliance reporting.

4.2

Find a call for proposals

Identify Horizon Europe open opportunities

To find new open funding opportunities aligned to research expertise, use a comprehensive funding database like Funding Institutional to uncover active and recurring Horizon Europe opportunities as well as other government and private sector funders. Explore past funding awards to understand who won the funding and which funding bodies are active in fields of interest.

Figure 8

Funding opportunities globally within Funding Institutional

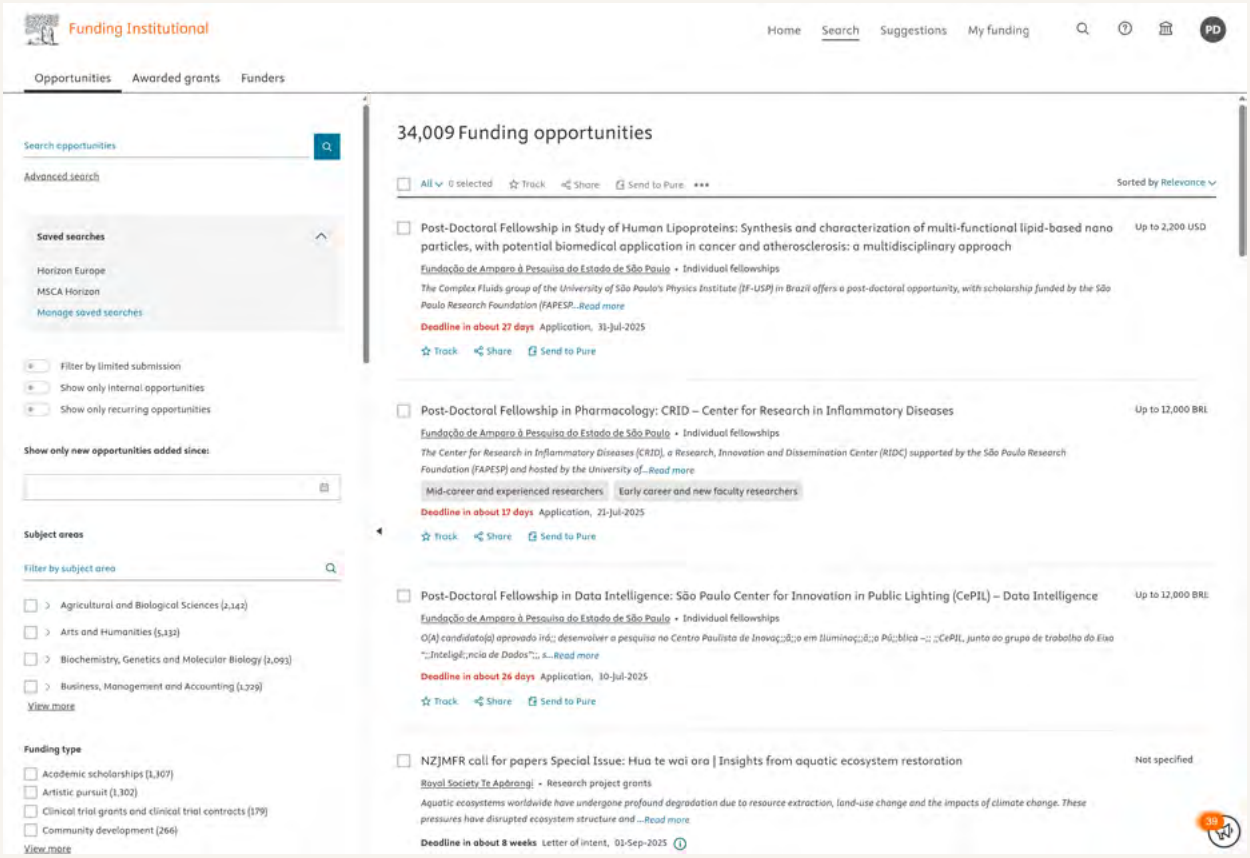
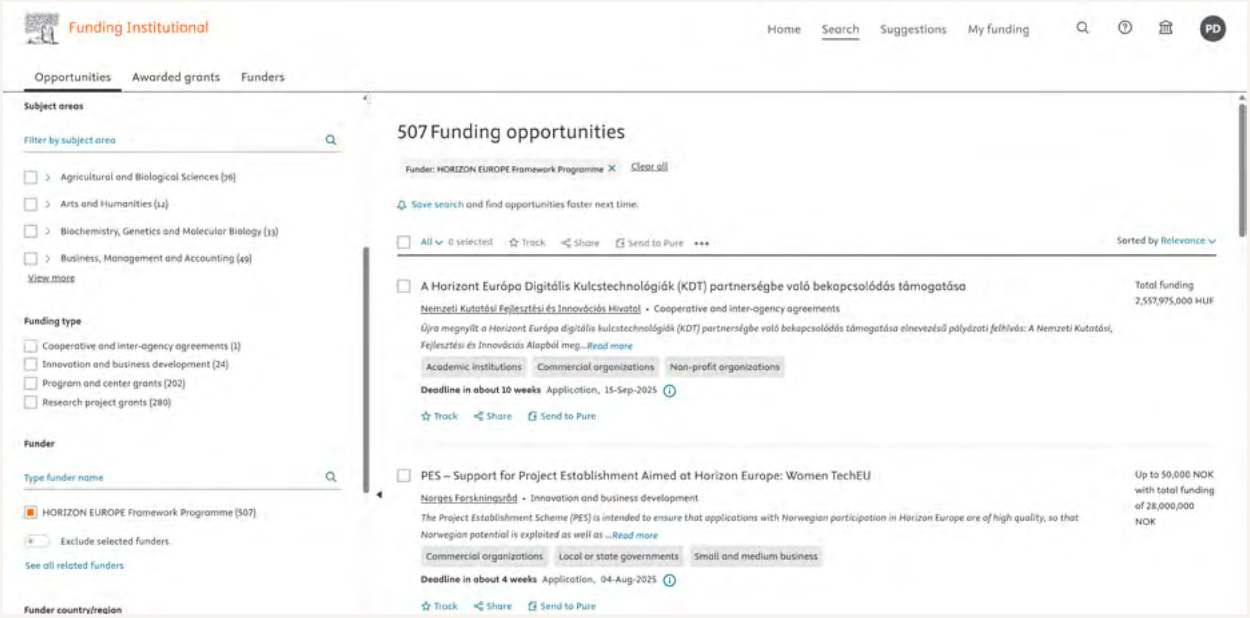


