



# EU-OSHA Funding Guide 2024

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## Table of Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>6</b>
	How to read this Funding Guide .....	7
	How do EU funding programmes work?.....	9
<b>2</b>	<b>European programmes managed by the European Commission .....</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1	European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) — Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI) strand .....	12
2.2	EU4Health .....	15
2.3	Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SOCPL).....	18
2.4	Erasmus+.....	21
2.4.1	Key Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions: All actions.....	21
2.4.2	Erasmus+ for young entrepreneurs .....	25
2.5	Joint Programming Initiative: More Years, Better Lives (JPI MYBL) .....	27
2.6	Horizon Europe.....	29
2.6.1	Pillar 1 ‘Excellent Science’ – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme .....	30
2.6.2	Pillar 2 ‘Global Issues and European Industrial Competitiveness’ – Cluster 1 ‘Health’ .....	33
2.6.3	Pillar 3 ‘Innovative Europe’ – European Innovation Ecosystems .....	35
2.6.4	Pillar 3 ‘Innovative Europe’ – European Institute of Innovation and Technology – EIT Health.....	38
2.6.5	Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area.....	41
2.6.6	EU Mission: Cancer .....	44
2.6.7	European Partnerships in Health.....	47
2.7	Digital Europe .....	50
<b>3</b>	<b>European programmes share-managed by the Member States .....</b>	<b>52</b>
3.1	Sweden .....	53
3.2	Slovenia .....	55
3.3	Romania .....	57
3.4	Portugal .....	59
	<b>Appendix - European programmes managed by the European Commission and eligible organisations.....</b>	<b>61</b>

## List of Figures

Figure 1: European programme structure .....	10
Figure 2: Stages of a European project: from a project idea to the final instalment of an EU grant .....	11
Figure 3: Specific Horizon Europe implementing programmes .....	29

## List of Abbreviations

CSA	Coordination and support actions
EEA	European Economic Area
EFTA	European Free Trade Association
EIC	European Innovation Council
EIE	European Innovation Ecosystems
EIT	European Institute of Innovation & Technology
ERA	European Research Area
HE	Host entrepreneur
IA	Innovation Actions
IMDA	Innovation and Market Deployment Actions
IPCEI	Important Projects of Common European Interest
JPI	Joint Programming Initiative
MSCA	Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
NE	New entrepreneur
NGO	Non-governmental organisation
OSH	Occupational safety and health
PCP	Pre-commercial procurement actions
PPI	Public procurement of innovative solutions actions
R&D	Research and development
R&I	Research and innovation
RIS	Regional Innovation Scheme
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
SOCPL	Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines
SSH	Social sciences and humanities
TFEU	Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union
TMA	Training and mobility actions
VET	Vocational education and training

# 1 Introduction

The 'EU-OSHA Funding Guide 2024' aims to provide information on funding within the EU in the field of occupational safety and health (OSH). Its objective is to facilitate the identification and understanding of suitable funding sources for European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) stakeholders. The guide is specifically designed for the following different target groups<sup>1</sup>:

- national authorities (ministries of employment, national institutes for OSH, labour inspectorates, etc.);
- social partners at Member State level (employers' associations, trade unions);
- EU sectoral social dialogue partners;
- researchers/research institutes;
- OSH professionals (private experts/consultants, external prevention services, OSH networks, etc.);
- companies (SMEs and large companies);
- legal entities; and
- civil society.

This guide aims to provide a comprehensive overview of the different sources of EU funding available to support OSH activities, initiatives and projects. It does not represent an official European Commission document.

The guide focuses on two main sources of European funding:

- **European programmes 'directly managed' by the European Commission** that aim to strengthen cooperation within the EU and boost the innovation capacity of EU economic and social players. These programmes, which are funded directly from the EU budget to which Member States contribute, are specifically designed to promote development in key areas such as research, health, innovation, employment, digital technology and many others. By encouraging cross-border and international cooperation, these initiatives enable Member States to work together to tackle common challenges and exploit shared opportunities. These programmes are generally established over a multi-annual period (currently 2021-2027) and are regularly revised to adapt to the EU's changing needs. Horizon Europe, Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SOCPL), and EU4Health are some examples of programmes playing a key role in promoting European integration and strengthening links between countries within the Union.
- **European funds 'share managed' by Member States** that aim to strengthen cohesion within the EU are initiatives for which responsibility for implementation is delegated to the Member States. These funds aim to achieve specific EU objectives while taking account of national and regional priorities. At the programming stage, the Member States work with the European Commission to draw up detailed regional and national Operational Programmes, setting out the priorities and specific objectives for the use of the funds over the given period of seven years (2021-2027). Once approved by the Commission, the Member States are responsible for implementing the programmes and selecting projects in line with the established objectives and eligibility rules. This decentralised approach allows Member States to adapt programmes to local priorities and needs, while the Commission plays a supervisory role to ensure compliance with EU rules and objectives.

## Background to the EU-OSHA Funding Guide

This guide lists the European funding opportunities identified during a research phase that took place until April 2024. The relevant fields of intervention for funding OSH activities matching EU programmes

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<sup>1</sup> See European programmes managed by the European Commission and eligible organisations chart in Appendix.

include physical health, mental health, occupational illnesses and diseases, risk prevention, work awareness, safety at work, working conditions, labour policy, employability and social aspects of work.

OSH is a crucial aspect of EU policy, as it aims at protecting workers through prevention of work accidents and illnesses. This proactive approach also supports innovation by integrating safety standards into technological developments, thus ensuring a balance between economic growth and worker protection and implicitly also to reduce social costs for society.

OSH is a key area within European funding programmes, reflecting the EU's commitment to promoting safe and healthy workplaces across Member States. These programmes aim to support initiatives that address workplace hazards, improve risk management practices and enhance the wellbeing of workers.

Therefore, OSH initiatives stand a strong chance of success when applying for EU grants. Additionally, these activities may include scientific research projects aimed at enhancing healthcare for workers who have suffered occupational accidents or illnesses, making them eligible for both research (Horizon Europe) and health (EU4Health) programmes. Furthermore, projects focused on improving digital access within companies to enhance working conditions for workers could qualify for funding under the Digital Europe programme.

Also asbestos-related OSH initiatives can be financed. The EU has substantial funding available to Member States via the ESF+ and ERDF programmes for health prevention and asbestos removal operations.<sup>2</sup> Further funding is also available to support Member States in health prevention, treatment, renovation and safe removal of asbestos through the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

## How to read this Funding Guide

### Structure of the EU-OSHA Funding Guide

The first part of this guide gathers relevant European funding programmes directly managed by the European Commission to support OSH activities. Under direct management, the European Commission is in charge of the whole process: launching calls for proposals, evaluating submitted proposals, signing Grant Agreements, monitoring project implementations, evaluating results and making payments.

These various stages are carried out by the European Commission's directorates, units and agencies located in Brussels and Luxembourg or by the EU delegations located outside the EU for external aid cooperation projects.

The second part of this guide concerns the ESF+ programme that is share-managed with the Member States (national or local managing authorities). Under this fund, Member States are responsible for the whole process.

### Programme presentation

For each selected EU funding programme, a table gives an overview of the most important information of the respective scheme. It allows applicants to assess the relevance of the programme for their organisation. It also enables applicants to assess whether the project meets the programme's expectations in terms of eligibility criteria, objectives and funding opportunities.

Each table has a list of keywords to give project leaders an initial idea of the relevance of the programmes for their project. The tables are broken down as follows: the first line gives the name of the European programme, followed by a list of all the groups targeted by the programme. The rest of the lines in the tables are explained below.

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<sup>2</sup> See: [https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda\\_22\\_5678](https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/qanda_22_5678)

KEYWORD	
EU programme	
Targeted groups	
<b>Synthesis of the programme to OSH policy areas</b>	Synthesised information on the programme, as well as a justification of its relevance to OSH projects.
<b>Thematic priorities</b>	Priority areas of the current work programme.
<b>Objectives</b>	General multi-annual programme objectives which are relevant to OSH initiatives.
<b>Eligible organisations</b>	List of eligible organisations.
<b>Eligible countries</b>	<p>Countries or groups of countries that might be eligible to apply for funding are listed in each section as stated in the relevant programme, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ EU Member States;</li> <li>▪ EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine;</li> <li>▪ Potential EU candidate: Kosovo<sup>3</sup>;</li> <li>▪ European Free Trade Association (EFTA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland;</li> <li>▪ European Economic Area (EEA) countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway;</li> <li>▪ European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia; and</li> <li>▪ Other worldwide countries as specified in the particular programme.</li> </ul>
<b>Eligible actions</b>	Activities that are relevant to OSH initiatives and eligible for financing are outlined, for example, collaborative research, studies, seminars, exchange of best practice.

<sup>3</sup> This designation is without prejudice to positions on status and is in line with UNSCR 1244/1999 and the ICJ Opinion on the Kosovo declaration of independence. Retrieved from: [EUR-Lex Document 22017A0727\(01\)](#)



<b>Criteria for partnership</b>	Additional criteria might be specified, for example, the number (and origin) of participants; for some projects it is necessary to set up a joint project with at least three other partners from different Member States.
<b>Amount awarded per project</b>	Information about financing is noted here, for example, the maximum amount funded, the average amount funded and the co-financing rate.
<b>Further information</b>	Contact for programme implementation. URL for programme.
<b>Comments – Recommendations</b>	Added value elements for the project or for the beneficiary, tips, recommendations and prerequisites as well as an evaluation of the feasibility and risks for the stakeholder groups.
<b>Examples of calls</b>	Overview of the programme's open or most recent calls giving their main information: general objective, opening and closing dates, budget, grant amount, co-financing rate. Since most programmes run until 2027, most likely similar programmes in these areas will be launched in the near future.

## How do EU funding programmes work?

It is necessary to understand how EU programmes work before preparing a European Commission grant request.

A European funding programme is an organised set of initiatives and projects that receive financial support from the EU, in line with its policies and priorities. These programmes aim to support and promote specific EU objectives in areas such as research, innovation, education, employment, the environment, social cohesion and health, among others.

These programmes are designed to foster cooperation and solidarity between EU Member States, thereby contributing to the balanced development of the EU as a whole.

