



European Funding Essentials for PhD Candidates and Postdocs

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Introduction

Who am I ?

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What do I do?

I support researchers at IPGP to:

- ✓ Identify national and European funding opportunities
- ✓ Build their projects (administrative, legal, financial aspects)
- ✓ Serve as the main contact for the European Commission and partners
- ✓ Follow up throughout the project lifecycle (reporting, deliverables)

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Why talk about European funding now?

European funding is not just about ticking a box —
It's about **boosting your research, building your future.**

As a young researcher or PhD student, you want to:

Strengthen your scientific profile: Publish more, lead your own ideas, gain credibility

Build a solid professional network: Collaborate internationally, open doors beyond your lab

Gain autonomy in your research path: Shape your own scientific agenda

Develop your career: Learn to manage, communicate, and lead a team or project

**All of this requires research projects
And research projects need funding**



No funding = No project



FIRST TIP

European funding is not only for senior researchers!



Start early: talk to others, ask questions, get informed.



Even if you don't apply today, thinking about it now saves time tomorrow.

Horizon Europe Programme

Where does research funding come from?

There are **several sources** of funding in research:

- **Internal source:** Your lab or institution (IPGP, CNRS, Université Paris Cité...)
- **National funding programme:** ANR (e.g. JCJC, PRC), regions, foundations, institutes...
- **European funding programme:** Horizon Europe, ESA, European Defence Fund (EDF), FEDER...
- **International funding programme:** Bilateral or multilateral cooperation programs
- **Private funding programme:** Industries or foundations

FOCUS ON HORIZON EUROPE

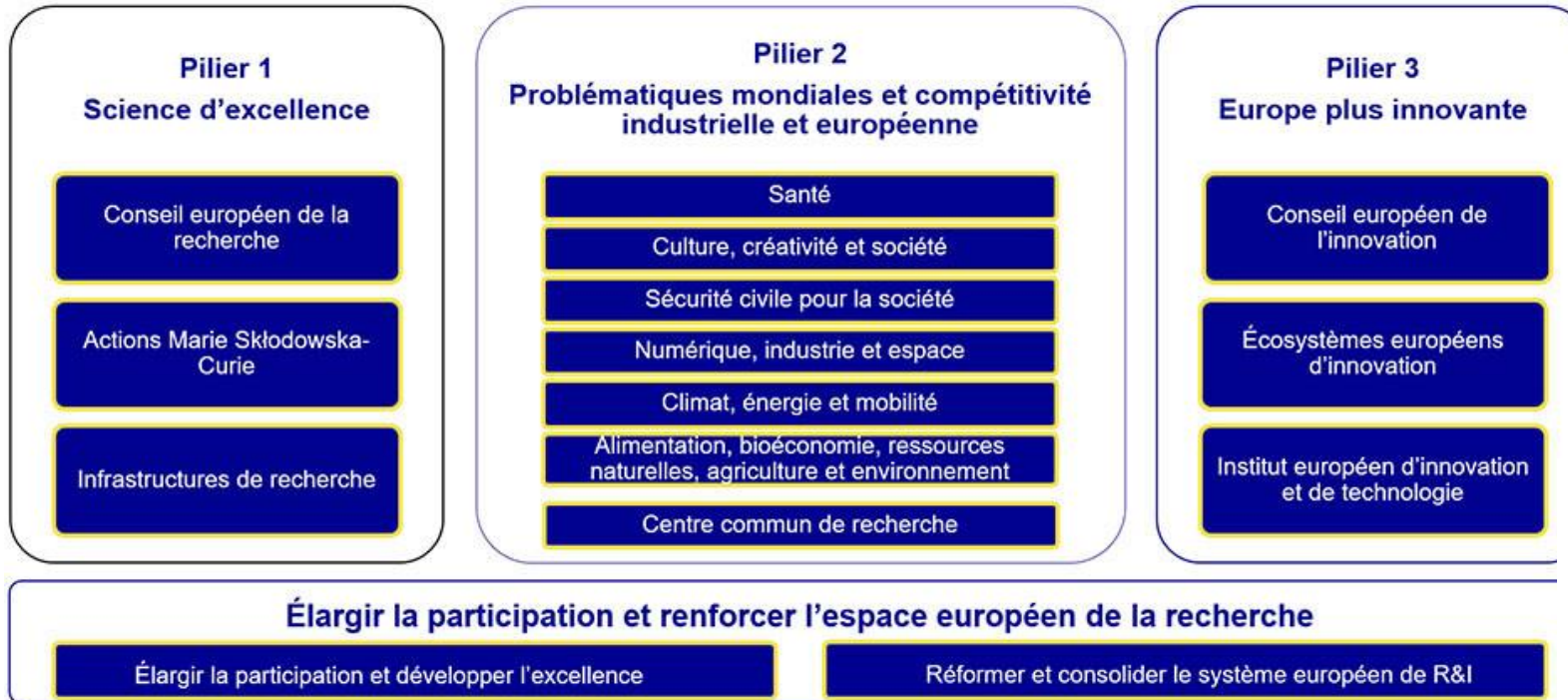
Horizon Europe is the EU's research & innovation programme (2021–2027).