Figure 9

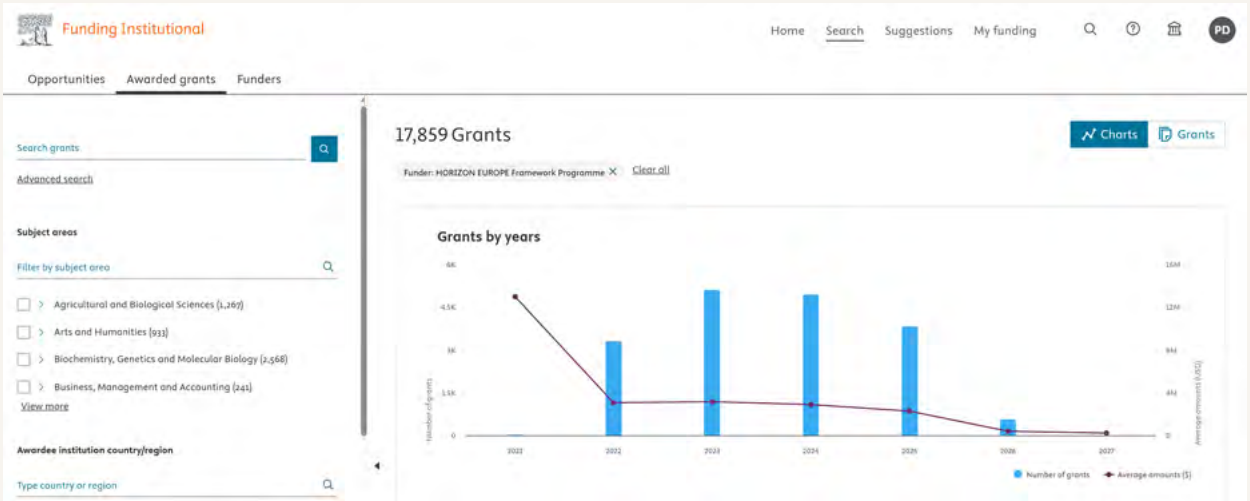
Horizon Europe Framework Programme funding opportunities within Funding Institutional