### The main principles

Most European funding programmes are based on fundamental principles that guide their implementation and administration. These principles are:

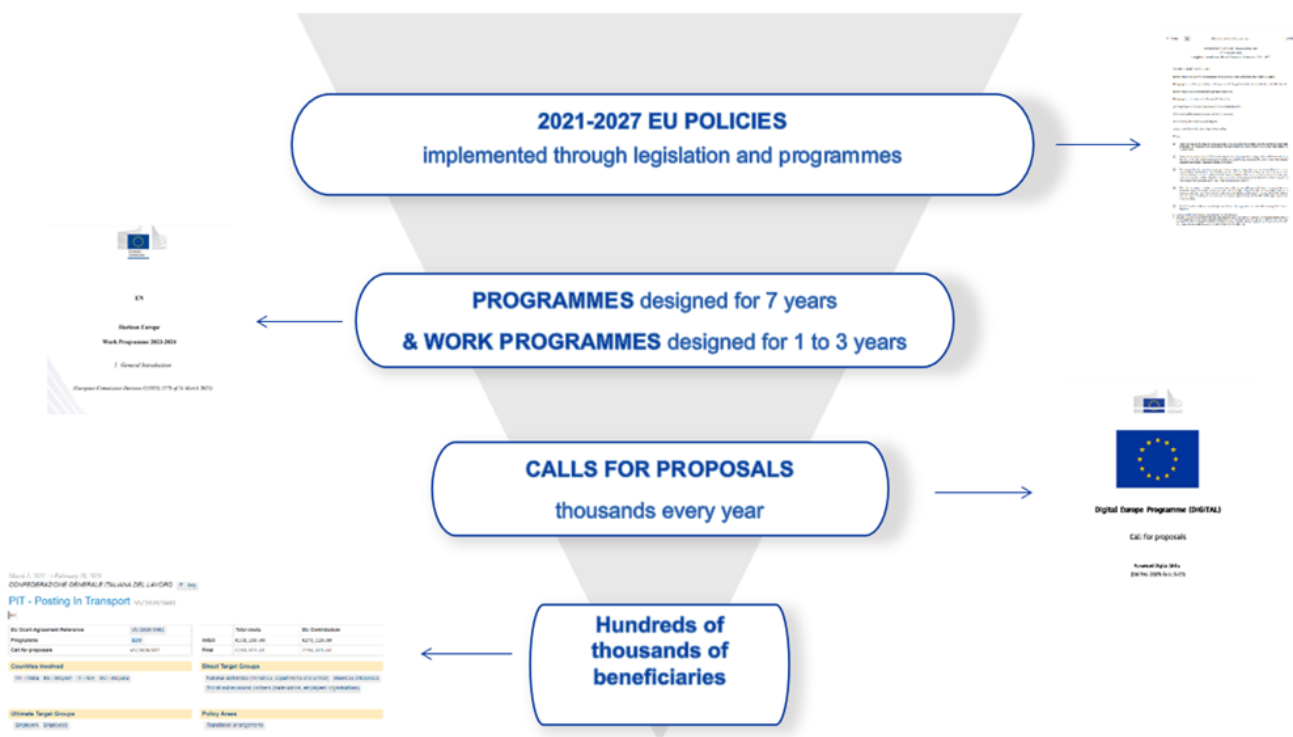
- **Partnerships and cooperation:** The majority of European programmes are intended to promote the establishment of European partnerships that deliver added value at the EU level. A European partnership must involve at least three eligible countries: The eligible countries are the EU Member States and can be extended to include partner countries such as EU candidate countries or third countries that have all signed a partnership agreement.
- **A wide range of eligible beneficiaries:** The programmes offer opportunities for a wide range of beneficiaries, including SMEs, NGOs, local authorities, universities, business associations and others, which are eligible to apply for calls for proposals.
- **Co-financing rates:** Financing programmes usually operate on the principle of co-financing, which involves multiple parties contributing financially to a project's budget. Some of the Horizon Europe instruments can fully finance a project, but most require co-financing. The funding comes from the EU and other entities such as national, regional or local authorities, but also the private sector, or self-financing by project beneficiaries (own contribution). The co-funding principle aims to promote shared responsibility and mobilise additional resources to bolster initiatives and maximise their impact.

### The general operating process of EU funding programmes

European funding programmes operate according to specific procedures and mechanisms established by the EU. Here below is a general overview of the process:

- **Priorities setting:** Before launching a programme, the EU establishes its long-term priorities within the framework of adoption of the EU budget. This encompasses various areas such as research, innovation, regional cohesion and more. These priorities are next integrated into multi-annual programmes that outline specific objectives and budget allocations.
- **Legal basis of the programme:** Most programmes are designed for a multi-annual period of seven years, spanning from 2021 to 2027. Proposed by the European Commission and adopted by the Parliament, the programming documents (which may be a Decision, Regulation or Communication) describe the objectives to be achieved and the main criteria.
- **Adoption of work programmes:** The decisions are next divided into annual or biannual detailed work programmes. These work programmes specify specific priorities, eligibility criteria of beneficiaries, activities, expected outcomes and the allocated financial resources.
- **Calls for proposals:** Calls for proposals are published by the European Commission based on work programmes. These calls specify the eligible geographical areas and specific themes, as well as all the rules for participation, evaluation criteria, procedures and deadlines for submitting applications.

Figure 1: European programme structure

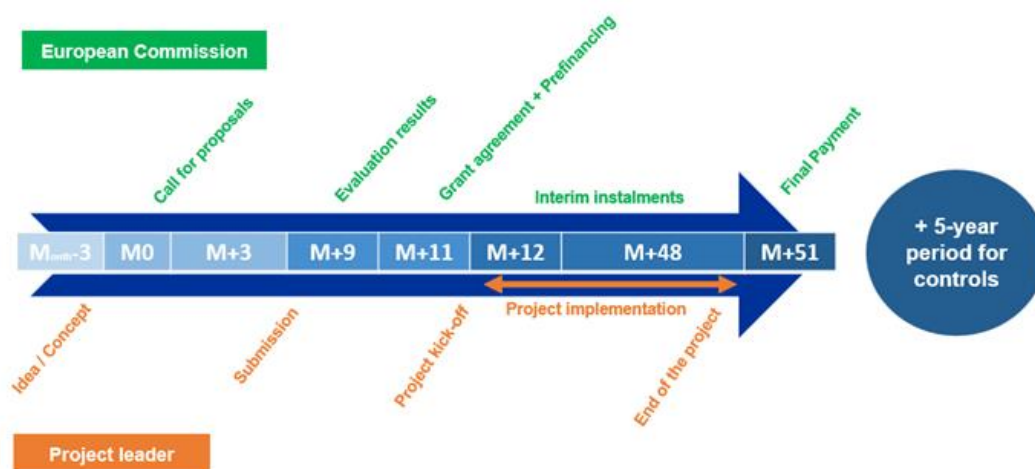


Source: Welcomeurope

- **Evaluation of proposals:** The European Commission appoints independent, impartial experts to evaluate proposals and monitor projects supported by EU funding. The evaluation is based on predefined criteria such as scientific excellence, expected impact, implementation and cost-effectiveness.

- **Negotiation process:** For successful projects, a negotiation process may be undertaken to finalise the details of the funding, including the amount awarded, specific conditions and contractual obligations. The Grant Agreement negotiation process is comprised of two main aspects: (1) Technical (scientific) negotiations; and (2) Financial and legal negotiations.
- **Signature of the Grant Agreement:** The Grant Agreement becomes active on the day of the last signature. Typically, the coordinator (on behalf of its co-beneficiaries) or sole applicant signs first, followed by the Commission or agency.
- **Project implementation and monitoring:** Beneficiaries implement the project according to the conditions specified in the Grant Agreement. Regular reporting (annual or mid-term and final) is done to the managing authority for approval, which then makes the grant payment instalments. The final report is expected to be submitted within three months following the end of the project. This report details the actual final costs incurred during the project and allows the institution to calculate any remaining balance to be disbursed.
- **Audits:** The Granting Authority will conduct project reviews and financial audits on participants to ensure sound financial management and compliance with the Grant Agreement rules. Often, private audit firms will assist in the audits, which will be performed in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. The auditors will comply with ethical requirements, and plan and perform relevant procedures in line with the EU Grants Indicative Audit Programme to ensure that the financial statements are free of material misstatement. The beneficiaries will receive a draft audit report on which they can provide observations.

Figure 2: Stages of a European project: from a project idea to the final instalment of an EU grant



Source: Welcomeurope

### The 'call for proposals' text

To carry out a funding programme, the responsible unit publishes a call for proposals, which is also referred to as a 'call for projects'. This procedure is essential for initiating and selecting projects aligned with the funding programme's priorities and objectives.

For multi-annual programmes, a call for projects is typically issued once a year. Applicants should note that the programme's priority actions may change each year. Therefore, applicants have to keep themselves updated about the annual work plan for the relevant Executive Unit at the European Commission for the upcoming year.

The call for proposals issued by the European Commission contains information on the eligibility criteria, thematic priorities, funding amounts, application procedures, deadlines, and any additional requirements or conditions for submitting a proposal.

## 2 European programmes managed by the European Commission

This part of the guide focuses on European funding programmes relevant to OSH initiatives, directly managed by the European Commission. As the executive body of the EU, the Commission is responsible for overseeing and managing these programmes, ensuring efficient coordination and fair distribution of financial resources to meet Europe-wide needs and priorities. In this section, we take a close look at the programmes that can fund OSH projects, examining their objectives, funding criteria, and the procedures and requirements to be followed by potential applicants.

### 2.1 European Social Fund Plus (ESF+) — Employment and Social Innovation Programme (EaSI) strand

EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS — SOCIAL POLICIES — PROTECTION OF WORKING CONDITIONS

ESF+ — EaSI strand

National authorities				OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts
International organisations	EU social partners	NGOs	Research institutes	

#### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The EaSI strand supports the modernisation of employment and social policies through funding social experimentation and social innovation initiatives, as well as professional mobility and transparency of labour market projects and activities to develop microfinance and social entrepreneurship ecosystem in the EU. The EaSI strand is implemented through thematic calls for proposals and tenders (social inclusion, posting of workers, competence centres, etc.), in four main areas, which follow the same policy objectives as ESF+, with the European Pillar of Social Rights as the main framework:

1. Employment and skills,
2. Improving labour markets and ensuring fair labour and professional mobility,
3. Help to improve social protection and active inclusion, and
4. Foster safe and fair working conditions.

Social protection, social inclusion and working conditions are among the main priorities of the EaSI strand. In particular, the EaSI strand aims to promote workers' rights and obligations, to provide appropriate workplaces and equipment, and to pay particular attention to occupational risks.

#### Annual thematic priorities

Priority areas of the annual work programme:

- Strengthen employment,
- Ensure fair labour mobility,
- Ensure safe and fair working conditions,
- Foster education and skills,
- Help to improve social protection and inclusion (support social policy reforms, including access to healthcare, long-term care and social services).

## Objectives

- Develop and disseminate high-quality comparative analytical knowledge;
- Facilitate effective and inclusive information sharing, mutual learning, peer views and dialogue;
- Provide financial support to test social and labour market policy innovations; and
- Provide organisations with financial support to increase their capacity to develop, promote and support the implementation of EU instruments and policies.

## Eligible organisations

List of organisations eligible under the EaSI strand:

- national, regional and local authorities;
- employment services;
- specialist bodies provided for under EU law;
- social partners;
- NGOs;
- higher education institutions and research institutes;
- experts in evaluation and in impact assessment;
- national statistical offices; and
- international agencies and organisations.

## Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turke, Ukraine, Moldova, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Georgia;
- Potential EU candidate: Kosovo;
- EEA countries: Iceland and Norway.

## Eligible actions<sup>4</sup>

- Development of appropriate policy advice, research and analysis relating to the three strands of the Open Method of Coordination (OMC), i.e. social protection, social inclusion and long-term care;
- Impact assessment of outcome policy measures through EUROMOD, a tax benefit microsimulation model for the EU including the development of dynamic microsimulation modelling;
- Development of new topics for analytical work to address the social consequences of the economic crisis, such as the methodology for determining the financial and social return on investment for social policies;
- Development of a framework for assessing healthcare and the stocktaking exercise on housing and social services;
- Activities that support the new social policy experts' network, mutual learning through the European Platform against Poverty and Social Exclusion;
- Testing of innovative social policy reforms, using social innovations to create efficiency gains aimed at public authorities; and
- Mutual learning, awareness and dissemination measures on social policy innovation.

## Eligible participants

Depending on the individual call for proposals description, proposals can be submitted by a sole applicant or in a consortium of at least two applicants (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities).

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<sup>4</sup> Article 26 of the [ESF+ Regulation](#) describes all actions that are eligible under EaSI strand funding. The activities listed are the ones that are relevant to OSH initiatives.

### Further information

- [European Commission website - ESF+ direct \(EaSI\)](#)
- [2024 work programme of the Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\) strand of the European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\)](#)
- Contact for programme implementation: [EMPL-EaSI@ec.europa.eu](mailto:EMPL-EaSI@ec.europa.eu)

### Comments – Recommendations

The EaSI strand focuses on promoting workers' rights and obligations, ensuring appropriate workplaces and equipment, and prioritising occupational hazard awareness. Its main priorities include tackling long-term unemployment and youth unemployment, enhancing social protection and inclusion, and improving overall working conditions. The EaSI strand is a comprehensive initiative that aims to foster positive changes in employment and social policies with a particular emphasis on these crucial areas.

### Example of call

#### Call for proposals: Actions to develop impact performance intelligence services – ESF-2024-SOC-IMP

General objective	To promote informed and better investment decisions, greater market transparency and performance benchmarking, with the objective to promote investments in social purpose entities (social enterprises, social start-ups, impact firms, etc.) through enhanced data capabilities services and impact management tools and practices.
Total budget of the call	€4.5 million.
Amount of the grant	Between €500,000 and €750,000.
Co-financing rate	85% of the total eligible costs.

## 2.2 EU4Health

HEALTH — HEALTH CARE — DIGITAL — PREVENTION

### EU4HEALTH PROGRAMME

National authorities	Research institutes	EU social partners	National social partners	OSH experts
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#### Synthesis of the programme to OSH policy areas

Adopted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU4Health programme 2021-2027 has an overall budget of €5.3 billion over seven years (the budget for 2024 amounts to €752,449,856) and will bring a contribution to the long-term health challenges by building stronger, more resilient and more accessible health systems.

The EU4Health programme aims to promote health, prevent diseases and strengthen coordination between EU Member States.

The programme contributes to initiatives that aim to strengthen resilience in the face of health crises by building up national stockpiling of essential products and establishing a reserve of medical, healthcare and support staff. It also facilitates access to medicines, medical devices and products needed in the event of crisis, by ensuring that they are accessible, available and affordable.

EU4Health also aims to strengthen healthcare systems by improving health data, digital tools and services, and the digital transformation of healthcare.

In addition, although the fight against cancer is one of the programme's priorities, other diseases, or risks such as psychological risks and mental health at work, can also be the subject of projects supported by EU4Health.

#### Annual thematic priorities

EU4Health is implemented by annual work programmes supporting a wide range of actions that are clustered under four overarching 'strands':

- Crisis preparedness,
- Health promotion & disease prevention,
- Health systems & healthcare workforce, and
- Digital-related projects.

The programme also includes a strand dedicated to supporting cancer-related projects.

#### Objectives

- Health promotion and disease prevention, in particular cancer;
- International health initiatives and cooperation;
- Prevention, preparedness and response to cross-border health threats;
- Complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products and ensuring that these products are accessible, available and affordable;
- Establishing a reserve of medical, healthcare and support staff;
- Reinforcing health data, digital tools and services, and digital transformation of healthcare;
- Enhancing access to healthcare;
- Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision-making; and
- Integrated work among national health systems.

### Eligible organisations

- Scientific societies;
- Academia and educational institutions;
- Health authorities/institutions;
- Civil society organisations supporting the priority areas (health professional associations, patient organisations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities); and
- SMEs with expertise in the area of the action.

### Eligible countries

Countries or groups of countries eligible to apply for funding:

- EU Member States;
- EEA: Norway, Iceland;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland; and
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine.

### Eligible actions

- Promotion of mental health and prevention and management of mental health problems;
- Prevention and care of dementia and other neurological disorders;
- Activities related to quality and safety of medical applications of ionising radiation;
- Systematic screening of the mental health status of cancer patients and psychological and psychosocial support for cancer patients, survivors, their carers and families in order to prevent long-term mental health consequences;
- Development of a European Code for Mental Health that contains messages that are evidence-based, easy-to-understand and easy to implement for citizens about actions they can take for themselves or their families to reduce their risk of mental health problems;
- Improving the availability, accessibility and affordability of medicinal products and medical devices; and
- Support non-profit organisations or consortia that provide a platform for academic bodies, scientific societies, developers of devices, in particular SMEs, and NGOs with a specific interest in innovative paediatric devices.

### Criteria for partnership

These criteria may apply:

- applications may be submitted either by a single applicant or a consortium;
- proposals must be submitted by a consortium of at least three or in some cases five applicants (beneficiaries, not affiliated entities), from respectively three or five eligible countries; and
- at least one NGO or one patient organisation or one public authority working in a specific field.

### Budget by action areas

- Crisis preparedness: €485,517,000;
- Health promotion and disease prevention: €70,900,000;
- Cancer: €117,600,000;
- Health systems and healthcare workforce: €41,404,000;
- Digital: €25,750,000; and
- Other actions: €11,278,856.

### Further information

- [EU4Health programme 2021-2027](#)
- Questions should be sent to the following email address: [HADEA-HPCALLS@ec.europa.eu](mailto:HADEA-HPCALLS@ec.europa.eu)



## Comments – Recommendations

In 2024, the EU4Health Work Programme will support, among other actions, projects related to mental health, development of digital health, and medicinal products as well as on cancer screening.

### Example of call

Call for proposals for a Framework Partnership Agreement for operating grants (2025-2026) to non-governmental organisations

Financial contribution to the functioning of health non-governmental bodies implementing one or more specific objectives of Regulation (EU)2021/522 (EU4H-2024-OG-FPA).<sup>5</sup>

General objective	The objective is to launch a Framework Partnership Agreement with eligible NGOs in view of potentially providing funding for their functioning during 2025 and 2026.
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Budget	Not available yet.
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<sup>5</sup> [Financial contribution to the functioning of health non-governmental bodies implementing one or more specific objectives of Regulation \(EU\) 2021/522 \(EU4H-2024-OG-FPA\)](#)

## 2.3 Social Prerogatives and Specific Competencies Lines (SOCPL)

WORK — SOCIAL DIALOGUE — REPRESENTATIVENESS — TRAINING ACTIVITIES

### SOCPL

National authorities	EU social partners	National social partners	Legal entities	OSH experts
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#### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

This programme (budget line: 07.20.04.09) provides grants for information and training measures for workers' organisations in compliance with Article 154 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU).

Projects must aim to strengthen cooperation between workers' organisations in respect to information, consultation and participation within undertakings and to operate in more than one Member State. Projects involving only one information and consultation body should be submitted as joint projects from representatives of workers and employers.

#### Annual thematic priorities

- Contributions to the priorities and activities of European social dialogue;
- Stronger EU cross-industry and sectoral social dialogue committees; and
- Measures to strengthen collective bargaining, including on minimum wage, and the involvement of social partners in the European Semester and enhancing their contribution to EU policymaking.

#### Objectives

The aim of the programme is to strengthen the capacity of workers' organisations to address the overarching EU employment and social challenges. Thus, the following actions are eligible:

- actions supporting the implementation of autonomous social partner agreements concluded at EU level;
- actions supporting the implementation of the European Social Dialogue Committees;
- actions responding to employment, social and economic challenges;
- actions aiming at modernising the European market, job creation, youth employment and employment in SMEs;
- actions contributing to a better quality of work;
- actions contributing to new forms of work;
- actions related to the digitalisation of economy and society (including artificial intelligence);
- skills development including re- and upskilling;
- actions contributing to the transition to a climate-neutral economy;
- intra-EU labour mobility, migration, health and safety at work;
- actions aiming at modernising social protection systems, including access to social protection for vulnerable groups;
- actions promoting a better work–life balance, gender equality, non-discrimination, healthier and longer working lives, active inclusion and decent work; and
- actions addressing the employment, social and economic consequences of crisis.

### Eligible organisations

- Social partner organisations such as trade unions; and
- European-level social partner organisations such as those that are consulted in accordance with Article 154 of the TFEU or other European-level social partners that fulfil the definition of trade union or employers at regional, national or European level engaged in social dialogue.

### Eligible countries

Countries or groups of countries eligible to apply for funding:

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine; and
- Potential EU candidate countries: Kosovo.

### Eligible actions

- Conferences, seminars, round tables, studies, surveys, publications, training courses and development of training tools; and
- The setting up of networks and the development and exchange of best practices.

### Criteria for partnership

There is no obligation for partnership. If a consortium is formed, the lead applicant must be a social partner organisation representing workers at European, national or regional level.

### Amount awarded per project

- Not less than €150,000,
- Up to 90% of the total eligible costs, and
- The European Commission expects to fund between 15 and 20 proposals.

### Further information

- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal - Social Prerogative and Specific Competencies Lines \(SOCPL\)](#)
- **European Commission**  
Directorate-General for Employment, Social Affairs and Inclusion  
B-1049 Brussels, BELGIUM  
Tel.: +32 22991111  
Email: [empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu](mailto:empl-vp-social-dialogue@ec.europa.eu)

### Comments – Recommendations

Projects that concern innovative measures or new subjects in relation to information, consultation and participation of representatives of undertakings and add value to the existing situation or include a high level of promotion of joint participation of employers and workers have a better chance of success.

**Example of call****Information and training measures for workers' organisations – SOCPL-2024-INFO-WK<sup>6</sup>**

General objective	To reinforce the capacity of workers' organisations to address, at EU and transnational levels, challenges related to changes in employment and work and social dialogue.
Total budget of the call	€6,300,000.
Amount of the grant	Between €150,000 and €700,000.
Co-financing rate	Up to 90% of the total eligible costs.

