



July 2021



*"With more than €53 billion, the second pillar of Horizon Europe aims to turn the results of our excellent research into innovative solutions to improve citizens daily lives by tackling global challenges. This pillar will be key to accelerate the twin green and digital transitions and helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals."*

**Mariya Gabriel** Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth



## Pillar II GLOBAL CHALLENGES AND EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

The pillar 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' is established through clusters of research and innovation activities, in order to maximise integration and synergies across the respective thematic areas while securing high and sustainable levels of impact for the Union in relation to the resources that are expended.

[Horizon Europe budget](#) allocates more than **€53 billion** for pillar II:

- [Health;](#)
- [Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society;](#)
- [Civil Security for Society;](#)
- [Digital, Industry and Space;](#)
- [Climate, Energy and Mobility;](#)
- [Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment;](#)
- [Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre.](#)



The Pillar will encourage cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy and cross-border collaboration in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by following the principles of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Agreement adopted under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the competitiveness of the Union's industries.



The organisation of high-ambition, wide-scale initiatives in the form of research and innovation missions would enable the Programme to achieve a transformative and systemic impact for society in support of the SDGs, also through international cooperation and science diplomacy. The activities under that pillar should cover the full range of R&I activities to ensure that the Union remains at the cutting-edge in strategically defined priorities.

This pillar shall support the creation and better diffusion of high-quality new knowledge, technologies and sustainable solutions, reinforce the European industrial competitiveness, strengthen the impact of R&I in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies, and support the uptake of innovative solutions in industry, in particular in SMEs and start-ups, and society to address global challenges.

Social sciences and humanities shall be fully integrated across all clusters, including specific and dedicated activities.

Pillar II covers activities from a broad range of Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), including lower TRLs.

Each cluster contributes towards several SDGs and many SDGs are supported by more than one cluster.

In addition to the clusters, the non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC) under this Pillar aim at generating high-quality scientific evidence for efficient and affordable good public policies. The JRC provides Union policies with independent scientific evidence and technical support throughout the policy cycle and focuses its research on Union policy priorities.

A transparent and strategic planning of R&I activities for the pillar 'Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness' supports the implementation of the activities under it, resulting in a multiannual strategic plan.



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