Search and review funding trends by region, focus area or subject for insights to strengthen decision-making and select those aligned to your organization's mission. Identify researchers who have successfully received funding and align to your research projects to help identify the outstanding partners who could help maximize your success with Horizon Europe funding bids.

Figure 10

Grants awarded by the Horizon Europe Framework Programme in Funding Institutional



Use the insights from internal experts, collaborators and tools such as SciVal and Funding Institutional to decide on the opportunities, aligned to South Korea's and your organization's goals and objectives, that you have the highest chances of success with. Consider associated costs and resources required, map out risks and rewards, and assess the consequences of what award success and failure looks like as you develop and make your funding bids.

Find key researchers and build effective collaborations

Discover and connect with leading experts and potential collaborators whose expertise aligns with your project goals, strengthening your consortium and funding bid.

Using software that draws on the latest technologies such as machine learning and Generative AI combined with authoritative data help organizations understand and connect the unique strengths of both their teams and potential partners across geographies and sectors. For example, an industry collaboration could bring leading academic and industry experts together to harness their combined strengths, accelerating the translation of discoveries and developments into real-world outcomes and impact. It also enables partners to access the latest facilities or help a corporate partner address an R&D challenge they cannot solve in-house.

SciVal can play a crucial role in identifying experts within specific fields and bringing them together to address targeted research needs. The data-driven insights combined with local expertise and other third-party tools, can help teams generate ideas for funding bids and facilitate effective project team building. For example, at Arizona State University, a focused initiative which leveraged insights from SciVal, brought together 56 experts, resulting in multiple promising project ideas and funding bids. The approach facilitated the building of strong, multidisciplinary teams well-positioned for funding success.

Looking at the research field of Organic Solar Cell Polymers, you can quickly profile the field, identify the top contributing institutions and global experts on and beyond campus to facilitate capacity building and establishing strategic partnerships. Explore institution level relationships in Europe within the field like Figure 11, and deep dive into each institution to identify the individual experts as Figure 12 that can strengthen a targeted funding bid to Horizon Europe.

Figure 11

SciVal example of existing European collaborations with the field of Organic Solar Cell Polymers for a Korean University