<sup>6</sup> [Information and training measures for workers' organisations \(SOCPL-2024-INFO-WK\)](#)

## 2.4 Erasmus+

### 2.4.1 Key Action 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions: All actions

COOPERATION — EDUCATION & LEARNING — YOUTH & SPORT — EXCHANGE

**ERASMUS+ KEY ACTION 2: Cooperation among organisations and institutions**  
EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe

Legal entities

OSH professional networks, prevention services,  
OSH experts

#### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The most relevant Key Action of the Erasmus+ programme for EU-OSHA stakeholders is the second one. The Key Action 2 encompasses cooperation for innovation and the exchange of good practice. Sectoral Skills Alliances aim to address skills gaps and improve the responsiveness of:

- Initial and continuing vocational education and training (VET) systems for sectoral labour market needs and the demand for new skills.
- Sectoral labour market needs and the demand for new skills for one or more occupational profiles. The projects can be submitted by the social partners, companies and training institutes.

This Key Action supports:

- partnerships for cooperation, including cooperation partnerships and small-scale partnerships;
- partnerships for excellence, including centres for vocational excellence and Erasmus Mundus Action;
- partnerships for innovation, including alliances and forward-looking projects;
- capacity-building projects in the fields of higher education, VET, youth and sport; and
- not-for-profit European sports events.

#### Annual thematic priorities

- Inclusion and diversity in all fields of education, training, youth and sports;
- Environment and fight against climate change;
- Addressing digital transformation through development of digital readiness, resilience and capacity;
- Common values, civic engagement and participation;
- Promoting inter-connected higher education systems;
- Stimulating innovative learning and teaching practices;
- Rewarding excellence in learning, teaching and skills development;
- Supporting innovation and entrepreneurial skills of students;
- Tackling learning disadvantage, early school leaving and low proficiency in basic skills;
- Development of key competences;
- Adapting VET to labour market needs;
- Increasing the flexibility of opportunities in VET;
- Contributing to innovation in VET;
- Increasing take-up and improving inclusiveness and accessibility of adult education;
- Improving the availability of high-quality, flexible and recognised learning for adults;
- Promoting local learning centres and innovative learning spaces;
- Promoting active citizenship, young people's sense of initiative and youth entrepreneurship including social entrepreneurship;
- Strengthening the employability of young people;

- Increasing quality, innovation and recognition of youth work;
- Encouraging healthy lifestyles for all and promoting integrity and values in sport; and
- Promoting equality and European values in and through sport.

## Objectives

The general objective of the programme is to support, through lifelong learning, the educational, professional and personal development of people in education, training, youth and sports in Europe and beyond, thereby contributing to sustainable growth, quality jobs and social cohesion, to driving innovation, and to strengthening European identity and active citizenship.

The actions implemented under this Key Action are expected to contribute significantly to the priorities of the programme, and to bring positive and long-lasting effects on the participating organisations, on the policy systems in which such actions are framed as well as on the organisations and persons directly or indirectly involved in the organised activities.

These actions are either managed by the European Education and Culture Executive Agency or the national agencies.

## Eligible organisations

- Schools;
- Higher education institutions;
- Local, regional and national authorities;
- Accreditation, certification, recognition or qualification bodies;
- Chambers of commerce and trade organisations;
- Guidance centres;
- Cultural and sports organisations;
- VET providers / Networks of VET providers;
- Companies, industry, other employers or sector representative organisations;
- Research institutes, innovation agencies;
- Regional development authorities;
- International organisations active in the VET field;
- European NGOs;
- Organisations active in the field of education, training, youth and sport;
- Hospitals or other care institutions, including long-term care;
- European or national social partners;
- Employment services, national statistics offices;
- International organisations;
- Sectoral or professional associations, sector skills councils; and
- Teacher associations or other nationally recognised providers of teacher education and continuous professional development.

## Eligible countries

Countries or groups of countries eligible to apply for funding:

- EU Member States;
- EEA countries: Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein;
- EFTA countries: Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein; and
- Candidate countries: North Macedonia, Turkey, Serbia.

## Eligible actions

- **Project management:** Activities that are necessary to ensure the adequate planning, implementation and follow-up of the projects, including efficient collaboration between project partners. In this phase, activities typically include organisational and administrative tasks, virtual meetings among partners, preparation of communication materials, preparation and follow-up of participants taking part in activities, etc.

- **Implementation activities:** Can include networking events, meetings, and working sessions to exchange practices and to develop results. These activities may also involve the participation of staff and learners (provided that their participation contributes to the achievement of project objectives).
- **Sharing and promotion activities:** Organisation of conferences, sessions and events aiming at sharing, explaining and promoting the results of the project, whether they are in the form of tangible results, conclusions, good practices or any other form.

### Criteria for partnership

The criteria for partnership may vary depending on the actions:

- **For Cooperation Partnerships:** The consortium must be composed of at least three organisations from three EU Member States, or third countries associated with the programme.
- **For Small-scale Partnerships:** The consortium must be composed of at least two organisations from two EU Member States, or third countries associated with the programme.
- **For centres of vocational excellence:** The partnership must include at least eight applicants from a minimum of four EU Member States or third countries associated with the programme.
- **Erasmus+ teacher academies:** The consortium must be composed of six applicants from a minimum of four EU Member States or third countries associated with the programme (including at least three EU Member States).
- **For Erasmus Mundus action:** The consortium must be composed of at least three higher education institutions from three countries, of which at least two are EU Member States and/or third countries associated with the programme.
- **For Alliances for Education and Enterprises:** The consortium must be composed of at least four EU Member States, or third countries associated with the programme, involving a minimum of eight applicants.
- **For Alliances for Sectoral Cooperation on Skills (Blueprint):** The consortium must be composed of at least eight EU Member States, or third countries associated with the programme and involve at least 12 applicants.
- **For capacity building actions:** The consortium rules vary depending on the location of actions (whether it is a national or a European-level project) and on the field of capacity-building action (youth, sport, higher education and VET). For more information, you may refer to the terms of reference of the call.
- **For non-profit sports events:** The consortium must involve between three and five organisations for European local events (type I). Each organisation must come from different EU Member States, or third countries associated with the programme.
- **For the European local event (type II):** The consortium must be composed of a minimum of six organisations coming from six eligible countries.
- **For the European-wide event:** The consortium must be composed of at least 10 organisations (one single applicant + nine participating organisations presented as associated partners) coming from 10 eligible countries.

### Amount awarded per project

- Maximum €4 million, and
- Up to 80% of the total eligible costs.

### Further information

- [European Commission website: Erasmus+](#)
- **European Commission**  
European Education, Audio-visual and Culture Executive Agency  
Rue Joseph II 59, 1000 Brussels, BELGIUM  
Email: [eacea-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu](mailto:eacea-helpdesk@ec.europa.eu) (helpdesk)

## Comments – Recommendations

Key Action 2 seems relevant to OSH. It enables close cooperation between stakeholders and learning from each other, including OSH.

## Examples of calls

### Centres of Vocational Excellence – ERASMUS-EDU-2024-PEX-COVE<sup>7</sup>

General objective	This action supports the gradual establishment and development of international collaborative networks of centres of vocational excellence.
Total budget of the call	€56 million.
Amount of the grant	Maximum €4 million.
Co-financing rate	Up to 80% of the total eligible costs.

### Call for a prize – #BeActive Workplace Awards competition – ERASMUS-SPORT-2024-BE-ACTIVE-AWARDS<sup>8</sup>

General objective	This award celebrates exemplary activities in the workplace that encourage employees to be more active. This may include all sort of initiatives taking place during work time, at lunchtime or before/after work, promoting an active working environment.
Total budget of the call	€60,000.
Amount of the grant	€15,000 per topic.

<sup>7</sup> [Centres of Vocational Excellence \(ERASMUS-EDU-2024-PEX-COVE\)](#)

<sup>8</sup> [#BeActive - Workplace Award \(ERASMUS-SPORT-2024-BE-ACTIVE-AWARDS-WORKPLACE\)](#)



## 2.4.2 Erasmus+ for young entrepreneurs

YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS — CROSS-BORDER EXCHANGE — BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES AND SME — START-UPS

**ERASMUS+ FOR YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS**  
EU's programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe

SMEs and large companies

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The Erasmus+ for Young Entrepreneurs programme is a cross-border exchange programme between new entrepreneurs (designated as NEs) and host entrepreneurs (designated as HEs).

The programme facilitates exchanges of experience, learning and networking between NEs and HEs, which helps NEs to acquire the skills needed in the development of their entrepreneurial project. During the stay, NEs will receive financial support through grants for travel and subsistence costs.

The host benefits from exchange of ideas on their business and receives opportunities to cooperate with foreign partners or learn about new markets.

This programme for short-term fellowships (from one to six months) is mainly designed for young SME start-ups. There is no topical guidance, and the project could involve OSH aspects. Applications can be made via the national contacts only, also named intermediary organisations.

### Annual thematic priorities

Priority areas of the work programme:

- EU market;
- development of SMEs;
- environment and fight against climate change; and
- participation in democratic life, common values and civic engagement.

### Objective

The general objective of Erasmus+ for Young Entrepreneurs is to facilitate exchanging experiences, learning and networking for NEs by means of working alongside an experienced entrepreneur in another participating country.

### Eligible organisations

- New entrepreneurs (NEs)
- Host entrepreneurs (HEs)

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine;
- EU potential candidate countries: Kosovo;
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway;
- European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia; and
- Other countries: United Kingdom.

### Eligible actions

Activities eligible for financing are outlined, for example:

- to match an eligible NE with an appropriate HE;
- to facilitate contacts between the NE and HE by the intermediary organisations' activities in different countries; and
- to coordinate the activities of the intermediary organisations by the Support Office.

### Criteria for partnership

The programme has appointed intermediary organisations to establish contacts between NEs and HEs.

### Amount awarded per project

Grants take into account transport and accommodation costs.

### Further information

- Contact for programme implementation:  
**Erasmus+ for Young Entrepreneurs Support Office:**  
+32 22820873  
[support@erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu](mailto:support@erasmus-entrepreneurs.eu)
- [Local Contact Point](#)
- [Erasmus Young Entrepreneurs Guide](#)
- [European Commission website - Erasmus+](#)

### Comments – Recommendations

Applications should be considered carefully, considering that OSH is not the core topic of this programme.

### Open call for proposals

Applications can be submitted at any time. However, there is a three-month minimum preparation time to consider.

## 2.5 Joint Programming Initiative: More Years, Better Lives (JPI MYBL)

EDUCATION & LEARNING — DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE — COLLABORATION — SOCIAL WELFARE —  
WORK & PRODUCTIVITY

### JPI MYBL The potential and challenges of demographic change

National authorities	Research institutes	EU social partners	National social partners: employers'/workers'	OSH experts
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#### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The aim of the new Joint Programming Initiative (JPI) is to make better use of Europe's limited R&D funds through enhanced coordination and cooperation of research programmes in strategic areas. JPIs target national public research and European programmes first. One of the four sectors relevant to stakeholders in the field of OSH is 'Quality of Life Health and Wellbeing'.

