

EU-Sri Lanka Innovation Partnership (EU-SLIP)¹

Information Note on ‘Horizon Europe’

26 July 2021

INTRODUCTION

The new Framework Programme for Research & Innovation of the European Union, called ‘Horizon Europe’ is fully operational now (July 2021) for a seven-year long period.

‘Horizon Europe’ is one of the largest ever funding instruments (€ 95.5 Billion). Mostly applied research and innovation will be funded under ‘Horizon Europe’, covering a wide spectrum of scientific disciplines.

Researchers from Sri Lanka can participate in ‘Horizon Europe’ and can benefit from the funding it provides, as it was the case with the predecessor Programme ‘Horizon 2020’: Researchers and research entities from Sri Lanka took already part in 5 grants receiving an amount of approx. € 1.5 Million for their involvement (current, not final data).

HOW TO PARTICIPATE

Two main possibilities exist for Sri Lankan researchers to participate in Horizon Europe (HEU):

A. As individual researchers

In that case the researcher applies individually (i.e. himself/herself, not his/her research entity) and with his/her own research idea/topic (i.e. there are *no predefined topics* it is ‘bottom-up).

Such individual applications can be submitted for:

A1: An ‘European Research Council (ERC)’ Grant: These grants are large, for breakthrough frontier research, to be implemented partially in Sri Lanka and partially in an EU Member State. Applications for ‘Starting’, ‘Consolidator’ or ‘Advanced’ grant can be submitted, depending on the years of experience of the applicant after the PhD.

¹ EU-SLIP: Information on the project can be found at <http://www.paymedia.lk/euhelpdesk/>



Information on ERC can be found at: <https://erc.europa.eu/>

Information about the current calls for proposals, on the objectives of ERC, as well as on the procedures and funding can be found at the ERC's Work Programme 2022 (pdf document to be downloaded from:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2022/wp_horizon-erc-2022_en.pdf).

A2. A Post-doctoral Fellowship (under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – MSCA): These fellowships are given for research work on any scientific discipline ('bottom-up', i.e. *no pre-defined topics*), to be implemented for 1 to 2 years in an EU Member State. The applications are prepared by the Sri Lankan researcher, in cooperation with the hosting laboratory in EU.

Information on MSCA (including the Post-doctoral fellowships) can be found at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/about-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions>

Information on the call deadlines and procedures can be found in the Work Programme for MSCA (pdf file to download from:

<https://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/document/horizon-europe-work-programme-2021-2022-marie-sklodowska-curie-actions>).

B. In collaborative projects

In that case research entities (research teams in Universities, Research Centers, SMEs, Industries, NGOs, etc.) are forming consortia to submit jointly a proposal addressing a published (*pre-defined*) research topic. The consortia are usually large (e.g. 8 to 15 entities, more in some cases), with the bulk of the consortium being from different EU Member States. Sri Lankan entities are fully eligible to join these consortia and to be funded for their involvement in the research and innovation activities.

The research topics are *pre-defined* and are 'Clustered' in 6 large Clusters with tenths of published research topics under each cluster (for 2021 and 2022). It is easy to review the published topics in the cluster of interest by downloading the respective Work Programme (pdf file) for the Cluster from the following links:

Cluster 1: Health

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-1-health_en

Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-2-culture-creativity-and-inclusive-society_en

Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-3-civil-security-society_en

Cluster 4: Digital, Industry & Space

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-4-digital-industry-and-space_en

Cluster 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility:

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-5-climate-energy-and-mobility_en

Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural resources, Agriculture & Environment

https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/cluster-6-food-bioeconomy-natural-resources-agriculture-and-environment_en

As soon as a published topic fits to the research activities and expertise of Sri Lankan researchers and entities (and has a deadline in 6 or more months ahead, allowing a proper consortium formation and proposal preparation), the steps to follow are:

a) To think about the parts of the (usually very broad) topic the lab/team in Sri Lanka could address;

b) To contact researchers in EU informing them about the topic, the deadline and the interest of the lab in Sri Lanka to participate in the preparation of a proposal.

Such researchers can be the ones already known (from missions, conferences, papers, etc.) and/or unknown ones that can be found by using the “Partner Search” tool in the Horizon Europe Funding and Tenders Portal (see below).



‘HORIZON EUROPE’ IN THE FUNDING AND TENDERS PORTAL OF THE EU

In that Portal all the published calls (present in the aforementioned Work Programmes) are uploaded. The Portal can be found at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon>

In the Find a Call section you can type (e.g.) ‘bioeconomy’ and immediately view all the related topics. Fine tuning by ‘Programme Part’ will allow searching for topics in the different Clusters.

When selecting a topic of interest all the respective info will be presented: call/topic ID, Title, deadline, topic description, etc.

At the bottom of the topic’s page the “Partner Search” section is present, in which you can:

- View entities that have also interest in that topic, in order to contact them (via the Portal);
- Upload a similar profile for your entity, expressing your interest to be part of a consortium for that topic.