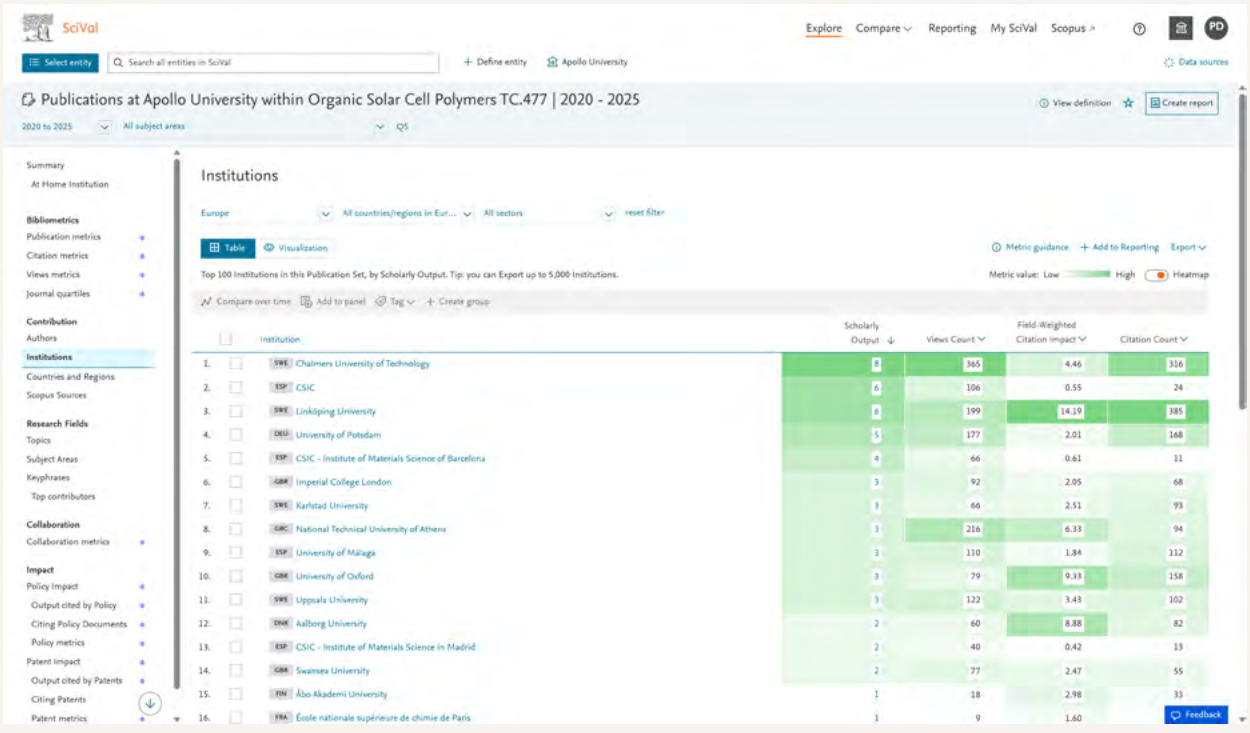
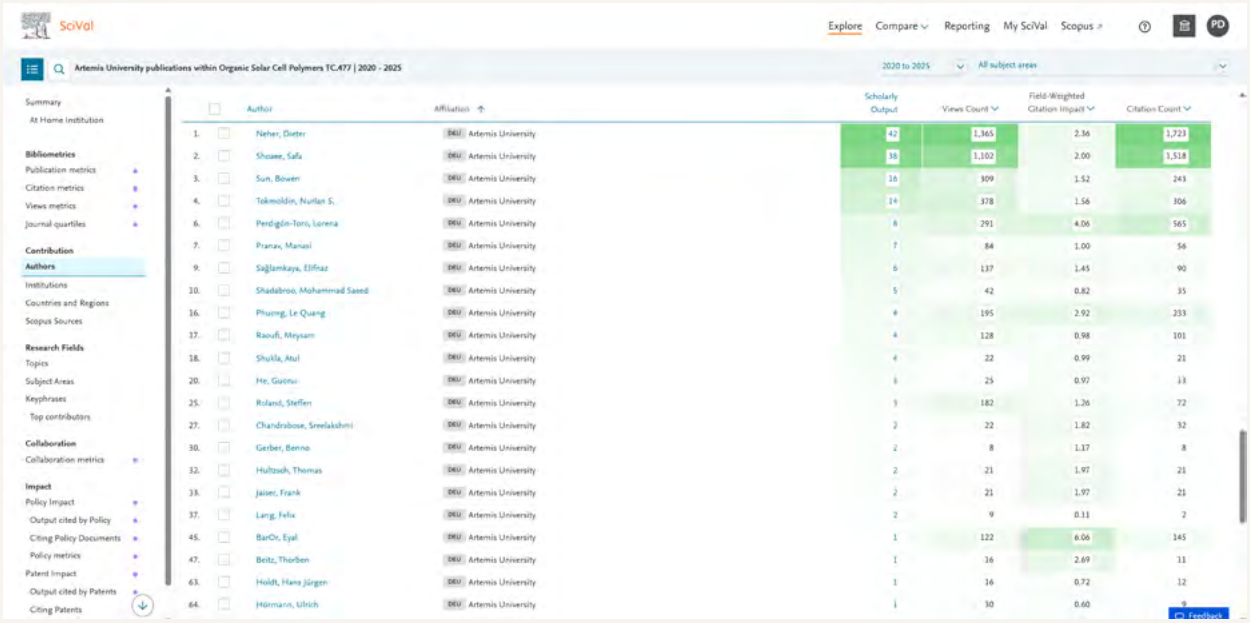