To respond to the challenges of an ageing society and its economic effects, policymakers need more research to be undertaken in the field of demographic change in order to develop new policies.

#### Annual thematic priorities

The 'More Years, Better Lives' JPI identifies the following **four main research domains**, each corresponding to a cluster of policy issues:

- Quality of Life Health and Wellbeing,
- Economic and social production,
- Governance and institutions, and
- Sustainable welfare.

#### Objectives

To support innovative and interdisciplinary research into the drivers of, and constraints on, extending working life. Research is expected to cross the traditional boundaries of government departments and occupational sectors and to examine the implications of extending working life for older workers (50+ years old), new labour markets, health, wellbeing and intergenerational equity.

#### Eligible organisations

- Public and private scientific, research, technological and innovation institutions;
- Universities;
- Research-active industry;
- NGOs; and
- Other institutions involved in research activities.

#### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EFTA countries: Switzerland, Norway; and
- Other country: Canada.

#### Eligible actions

- Innovative interdisciplinary research proposals. Proposals seeking to address the substance of this call should be solution-driven and have a potential positive impact on issues relating to the call topics.

- Quantitative as well as qualitative research proposals from all social sciences, the humanities, engineering, natural sciences and the health research community are welcomed.
- Research outputs should be able to inform decision-making and innovation (societal, organisational, institutional and technological), recognising the complexity of the associated decision-making processes and innovation challenges.

### Criteria for partnership

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each proposal must involve a minimum of three eligible applicants from at least three countries. Proposals should explain how projects will address the issues identified in the JPI Strategic Research Agenda.

Each consortium must nominate a principal investigator. The duration of the projects can be up to three years.

### Amount awarded per project

Funding rates and grant amounts depend on national funding bodies.

### Further information

- [JPI More Years Better Lives](#)
- Applicants should first contact the national contact points: [NCP](#)

### Comments – Recommendations

This programme seems relevant to OSH as it offers a great opportunity to collaborate with national and international researchers on related themes ranging from health to social welfare, education & learning, and work & productivity to housing, urban & rural development, and mobility.

### Example of previous call

#### Call for research proposals 2024 Labour force shortages within the long-term care sector<sup>9</sup>

General objective	To address how new forms of technological development and digitalisation have the potential to be transformative and mitigate labour shortages, while also considering that solutions often start from a perspective of technology rather than from the user.
Total budget of the call	€9 million.
Amount of the grant	Different for each country.
Co-financing rate	Different for each country.

<sup>9</sup> [Labour force shortages within the long-term care sector](#)

## 2.6 Horizon Europe

Horizon Europe is the EU’s flagship programme for research and innovation (R&I), succeeding Horizon 2020. It is a major initiative aimed at strengthening Europe’s competitiveness and boosting its scientific and technological excellence. With its considerable budget, the programme offers funding opportunities for a wide range of innovative projects in a variety of fields.

It is structured around three main pillars, each dedicated to specific objectives.

- **Pillar 1 ‘Excellent Science’:** This pillar focuses on strengthening Europe’s scientific and technological excellence. It aims to support cutting-edge research activities, encourage the training of researchers and promote access to first-rate research infrastructures. Through initiatives such as the European Research Council (ERC) and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), this pillar helps to create an environment conducive to innovation and the advancement of knowledge.
- **Pillar 2 ‘Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness’:** This pillar focuses on resolving the major societal and economic challenges facing Europe. It aims to promote innovative solutions in areas such as health, climate change, food safety and the digital transition. By encouraging collaboration between the public and private sectors, this pillar seeks to strengthen Europe’s industrial competitiveness while responding to society’s pressing needs.
- **Pillar 3 ‘Innovative Europe’:** The ‘Innovative Europe’ pillar seeks to foster a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship throughout Europe. It encourages cooperation between public and private sector players, and the establishment of innovation partnerships and networks. This pillar also supports the valorisation and commercialisation of research results, helping to boost the European economy and create high-quality jobs.
- **Transversal Pillar ‘Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area’:** This pillar focuses on widening participation in Horizon Europe and strengthening the European Research Area (ERA). It aims to reduce disparities in R&I performance across Europe by promoting cooperation and capacity-building activities. Through initiatives such as Teaming, Twinning and the European Innovation Council (EIC) Pathfinder, this pillar aims to foster collaboration and excellence in R&I throughout the EU.

Figure 3: Specific Horizon Europe implementing programmes



\* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

Source: [European Commission website](https://ec.europa.eu/eurois/european-innovation-council/)

## 2.6.1 Pillar 1 ‘Excellent Science’ – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme

EDUCATION & LEARNING — RESEARCH — NETWORKING		
HORIZON EUROPE PILLAR 1 ‘Excellent Science’ – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions programme		
National authorities	Research institutes	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

Part of Horizon Europe, the MSCA are the EU's flagship funding programme for doctoral education and postdoctoral training of researchers. The budget for the MSCA under Horizon Europe is €6.6 billion.

This programme is particularly well suited to funding projects in the field of OSH.

It encourages training, mobility and interdisciplinary collaboration. The programme focuses on scientific excellence, ensuring that the projects supported make a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge and practice in the field of research. It thus offers researchers an opportunity to meet the challenges of health and safety at work.

### Annual thematic priorities

There are five types of MSCA targeting different objectives:

- Doctoral Networks (DN),
- Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF),
- Staff Exchanges (SE),
- COFUND, and
- MSCA & Citizens.

### Objectives

The objectives of the MSCA are:

- increasing the quality of researchers' training and supervision offered;
- strengthening research capacity (e.g. ability to attract funding);
- improving human resources practices and procedures, and providing fairer and more attractive working conditions for researchers, including through career guidance and development; and
- building new and sustainable international and inter-sectoral partnerships and networks; better transfer of knowledge between sectors and disciplines, enhancing their global reputation and visibility.

### Eligible organisations

To receive MSCA funding you can:

- apply as an organisation: you can submit a proposal to an open funding call on behalf of your organisation or a consortium;
- apply for postdoctoral funding and positions; and
- apply to PhD vacancies funded by MSCA projects.

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova;

- EU potential candidate countries: Kosovo;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland;
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway;
- European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia; and
- Low- to middle-income countries.

#### Eligible actions

- Supporting researchers in their training, skills and career development;
- Fostering transnational, cross-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility;
- Funding excellent doctoral and postdoctoral programmes, collaborative projects; and
- Promoting public outreach.

#### Criteria for partnership

- **MSCA DOCTORAL NETWORKS:** Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at least three independent legal entities, each established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country and with at least one of them established in an EU Member State.
- **MSCA POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS:** Applications must be submitted by a single independent legal entity, established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country. This is a mono-beneficiary action.
- **MSCA STAFF EXCHANGES:** Applications must be submitted by a consortium including at least three independent legal entities in three countries, two of which established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country.
- **MSCA COFUND:** Applications must be submitted by a single entity established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe associated country.

#### Amount awarded per project

Call budget: Between €1.5 million and €451.15 million in 2024.

#### Further information

- Contact for programme implementation:  
[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions website](#)  
[Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Policy, strategy, how to apply and work programmes](#)  
[Work Programme 2023-2024 2. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

#### Comments – Recommendations

Applications for Individual Fellowships can be very relevant **for private and academic researchers** who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training and mobility. The success rate in the last call (Framework Programme Number 7) was **12%**. Applicants can improve their chances of success with careful preparation.

**Example of call****HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024**

General objective	The objective of Doctoral Networks is to implement doctoral programmes by partnerships of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond to train highly skilled doctoral candidates, stimulate their creativity, enhance their innovation capacities and boost their employability in the long-term.
Open	29 May 2024.
Deadline	27 November 2024.
Total budget of the call	€451.15 million.
Total budget of the topic	€451.15 million.

**HORIZON-MSCA-2024-RR-01: MSCA for Researchers at Risk 2024**

General objective	A more sustainable and professionalised support network/structure/system for researchers at risk across Europe, facilitating access to funding and networking opportunities, creating a level playing field for applicants to European and national R&I programmes, and raising the quality of submitted proposals.
Open	12 September 2024.
Deadline	14 January 2025.
Total budget of the call	€1.5 million.
Amount of the grant	Not yet available.
Co-financing rate	Not yet available.



## 2.6.2 Pillar 2 ‘Global Issues and European Industrial Competitiveness’ – Cluster 1 ‘Health’

HEALTHY LIFESTYLE — INNOVATIVE HEALTHCARE — NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND DIGITAL TOOLS

**HORIZON EUROPE**  
PILLAR 2 ‘Global Issues and European Industrial Competitiveness’ – Cluster 1 ‘Health’

National authorities	Research institutes	EU social partners	OSH experts
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### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

Cluster 1 includes improving and protecting the health and wellbeing of citizens of all ages by generating new knowledge, developing innovative solutions, and integrating where relevant a gender perspective to prevent, diagnose, monitor, treat and cure diseases. Although the ‘Health’ cluster is very broad and does not exclusively cover OSH activities, certain destinations and calls for projects are directly linked to this field.

For example, destination 2 of the 2023-2024 work programme titled ‘Living and working in a health-promoting environment’ proposes a call for projects titled ‘Evidence-based interventions for promotion of mental and physical health in changing working environments (post-pandemic workplaces)’ (HORIZON-HLTH-2023-ENVHLTH-02-02).

### Annual thematic priorities

Cluster 1 strives to contribute to six expected impacts as set out by the Strategic Plan, which are the following six destinations:

- **Destination 1** - Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society.
- **Destination 2** - Living and working in a health-promoting environment.
- **Destination 3** - Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden.
- **Destination 4** - Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care.
- **Destination 5** - Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society.
- **Destination 6** - Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health industry.

### Objectives

Areas of intervention:

- health throughout the life course;
- environmental and social health determinants;
- non-communicable and rare diseases;
- infectious diseases including poverty-related and neglected diseases; and
- tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care including personalised medicine.

### Eligible organisations

The topic encourages the participation of SMEs, as well as of European, national and regional authorities and civil society, in order to strengthen the scientific and technological expertise of SMEs in the health and care domain to promote the uptake of innovative health and care solutions in Europe.

This topic requires the effective contribution of social sciences and humanities (SSH) disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts and institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities.

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Georgia, Ukraine;
- Potential EU candidate countries: Kosovo;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland;
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway; and
- European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia.

### Eligible actions

Activities that are enabling or contributing to one or several expected impacts of the six destinations mentioned above.

### Amount awarded per project

Between €2,000,000 and €12,000,000.

### Further information

- [Work Programme](#)
- [European Commission website - Cluster 1: Health](#)

### Example of call

#### HORIZON-HLTH-2024-TOOL-11-02: Tools and technologies for a healthy society<sup>10</sup>

General objective	This topic aims at supporting activities that are enabling or contributing to one or several expected impacts of destination 5 'Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society'.
Total budget of the call	€25 million.
Total budget of the topic	€25 million.
Amount of the grant	€6-8 million.