It supports projects that aim to:

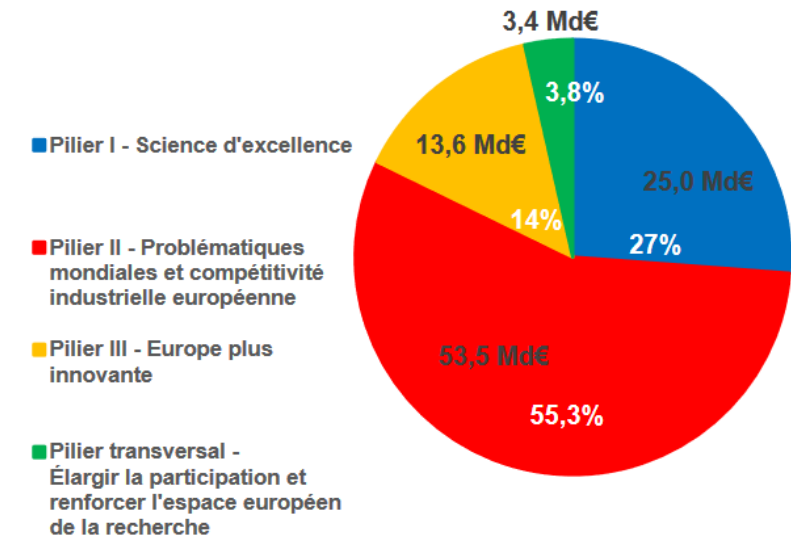
- Strengthen Europe's scientific & technological base
- Boost competitiveness
- Support EU strategic priorities
- Tackle global challenges

=> **Ultimately, Horizon Europe funds your research projects through various types of calls for proposals.**

A three-pillar structure



95,5Md€



Second TIP

Each type of call has its own rules — don't panic!



We support you from start to finish.



To learn more, book a meeting with the SPR.

Focus on MSCA actions



Doctoral Networks (MSCA-DN)

- ❑ MSCA Doctoral Networks fund research and training projects led by a consortium which recruits PhD candidates to work on a common topic.
- ❑ Open to all nationalities and all research topics.
- ❑ Projects are typically funded for 36 months.
- ❑ Host institutions are universities, research centres or companies in Europe
- ❑ Three types of Doctoral Networks:
 - Standard DN: PhD candidates are enrolled in a doctoral programme in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country.
 - Joint Doctorates (DN-JD): Candidates are enrolled in at least two doctoral programmes and aim for a joint, double, or multiple degree.
 - Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID): Candidates spend at least 50% of their time in the non-academic sector (e.g. companies, local authorities, hospitals).



Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-PF)

- ❑ MSCA PF fund research projects combined with international mobility to help researchers acquire new skills, develop their careers, and gain independence.
- ❑ Open to all nationalities and all research topics.
- ❑ Hold a PhD obtained within the last 8 years (exceptions apply).
- ❑ There are two types of Postdoctoral Fellowships:
 - European Postdoctoral Fellowships – mobility within Europe (or to an associated country).
 - Global Postdoctoral Fellowships – mobility from Europe to a third country, with a mandatory return phase to Europe.



Third TIP

MSCA funding works on unit costs: expenses are automatically calculated based on the country and the number of months worked by recruited staff!

Focus on ERC actions

What is ERC programme?

- ❖ The ERC funds exploratory research projects that push the boundaries of knowledge (i.e; breakthrough projects).
- ❖ The main selection criterion is scientific excellence.
- ❖ The project leader, called the principal investigator, submits their proposal in partnership with a host institution (HI).
- ❖ There are 5 types of ERC grants, depending on the researchers' career stage.

ERC Starting Grant (StG) — Support for Early-Career Researchers

- ❖ **Objective:** Help talented researchers launch their own independent research team or project.
- ❖ **Eligibility:** PhD awarded between 2 and 7 years before January 1 of the call year.
- ❖ **Funding:** Up to €1.5 million for up to 5 years.
- ❖ **Work requirement:** The Principal Investigator (PI) must spend at least 50% of their working time in an EU Member State or Associated Country, and at least 50% of their working time on the project.
- ❖ **Selection based on:** Excellence of the project and researcher, including scientific track record and independence.



Fourth TIP

We will put you in touch with researchers who have submitted and obtained ERC funding so you can discuss with them,
and we will share proposals that received excellent scores for you to use as inspiration.

Tips for Writing Your Project (ERC & MSCA)

- **Be bold & innovative:** Aim for high-risk, high-gain research
- **Write clearly & simply:** Structure your ideas logically
- **Show scientific excellence & impact**
- **Demonstrate independence & leadership**
- **Present a feasible, well-planned approach**
- **Highlight training & career development (MSCA)**
- **Make it accessible for experts & non-experts**
- **Start early & get feedback often**
- **Leverage your network & support services**

Practical informations

Where to Find Calls?

- **Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal**
- **SPR service** regularly sends deadlines and call openings by email to all IPGP staff

Where to find SPR?

2nd floor, Offices 235, 239, 240, 241

Contact us:

 partenariat-recherche@ipgp.fr