Figure 12

SciVal example of lists of experts within the Organic Solar Cell Polymers field within a single Institution



Build effective collaborations

Collaborations are a critical strategy for addressing many of the complex challenges researchers are looking to solve, whether through connections with other organizations and research partnerships, or working with commercial enterprises on applied research projects.

Form partnerships with other universities, research organizations and industry partners to create a robust and credible proposal that meets Horizon Europe's expectations.

SciVal can form part of due diligence processes when investigating potential partners through insights and analyses around research performance and past funding success. Additionally, Scopus provides additional detailed profiles of individual researchers and Scopus AI can support the identification of experts across research fields who could be competitors or potential partners.

Support your strategic team building through insights into researchers' publication history, citation impact, and collaboration networks so you can assemble diverse, multidisciplinary teams that align with Horizon Europe's emphasis on cross-sector collaboration and societal impact. Use collaboration network analyses to identify existing or potential European partners in fields aligned with your strengths and focus areas of Horizon Europe.

4.3

Leverage technology and expertise

Work with a trusted and responsible partner

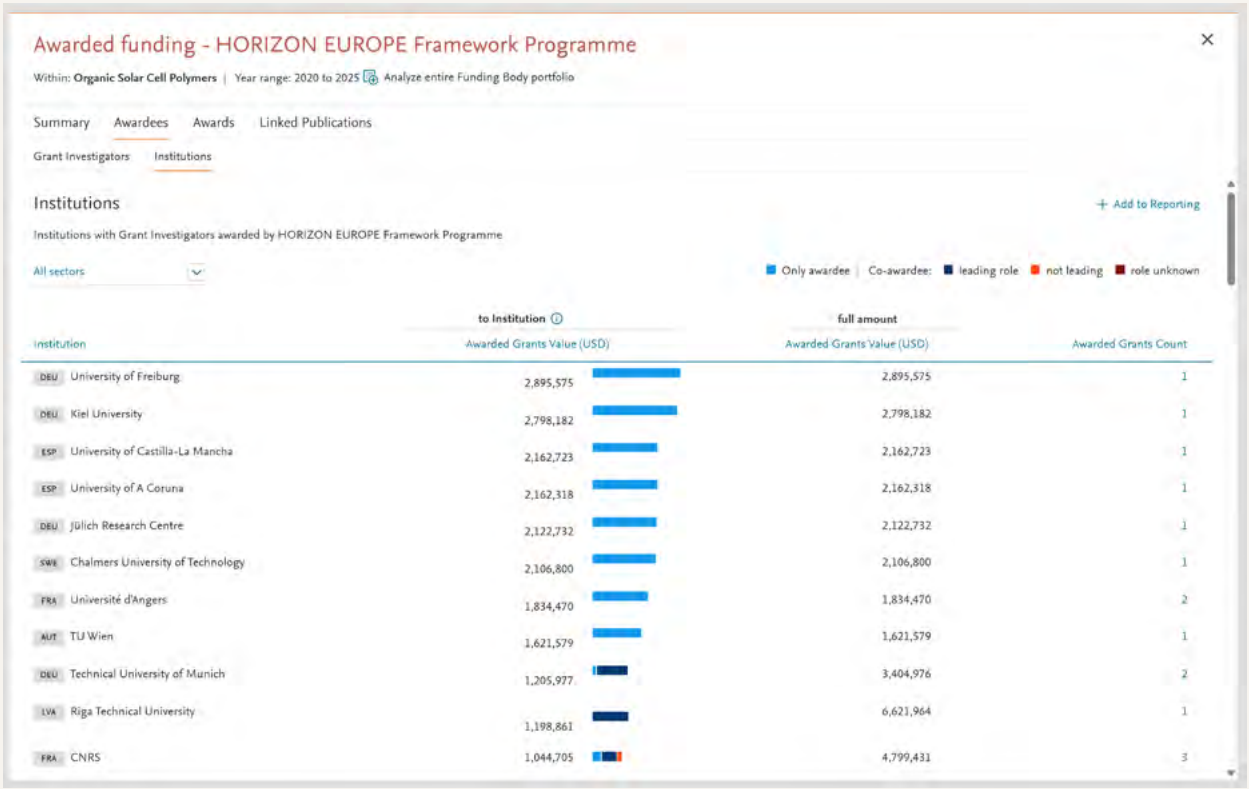
Rely on proven solutions and expert support to understand and navigate the complex funding landscape, streamline grant management, and maximize your chances of success.