<sup>10</sup> [Call for proposals - Tools and technologies for a healthy society \(HORIZON-HLTH-2024-TOOL-11\)](#)

## 2.6.3 Pillar 3 ‘Innovative Europe’ – European Innovation Ecosystems

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION — ECOSYSTEMS — SMEs AND LARGE COMPANIES

HORIZON EUROPE

PILLAR 3 ‘Innovative Europe’ – European Innovation Ecosystems

SMEs  
and large companies

Research  
institutes

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

European Innovation Ecosystems will complement and act in synergy with the European Innovation Council (EIC) and European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and innovative activities across Horizon Europe and other EU funding programmes to improve the overall ecosystem for innovation in Europe.

Thanks to collaborative networks, access to expertise, and coaching and mentoring programmes, as well as visibility and recognition at European level, the European Innovation Ecosystems can offer real opportunities for the development, management and promotion of innovative solutions aimed at improving working conditions and promoting health and safety within companies and organisations.

### Annual thematic priorities

The 2023-2024 European Innovation Ecosystems actions are grouped under two destinations: CONNECT and INNOVSMES complemented by the 2021-2022 SCALEUP destination.

- **The actions in CONNECT** focus on building interconnected, inclusive innovation ecosystems across Europe by drawing on the existing strengths of national, regional and local ecosystems and pulling in new, less well-represented actors and territories to set, undertake and achieve collective ambitions towards challenges for the benefit of society, including the green, digital and social transitions.
- **The INNOVSMES** destination supports the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs/Eurostars. This partnership helps innovative SMEs and project partners (such as large companies, universities and research organisations) by funding international collaborative R&D and innovation projects.
- **The actions in SCALEUP** focus on reinforcing network connectivity within and between innovation ecosystems to accelerate sustainable business growth with high societal value. By actively engaging in local, national and European networks, companies can better capture and create ecosystem opportunities and gain new competitive advantage.

### Objectives

The European Innovation Ecosystems projects contribute to the agenda by:

- scaling up of deep tech innovations,
- boosting innovation procurement, and
- connecting the European Innovation Ecosystems.

### Eligible organisations

- Innovative SMEs and large companies,
- Universities, and
- Research organisations.

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine;
- Potential EU candidate countries: Kosovo;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland;
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway; and
- European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia.

### Eligible actions

- Strengthen innovation ecosystems across the EU through fostering more efficient, inclusive, gender diverse and connected innovation ecosystems, by accelerating the development and deployment of innovation, including deep tech innovation, and encouraging co-planning, co-implementation and co-investments around European strategic priority areas.
- Ensure the inclusion of all key innovation players from across the quadruple helix, and all EU territories, including rural areas.
- Mobilise policies, funding instruments (EU, national, regional) and fostering synergies between them.
- Improve public and private buyers' capacity to procure innovative solutions and enhance coordination on innovation procurement initiatives within Member States and associated countries.
- Improve the connection of individual innovators with other ecosystem actors and innovation support providers.
- Ensure openness and cross-fertilisation of the innovation ecosystem within and beyond the EU's borders.
- Contributing to the strategic priorities of the European Commission with a special focus on the 'European Green Deal' and 'An economy that works for people' including the SME Strategy for a sustainable and digital Europe, as well as actions towards tackling the COVID-19 crisis and the post-COVID era.
- Strengthening the innovation performance, output, potential and resilience of the European innovation ecosystem.
- Addressing the productivity and internationalisation gap between innovative SMEs and large companies and aiming to improve SMEs' global scale-up potential leading to increased employment and turnover.
- Leveraging investment for innovative SMEs.

### Criteria for partnership

A consortium must be constituted. In some cases, it must include a specific organisation, for example, educational institution or research organisation or representatives of the private sector.

### Amount awarded per project

Between €100,000 and €2.5 million.

### Further information

- [Work Programme](#)
- [European Commission website - European Innovation Ecosystems](#)
- [Online Info Session](#)

**Example of call****Startup Europe - HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02<sup>11</sup>**

General objective	The aim is to strengthen the presence of European start-ups in digital technologies and deep tech innovation, to improve their connection with local and European ecosystems, and to facilitate the matching of technological solutions with investment and growth opportunities through collaborations with various initiatives and partners.
Total budget of the call	€14.5 million.
Total budget of the topic	€2.5 million.
Amount of the grant	€12 million.

<sup>11</sup> [Startup Europe \(HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02\)](#)

## 2.6.4 Pillar 3 ‘Innovative Europe’ – European Institute of Innovation and Technology – EIT Health

HEALTHCARE INNOVATIONS — ENTREPRENEURIAL SKILLS — EUROPEAN START-UPS			
HORIZON EUROPE PILLAR 3 ‘Innovative Europe’ – European Institute of Innovation and Technology – EIT Health			
National authorities	Research institutes	Legal entities	OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The EIT aims to strengthen Europe’s healthcare systems, promote healthcare issues to citizens and contribute to a sustainable healthcare economy in Europe.

The EIT’s training and coaching programmes can help to acquire specific skills, while participation in its network can provide access to increased visibility and potential partnerships. By hosting business incubators, the EIT can also facilitate the creation and development of start-ups focused on OSH.

In this way, the EIT can offer a dynamic ecosystem, conducive to transforming innovative ideas into concrete solutions for improving working conditions in Europe.

### Annual thematic priorities

In 2023-2025 via the indicators below, EIT Health will:

- accelerate needs-based health innovations to achieve wide market uptake in Europe by fostering collaborative projects that connect innovators with various stakeholders from the healthcare systems;
- increase the value and impact of EU-based SMEs in the health and healthcare sector to enhance their ability to compete on the global level;
- attract and develop the skills of those with the potential to design, develop or utilise healthcare innovations;
- support healthcare providers, professionals and payors to transform care towards outcomes that have the highest impact and are of the most importance to patients; and
- impact and drive healthcare innovation policy in Europe, based on evidence, learnings and experience from EIT Health activities.

### Objectives

The ambition is to tackle pressing healthcare challenges and provide demonstrable socioeconomic improvements to society in the following key areas that have been identified as a priority at EU level:

- defining new models to deliver healthcare,
- facilitating the uptake of digital medical devices and diagnostics, and
- supporting the deployment of Important Projects of Common European Interest (IPCEI) to address market failures.

### Eligible organisations

The EIT works with a wide range of innovation stakeholders, specifically:

- business;
- entrepreneurs;
- public authorities (EU, national, regional and local);
- researchers;

- students; and
- universities.

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine;
- Potential EU candidate countries: Kosovo;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland;
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway; and
- European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia.

### Eligible actions

- **Innovation:** EIT Health will aim to continue supporting development of deep tech innovation projects to solve the pressing challenges in the healthcare sector without forgetting the need to solve both unmet market and patient needs.
- **Education:** These actions aim at contributing to reduce the shortage of entrepreneurial skills and competence around deep tech as well as upskilling and reskilling the workforce to ease the adoption of innovations and solutions.
- **Business Creation:** The Business Creation area will continue to support European start-ups, adjusting and aligning the goal of promoting the European start-up ecosystem to EIT Health's new strategic flagships.
- **Corporate Affairs:** Visibility-raising vehicles such as events will be carefully considered and aligned with public affairs and stakeholder relations.
- **Regional Innovation Scheme (RIS):** The EIT Health RIS will focus on: accelerating and strengthening innovation across the RIS innovation ecosystems and addressing the innovation divide between regions; fostering, attracting, and retaining entrepreneurial talents in RIS regions to ensure the flow of talents and establish a pool for entrepreneurs and skilled healthcare workforce of the future; and improving access to finance for RIS start-ups and scale-ups and giving them skills to become integral players of European markets.

### Criteria for partnership

Multi-beneficiary pan-European consortium from host entrepreneur eligible countries. Specific requirements: the consortium must include a minimum of two higher education institutions or healthcare provider and/or start-up stakeholders, from two eligible countries or from different Regional Innovation Hubs.

### Amount awarded per project

About €15,000 per project.

### Further information

- Questions should be sent to the following email address: [info@eithealth.eu](mailto:info@eithealth.eu)
- [EIT HEALTH website](#)
- [EIT Business Plan 2023-2025](#)

**Example of call****EIT Health Flagships Call 2024 open for applications<sup>12</sup>**

General objective	<p>With the ambition to contribute to some of the top health priorities that have been identified at EU level, EIT Health is calling for activities in innovation and transformation through funding different activities/programmes in each flagship. All activities will need to relate to one of EIT Health's two priority areas, otherwise known as flagships. The topics have been chosen to match with Europe's top health priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 'New models to deliver healthcare' looks at how we can redefine health models to establish a foundation for value-based healthcare.</li> <li>2. 'Digital transformation of healthcare' aims to support digital health transformation in Europe through digital health medical devices and repurposing and sharing data.</li> </ol>
Deadline	28 February 2024 and 18 September 2024.
Total budget of the call	First year (2024): up to €12,000; second year (2025): up to €8,000.

<sup>12</sup> [EIT Health Flagships Call 2024 open for applications](#)



## 2.6.5 Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

RESEARCH — EXCELLENCE— INNOVATION — WIDENING PARTICIPATION			
<b>HORIZON EUROPE</b> <b>Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area</b>			
National authorities	Research institutes	Legal entities	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The 'Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area' component of Horizon Europe aims to facilitate access to R&I funding for less-developed regions. It can therefore encourage the development of OSH projects in these regions.

By focusing on local capacity building, international collaboration and knowledge exchange, this programme helps to create an environment conducive to the emergence of solutions tailored to the specific needs of these regions, while encouraging more inclusive participation in the ERA.

### Annual thematic priorities

Work programme topics continue to reflect the four strands of the ERA communication: improving access to excellence, attracting and mobilising best talents, reforming and enhancing the EU R&I system, and transforming research results into the economy.

### Objectives

The key objectives of the work programme are the following:

- encourage institutional reforms and transformation processes of the R&I system at national and regional levels in widening countries in line with ERA principles;
- mobilise national investments in R&I capacity in widening countries;
- raise the bar for excellence of R&I actors in widening countries in partnership with outstanding European and international institutions;
- increase number of participations and success rates of widening actors in R&I projects in other parts of Horizon Europe; and
- promote the creation of innovation ecosystems and scale up existing ones by a set of measures.

### Eligible organisations

Any legal entity regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations, is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call topic.

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine;
- Potential EU candidate countries: Kosovo;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland;
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway; and
- European Neighbourhood Countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Tunisia.

## Eligible actions

The following activities are eligible for grants under Horizon Europe:

- Research and innovation actions (RIA),
- Innovation actions (IA),
- Coordination and support actions (CSA),
- Programme co-fund actions (CoFund),
- Innovation and market deployment actions (IMDA),
- Training and mobility actions (TMA),
- Pre-commercial procurement actions (PCP), and
- Public procurement of innovative solutions actions (PPI).

## Criteria for partnership

Unless otherwise provided for in the specific call conditions, only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in actions provided that the consortium includes, as beneficiaries, three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:

- at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or associated countries.

## Amount awarded per project

Between €500,000 and €8,000,000.

## Further information

- [National Contact Point \(NCP\)](#)
- [Horizon Europe WIDERA Work Programme 2023-2024](#)
- [European Commission website - Widening participation and spreading excellence](#)

## Comments – Recommendations

The 'Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area' within Horizon Europe seeks to improve access to R&I funding for less-developed regions, potentially fostering the development of OSH projects in these areas.

Emphasising local capacity building, international collaboration and knowledge exchange, the programme aims to create an environment conducive to tailored solutions for the specific needs of these regions. Through these efforts, it promotes more inclusive participation in the ERA, encouraging a collaborative and region-specific approach to R&I.

**Example of call****Support for the professionalisation of research management – HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01<sup>13</sup>**

General objective	The main objective is to reform the European R&I system, prioritising investment for economic recovery and improving access to excellence. This also involves strengthening coordination between national R&I programmes, promoting attractive careers for researchers and fostering gender equality. In addition, the aim is to make R&I more open and inclusive, encouraging citizen participation and aligning research with society's needs, while promoting the free circulation of knowledge and talent.
Amount per topics	<p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-01: €6 million.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-03: €1 million.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-04: €500,000.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-05: €2 million.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-07: €2 million.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-08: €2,500,000.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-09: €2 million.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-10: €3,500,000.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-11: €3 million.</p> <p>HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-12: €3 million.</p>

<sup>13</sup> [Support for the professionalisation of research management \(HORIZON-WIDERA-2024-ERA-01-03\)](#)

## 2.6.6 EU Mission: Cancer

CANCER — RESEARCH & INNOVATION — HEALTHCARE			
<b>HORIZON EUROPE</b> EU Mission: Cancer			
National authorities	Research institutes	Legal entities	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The European Cancer Mission is a new feature of the Horizon Europe R&I programme for the years 2021-2027.

The Cancer Mission of the Horizon Europe programme is strongly linked to OSH for the following reasons:

- Specific objective 1 ‘Improving our understanding of cancer’ of the mission aims to improve understanding of the development of cancer in the context of the environment, work and life in the broadest sense (e.g. air pollution, occupational hazards, diet, socioeconomic status, etc.).
- Specific objective 2 ‘Prevention including screening and early detection’ (prevent what is preventable) aims to protect the health and safety of individuals in order to prevent the risk of cancer, particularly among workers. It is estimated that carcinogens are responsible for 100,000 occupational cancer deaths in the workplace each year.

### Annual thematic priorities

- To set out a credible pathway to improving cancer control;
- To improve understanding of the development of cancer in the context of the environment, work and lifestyle in the broadest possible sense;
- To enhance cross-policy cancer prevention strategies;
- To optimise the diagnostics and treatment of cancer based on the principle of equitable access;
- To improve the quality of life of cancer patients, survivors and their families through widely analysing all key factors and needs that are related to quality of life; and
- To accelerate the digital transformation of research, innovation and health systems.

### Objectives

The main goal of the Mission on Cancer is to improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 through prevention actions, cures, and for those affected by cancer and their families, to live longer and better.

The EU Mission will achieve this by addressing four key objectives:

- understand cancer and its risks factors;
- prevent what is preventable and early detection;
- optimise diagnostics and treatments;
- support the quality of life of people living with and after cancer, while ensuring equitable access for all.

These objectives fit together holistically under the Mission on Cancer to improve the lives and prospects of millions of Europeans by 2030.

### Eligible organisations

- Healthcare organisations, healthcare providers and caregivers;
- Health system owners;

- National, regional and local policymakers and authorities;
- Academia and education establishments;
- Research institutes and hospitals;
- Health expert networks;
- Civil society organisations (associations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities); and
- SMEs active and with expertise in the area of the action.

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine;
- Potential EU candidate countries: Kosovo;
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein;
- Associated countries;
- Low- and middle-income countries; and
- Other worldwide countries as specified in the particular programme.

### Eligible actions

- Actions to optimise and improve access to existing screening programmes;
- Actions to develop new methods and technologies for screening and early detection;
- Actions to develop early predictors/tests;
- Actions to support the creation of a Network of Comprehensive Cancer Infrastructures;
- Actions to develop a clinical trial programme on diagnostics;
- Data collection and analysis on today's unmet needs of cancer patients and survivors; and
- Actions to develop early predictors for quality of life.

### Criteria for partnership

Applications by either a single sole applicant or by a consortium are acceptable. However, partnership criteria may vary depending on the programme.

- **Digital Europe Programme:** Depending on the call for proposals, the consortium must be composed of a minimum of three applicants, and in some cases, a minimum of five entities from five eligible countries.
- **EU4Health programme:** The consortium must be composed of a minimum of three entities from three eligible countries. In other cases, to be eligible, the consortium must have at least five entities from five eligible countries, or 15 applicant organisations established in at least seven eligible countries.
- **Horizon Europe programme:** Generally, the consortium must be composed of at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State, and at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or associated countries.
- **Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument:** The consortium must be composed of at least three independent legal entities established in three different regions in at least two eligible countries. In some cases, a minimum of five entities from five different regions in three eligible countries are necessary for a consortium.

### Amount awarded per project

- Between €500,000 and €12 million, and
- Up to 90%, sometimes 100% of the total eligible costs.

### Further information

- [European Commission website - EU Mission: Cancer](#)  
**European Commission**  
Directorate-General for Research and Innovation  
1049 Brussel, BELGIUM  
Tel.: +32 22991111 (Commission switchboard)  
Email: [RTD-SANTE-CANCER-MISSION@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-SANTE-CANCER-MISSION@ec.europa.eu)

### Comments – Recommendations

The programme is relevant to projects linked to cancer research, in particular occupational cancer and risk factors in the work environment.

### No call available

No call for proposals has been published yet.

## 2.6.7 European Partnerships in Health

UNIVERSITIES — RESEARCH & INNOVATION — HEALTHCARE			
<b>HORIZON EUROPE</b> <b>European Partnerships in Health</b> IHI JU, PARC, ERA, THCS			
Research institutes	Legal entities	SMEs and large companies	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

Within the framework of Horizon Europe, the EU has adopted European Partnerships, bringing the European Commission and private/public partners together to address some of Europe's most pressing challenges through concerted R&I initiatives. By bringing private and public partners together, European Partnerships help to avoid the duplication of investments and contribute to reducing the fragmentation of the R&I landscape in the EU.

With over €8 billion of budgets, the partnerships will run from 2021 to 2030, allowing them to provide input into the last calls of Horizon Europe and wrap up their final activities afterwards.

These partnerships are then implemented through Horizon Europe calls for proposals.

In the orientations towards the first Strategic Plan for Horizon Europe, health at work is specifically mentioned (section 1.2 - Living and working in a health-promoting environment).

The European Partnerships in Health are divided into nine partnerships of which four are suitable for OSH activities:

- Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU),
- European Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC),
- European Partnership – ERA for Health Research, and
- European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS).

### Annual thematic priorities

- Turn health R&I into real benefits for patients and society;
- Develop the scientific skills needed to address current and future challenges in chemical safety;
- Increase funding opportunities and strengthen the R&I community;
- Increase the ability to implement innovation;
- Intensify cooperation among countries and regions and beyond health and care sectors; and
- Increase stakeholders' involvement and capacity building.

### Objectives

The key operational objectives are as follows:

- improve understanding of the determinants of health and priority disease areas;
- integrate fragmented health R&I efforts by bringing together health industry sectors and other stakeholders;
- exploit the full potential of digitalisation and data exchange in healthcare;
- enable the development of new and improved methodologies and models for a comprehensive assessment of the added value of innovative and integrated healthcare solutions;
- establishment of a permanent interdisciplinary network on a European scale to identify and prioritise conceptual, scientific and technical advances and needs in terms of R&I;
- development of joint R&I activities reflecting the defined priorities; and

- strengthening of existing capabilities for R&I and the creation of new cross-disciplinary platforms.

### Eligible organisations

- Healthcare organisations, healthcare providers and caregivers;
- Health system owners;
- National, regional and local policymakers and authorities;
- Academia and education establishments;
- Research institutes and hospitals;
- Health expert networks;
- Civil society organisations (associations, foundations, NGOs and similar entities); and
- SMEs active and with expertise in the area of the action.

### Eligible countries

- EU Member States,
- EU candidate countries and potential candidates,
- Potential EU candidate countries,
- EEA countries,
- EFTA countries,
- Associated countries, and
- Low- and middle-income countries.

### Eligible actions

- Transform health research and innovation into real benefits for patients and society;
- Deliver safe and effective health innovations that cover the full spectrum of care, from prevention to diagnosis and treatment, particularly in areas where public health needs are unmet; and
- Make European health industries globally competitive.

### Criteria for partnership

Unless otherwise provided for in the specific call conditions, only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in actions provided that the consortium includes as beneficiaries three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:

- at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or associated countries.

### Amount awarded per project

- Between €500,000 and €12 million.
- Up to 90%, sometimes 100% of the total eligible costs.

### Further information

- [European Commission website - European Partnerships in health](#)
- **Innovative Health Initiative Joint Undertaking (IHI JU)**  
IHI JU, TO 56, 1049 Brussel, BELGIUM  
Tel.: +32 22218181 (Commission switchboard)  
Email: [infodesk@ihi.europa.eu](mailto:infodesk@ihi.europa.eu)
- **European Partnership for the Assessment of Risks from Chemicals (PARC)**  
Email: [Parc@anses.fr](mailto:Parc@anses.fr)
- **European Partnership – ERA for Health Research**  
Email: [RTD-SANTE-HE-HEALTH-CLUSTER@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-SANTE-HE-HEALTH-CLUSTER@ec.europa.eu)
- **European Partnership on Transforming Health and Care Systems (THCS)**  
Email: [RTD-HS-PARTNERSHIP@ec.europa.eu](mailto:RTD-HS-PARTNERSHIP@ec.europa.eu)



### Comments – Recommendations

The European Partnerships in Health are not programmes but a cooperation between the European Commission and public/private organisations. However, it testifies that health issues is a major concern for the EU and foresees future calls for proposals on this topic.

### Example of call

#### Call for transnational proposals 2024 Innovate to Prevent: Personalized Prevention in Health and Care Services<sup>14</sup>

General objective	As part of the THCS partnership, the call objective is to support the implementation of innovative person-centred health and care models addressing prevention strategies with the key help of IT and digital technologies and services.
Total budget of the call	Depending on the country.
Amount of the grant	Depending on the country.
Co-financing rate	Depending on the country.