As a trusted partner through our commitment to responsible technology adoption, robust security measures, and research integrity, our alignment with Horizon Europe's principles makes Elsevier's tools particularly valuable in establishing and maintaining European research partnerships.

In addition to identifying the key researchers in strategic fields, you can also identify awardees of grants from Horizon Europe as shown in Figure 13. Our interoperability across our tools and services gives you a more connected and integrated approach, helping you use tools more strategically and effectively to save time, improve efficiency and increase impact.

Figure 13

Example list of organizations awarded Horizon Europe Framework Programme funding from SciVal Grants



We help you better understand potential partners' position in the global research landscape so that you can confidently decide where to build a partner for future success. With access to quantitative data and insights about research organizations globally, and across sectors, you can build a better understanding of strengths, weaknesses and performance. This strengthens the evidence base you can draw upon to complement partners' expertise and knowledge of their organization and community. Drawing upon this expanded view of your organization and the global research landscape can help you formulate a strategy and then see through the implementation and monitoring of it.

We are dedicated to research integrity, accessibility, and responsible metrics that are aligned with Horizon Europe's emphasis on transparency, fairness, and ethical research practices.

Our security measures protect research data and intellectual property, while our commitment to responsible technology adoption supports the ethical use of research metrics and analytics. This comprehensive approach to research support reinforces us as a reliable partner for navigating the complexities of Horizon Europe funding applications.

As part of how we build and promote responsible use, we support a number of initiatives including the EU Agreement on Reforming Research Assessment agreement/Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA), the Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA) and The Leiden Manifesto for Research Metrics.

Be inspired by some of our programs and initiatives:

- Research integrity
- Snowball metrics
- SDG research mapping

Explore our academic and government products and funding and collaboration opportunities to help you progress.

Use Elsevier tools to monitor and track projects to ensure sustainable funding

Ensuring the long-term success and sustainability of funded research projects requires continuous monitoring and tracking. This step involves systematically collecting and analyzing data on project progress, outcomes, and impact beyond initial funding periods and comprehensive reporting back to the funder. By leveraging analytics and reporting tools, organizations can assess the effectiveness of research investments, remain compliant and identify emerging challenges in a timely manner, while also demonstrating ongoing return on investment to stakeholders and funding bodies.

Pure can help with increasing visibility of institutional expertise, award management and compliance, as well as impact reporting. For example, the Pure Award Management module can help organizations manage back-to-back funding workflows from complex proposal development to project completion, ensuring funder compliance, reducing manual efforts and saving hours of work and resources. At the same time, the Pure Portal enables organizations to showcase their expertise and accomplishments to attract potential partners and grow their reputation of excellence.

Chapter 5

Enhance your funding *potential*

5.1

Strategies for success

Like all funding calls, a great project idea and the right team are the foundation of a successful Horizon Europe application. However, there are additional ways to maximize your funding potential:

Demonstrate research excellence

- Evidence organizational strengths through quantifiable metrics
- Showcase past funding successes and research impact
- Set clear, measurable objectives aligned with Horizon Europe priorities
- Build diverse, multidisciplinary research teams

Strategic collaboration

- Form partnerships with European research organizations
- Engage in cross-sector collaborations
- Promote gender equality and inclusiveness in research teams
- Integrate humanities and social sciences with STEM fields

Utilize available tools effectively

- Use SciVal to identify research strengths and emerging trends
- Leverage Scopus to find potential collaborators
- Employ Pure for funding application management
- Access Funding Institutional to identify opportunities

Highlight pathways to impact clearly

- Focus on societal impact and policy influence
- Demonstrate contribution to UN SDGs
- Showcase successful knowledge transfer activities

5.2

Start expanding your funding streams through Horizon Europe

Access Horizon Europe funding through several pathways:

Current funding opportunities

- Direct participation in Pillar II projects
- Leadership roles in research consortia through Pillar II
- European Research Council (ERC) grants through Pillar I
- Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions through Pillar I

Improve chances of success by targeting strategic focus areas

- Digital and industrial technologies
- Semiconductor research
- Biotechnology and health sciences
- Green technologies
- Advanced manufacturing

Available support

- Korea-EU Research Centre resources
- Elsevier's Research Intelligence products SciVal, Scopus, Funding Institutional and Pure
- Elsevier's customer network is already seeing success with Horizon Europe for lessons learned and valuable insights
- Your Elsevier Customer Success Managers and Consultants for support in using Elsevier products
- Seek technical support and guidance from Elsevier customer support teams

5.3

Future outlook

Long-term benefits of sustained participation in Horizon Europe include:

Increased research funding and enhanced research capabilities

- Access to European experts and research infrastructure
- Knowledge exchange opportunities
- Capacity building and talent development

Enhanced global reputation and recognition

- Leadership in addressing global challenges and societal impact
- Innovation in emerging technologies
- Expanded research networks
- Enhanced organizational reputation

Strategic growth

- Position South Korea as a leading research hub in East Asia
- Build sustainable international collaborations
- Develop expertise in priority research areas
- Create pathways for innovation and impact

Chapter 6

Tools and links to *support* you

6.1

Utilize Elsevier tools for Horizon Europe applications

Technology has become essential to an organization's pre- and post-award management lifecycle, from identifying open funding opportunities to overseeing approval workflows and ensuring post-award compliance and reporting. You probably know the most prominent funding bodies in your field. Additionally, there may be other prospects from smaller funding bodies as part of an extensive funding strategy, or in different fields where potential interdisciplinary partnership opportunities could emerge. Data and technology can help you identify opportunities that might otherwise be overlooked, diversifying funding streams while ensuring your valuable time is focused on bids with the best chances of success. Learn about solutions that can help you:

Funding Institutional

In addition to open funding opportunities through Horizon Europe, get a holistic view of the research funding landscape by exploring over 40k+ active and recurring opportunities with information on 9M+ awarded grants from a wide range of global government and private funders. Designed to provide a timeline and accurate funding opportunities from more than 16k+ funders, Funding Institutional offers insight into opportunities and funded research in any area of interest.

Funding Institutional provides overviews of funding trends by country, research area and discipline, supporting funding discovery and strategic decision-making. It suggests relevant funding opportunities based on researchers' publications, derived from Scopus data. Use it to analyze awarded grants to help identify potential collaborators. Importantly, Funding Institutional seamlessly integrates with Pure to facilitate sharing of funding opportunities within organizations to kickstart managing complex applications.

Learn more

Pure

Globally, over 500 organizations use Pure to help track research and identify expertise, network and collaborate, report on and evaluate research, manage grants and satisfy national assessments. You can configure Pure to meet your growing requirements and for securing and managing Horizon Europe funding bids, awards and their related projects. Pure streamlines the entire research lifecycle, from funding application to award management and project execution. Customizable workflows and role-based permissions simplify application approvals, milestone tracking and reporting. Discover all relevant documents and research outputs linked to a specific award, providing you with better transparency and compliance. By managing research projects effectively, Pure helps demonstrate broader impact — a key factor in strengthening funding applications.

Learn more

SciVal

You can harness essential data from SciVal, a research analytics platform, to strengthen decision making, shape transformative research strategies and advance your institution's goals. Using publication and citation metrics, patent and policy citations, funding trends and collaboration patterns, SciVal delivers critical insights so you can gain a clear, actionable understanding to navigate complex research environments.

You can support Horizon Europe applications with meaningful insights gained from SciVal. Whether you are planning, progressing or evaluating your research strategies, searching for experts to expand your research team's capacity, or aiming to demonstrate the broader impact of your research activities in your funding bid, SciVal can help.

Learn more

Scopus

Use a source-neutral abstract and citation database curated by independent subject matter experts who are recognized leaders in their field. Scopus provides advanced discovery and analytics tools for researchers, librarians, research managers and funders to find the latest publications, people and organizations that help drive research progress.

As the world's largest abstract and citation database, Scopus allows you to efficiently find research and discover relevant literature. When combined with SciVal, Scopus transforms literature searches into detailed analytical insights, helping you develop strong funding proposals and research cases.

Learn more

Scopus AI

Empower your research journey with insights from trusted content and responsibly developed generative AI capabilities. Like a telescope, Scopus AI provides both a strategic overview and focused insights—helping you navigate the research landscape with confidence and clarity.

Drawing exclusively from the comprehensive, curated peer-reviewed metadata and abstracts in Scopus, aggregated from over 7000 publishers and updated daily, Scopus AI ensures your findings are always based on the most current and reliable information.

Whether you're identifying emerging topics, exploring new disciplines, or seeking high-impact collaborators, Scopus AI sharpens your focus. It also helps with funding success by assisting in crafting proposals aligned with funding body priorities. With Scopus AI, you gain a dynamic, GenAI-powered research partner designed to enrich your insights, expand your horizons and transform how you discover and connect within the global research ecosystem.

Learn more

Top tip

By strategically leveraging research tools, Korean organizations can go beyond using them for important data, but also showcase their organization as a valuable partner. Strengthen visibility, global competitiveness, and funding success in Horizon Europe with Elsevier support and tools to help achieve your goals.

6.2

Other useful links and tools

Essential resources

- Korea-EU Research Centre Portal
- South Korea's overall performance in Horizon Europe
- Horizon Europe Application Portal

Support services

- Korea-EU Research Centre support services:
  - Career development programs
  - Information sharing platforms
  - Networking events
  - Policy guidance
- (KERC) Horizon Europe Korea Participation Casebook 2024

Stay connected

- Subscribe to Horizon Europe newsletter
- Join regional research networks
- Participate in training workshops
- Engage with European research communities

Contact information

Website: elsevier.com/academic-and-research-leader

Elsevier Korea LLC (Corporate office)

4F, Chunwoo Bldg, 206, Noksapyeong-daero (Itaewon-dong) Yongsan-gu Seoul 04345, South Korea

Tel: +82 2 6714 3000

Fax: +82 2 725 4388

Email: kr.info@elsevier.com

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- The European Research Executive Agency (REA) common mistakes to avoid when applying for Horizon Europe funding
- Horizon Europe funded project Go Green Next
- Horizon Europe evaluation criteria
- Arizona State University case study – Team building using SciVal topics of prominence
- Coalition for Advancing Research Assessment (CoARA)
- The Declaration on Research Assessment (DORA)
- The Leiden Manifesto

Elsevier initiatives:

- Research integrity
- Snowball metrics
- SDG research mapping

Elsevier resources

- Academic and government products
- Funding and collaboration opportunities
- Resources and support for academic and research leaders