<sup>14</sup> [Prevention in Health and Care Services \(Call Text THCS JTC 2024\)](#)

## 2.7 Digital Europe

DIGITAL SKILLS — CYBERSECURITY — ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

### DIGITAL EUROPE

National authorities	NGOs	Research institutes	SMEs and large companies	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts
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#### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The Digital Europe Programme aims to support and accelerate the digital transformation of the economy. Among other things, this programme aims to contribute to the deployment and use of digital capabilities to ensure that all sectors of public interest (transport, health, environment, culture, etc.) have access to state-of-the-art digital technologies. The Digital Europe Programme could be useful for funding projects linked to the introduction of digital tools to improve working conditions.

#### Annual thematic priorities

The Digital Europe Programme provides five annual thematic priorities: supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring the wide use of digital technologies across the economy and society.

#### Objectives

To bridge the gap between digital technology research and market deployment. It will benefit Europe's citizens and businesses, especially SMEs.

#### Eligible organisations

- Small or medium-size enterprise,
- Private for-profit organisation,
- Higher or secondary education establishment,
- Research organisation,
- Public organisation,
- NGO,
- International organisation, and
- Consortium.

#### Eligible countries

- EU Member States;
- EU candidate countries: Montenegro, North Macedonia, Albania, Serbia, Turkey, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine;
- Potential EU candidate countries: Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo;
- EFTA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland; and
- EEA countries: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway.

#### Eligible actions

Activities eligible for financing are outlined, for example: training programmes, support operation, studies, seminars, exchange of best practice.

**Criteria for partnership**

Additional criteria might be specified, for example, the number (and origin) of participants; for some projects it is necessary to set up a joint project with at least two other partners from different Member States.

**Amount awarded per project**

The indicative budget for the programme in 2024 is € 517.5 million.

Co-financing rate: between 50% and 100% of total eligible costs.

**Further information**

- [National Contact Points for Digital](#)
- [Digital Europe Programme](#)
- [European Commission website - Digital Europe](#)

**Comments – Recommendations**

The Digital Europe Programme seeks to expedite the digital transformation of the economy, with a primary focus on fostering the deployment and utilisation of cutting-edge digital technologies across various public interest sectors, including transportation, health, environment, culture and more.

One potential application of the programme is in supporting projects that introduce digital tools aimed at enhancing working conditions.

**Example of call**

#### Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs – DIGITAL-2023-EDIH-04<sup>15</sup>

General objective	To strengthen and extend the existing network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIH), covering all regions of the EU and associated countries, including the EU outermost regions.
Total budget of the call	€14.6 million.
Amount of the grant	Between €250,000 and €4.5 million.
Co-financing rate	50% of the total eligible costs.

### 3 European programmes share-managed by the Member States

The European programmes that are directly managed by the Member States are called the ESIF, which includes ESF+. For OSH activities, the fund that is the most suitable is the ESF+, which has the following priorities:

1. improving job opportunities;
2. strengthening social inclusion and combating poverty;
3. promoting education, skills development and lifelong learning; and
4. boosting administrative capacities.

Table 1 gives an overview of the management and implementation of these funds. When the management is qualified as centralised, it means that national authorities (such as ministries) are the managing authorities. When the management is qualified as decentralised, this means that the managing authorities are local authorities. In some cases, national and local authorities can share the management of a fund in the same country.

**Table 1: Overview of the management and implementation of the EU Cohesion Funds**

Countries	Centralised approach, devolved, or decentralised
Austria	Centralised
Belgium	Centralised (federal) and decentralised
Bulgaria	Centralised
Croatia	Centralised
Cyprus	Centralised
Czech Republic	Devolved
Denmark	Centralised
Estonia	Centralised: The funds are managed at national level by the Ministry of Finance
Finland	Centralised (with the exception of the autonomous region Åland)
France	Centralised and decentralised
Germany	Centralised and decentralised
Greece	Centralised and devolved
Hungary	Centralised
Ireland	Centralised and decentralised
Italy	Centralised and decentralised
Latvia	Centralised: The funds are managed at national level by the Ministry of Finance
Lithuania	Centralised: The funds are managed at national level by the Ministry of Finance
Luxembourg	Centralised
Malta	Centralised
Netherlands	Centralised and decentralised
Poland	Centralised and decentralised
Portugal	Centralised and devolved
Romania	Centralised
Slovakia	Centralised
Slovenia	Centralised
Spain	Centralised and devolved – EAFRD decentralised
Sweden	Centralised

Source: Council of European Municipalities and Regions, Cohesion policy funds 2021-2027. Available at: [https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/230621\\_984\\_EISF\\_web.pdf](https://www.ccre.org/img/uploads/piecesjointe/filename/230621_984_EISF_web.pdf)

## 3.1 Sweden

EMPLOYMENT — SAFETY AT WORK — OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH — TRAINING — INCLUSION

SWEDEN European Social Fund+ National programme 2021-2027		
National authorities	EU social partners	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

The Swedish ESF+ national programme aims to improve access to employment for jobseekers, encourage lifelong learning and support socioeconomic inclusion. More specifically, it aims to promote a good working environment by funding projects related to access to training, prevention of occupational illnesses, prevention of accidents at work and the fight against discrimination.

### Thematic priorities

- Increase the possibility of an inclusive and sustainable working life for everyone,
- Increase the opportunity for work,
- Reduce the risk of financial vulnerability,
- Increase capacity in the sparse geography,
- Social innovation, and
- Fast-Care – Support for Ukrainian refugees.

### Objectives

The funds from the Swedish ESF+ national programme are intended to respond to the challenges and needs of society in terms of social inclusion, the labour market, education and capacity building.

### Eligible organisations

- Individuals seeking to enhance their professional skills or acquire additional training to improve their employability;
- Job seekers and individuals in precarious situations aiming to enter or reintegrate into the labour market;
- Businesses and organisations involved in projects aimed at enhancing their workforce's skills, fostering innovation or promoting equal opportunities;
- Local, regional and national authorities implementing policies and programmes to improve employment, education, vocational training and social inclusion; and
- Disadvantaged groups such as unemployed youth.

### Eligible actions

- Vocational training and skills development programmes,
- Entrepreneurship support projects,
- Integration programmes for migrants and refugees,
- Professional retraining programmes,
- Gender equality promotion projects,
- Disability support programmes, and
- Actions related to mental health.

### Budget dedicated to the programme

The budget allocated to the Swedish national ESF+ programme amounts to €1.6 billion for the 2021-2027 programming period, of which €706,698,560 is European investment and €918,877,490 is the national public contribution.

### Further information

- [Swedish ESF+ Council website](#)
- [European Social Fund+ National programme 2021-2027](#)

The institution in charge of the management of the ESF+ in Sweden is the Council of the European Social Fund in Sweden, which is the managing authority:

[esf@esf.se](mailto:esf@esf.se)

Tel.: 020-333390

From abroad: +46 (0)8-57917100

### Comments – Recommendations

For OSH activities, the thematic priority to aim for is ‘Increasing the possibility of an inclusive and sustainable working life for all’.

### Example of call

23-062 - POA1- Skills development mental health and mental illness - support for increased knowledge and collaboration

General objective	To fund projects relating to the development of skills in the field of mental health, with a view to increasing knowledge and collaboration in this area.
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Total budget of the call	€48,000,000.
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## 3.2 Slovenia

EMPLOYMENT — SAFETY AT WORK — OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH — TRAINING — INCLUSION

SLOVENIA European Social Fund+ National programme 2021-2027		
National authorities	EU social partners	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

Slovenia's ESF+ national programme aims to improve access to skills and lifelong learning to help citizens prepare for the green and digital transition, and to improve working conditions for older workers. The programme intends to achieve this by training employers, adapting workplaces and strengthening social inclusion.

Slovenia is investing some of its ESF+ funds to promote healthy and active ageing along with making significant investments in its long-term care system. To improve the wellbeing of society, health and mental health services are also among the key areas that the programme aims to enhance.

### Thematic priorities

- Access to employment and activation measures for all,
- Equal access to quality social and healthcare services,
- Social integration of people at risk,
- Modernising labour market institutions,
- Adaptation of workers and enterprises to change,
- Improving education and training systems,
- Lifelong learning and career transitions, and
- Active inclusion and employability.

### Objectives

- Overcoming the challenges of innovation and competitiveness;
- Contributing to the accessibility of the labour market and the modernisation of education, healthcare and social services;
- Investing in healthcare and mental health services and infrastructure; and
- Offering support to revitalise green cities and strengthen local communities.

### Eligible organisations

- Individuals seeking to enhance their professional skills or acquire additional training to improve their employability;
- Job seekers and individuals in precarious situations aiming to enter or reintegrate into the labour market;
- Businesses and organisations involved in projects aimed at enhancing their workforce's skills, fostering innovation or promoting equal opportunities;
- Local, regional and national authorities implementing policies and programmes to improve employment, education, vocational training and social inclusion; and
- Disadvantaged groups such as unemployed youth.

### Eligible actions

- Vocational training and skills development programmes,
- Entrepreneurship support projects,
- Integration programmes for migrants and refugees,
- Professional retraining programmes,
- Gender equality promotion projects, and
- Disability support programmes.

### Budget dedicated to the programme

The budget allocated to the Slovenian national ESF+ programme amounts to €943,800,608 for the 2021-2027 programming period, of which €635,964,995 is European investment and €307,835,613 is the national public contribution.

### Further information

- Ministry of Labour, [Europe in Slovenia website](#)

### Comments – Recommendations

For the 2021-2027 programming period in Slovenia, the EU Cohesion Policy Programme will play a decisive role in encouraging Slovenia to accelerate its green and digital transition, finance R&I, increase employment, and improve education, but also **healthcare and social services**.

### Example of call

No call for proposals in the field of OSH have been published yet.



### 3.3 Romania

EMPLOYMENT — SAFETY AT WORK — OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH — TRAINING — INCLUSION

ROMANIA European Social Fund+ National programme 2021-2027		
National authorities	EU social partners	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

#### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

ESF+ funds in Romania aim to improve access to employment, in particular youth employment, quality and inclusive education, new skills and training, and to promote social inclusion and increase access to healthcare.

More specifically, ESF+ in Romania aims to improve access to and the quality of health services in Romania. Interventions target vulnerable groups, focusing on reducing inequalities, while improving the efficiency and resilience of the health system.

#### Thematic priorities

- Modernising labour market institutions and strengthening social dialogue;
- Enhancing labour market accessibility and participation;
- Stimulating entrepreneurship and the social economy;
- Improving access to quality education, with a focus on the most disadvantaged; and
- Tackling skills shortages.

#### Objectives

- Strengthen preventive services;
- Improve the synthesis of VET;
- Combating poverty and guaranteeing access to social services for all;
- Improving access to and quality of health services by focusing on reducing inequalities and improving the efficiency and resilience of the health system;
- Increase the quality of primary and community healthcare and outpatient services; and
- Increase the effectiveness and resilience of the health system in areas of strategic importance.

#### Eligible organisations

- Individuals seeking to enhance their professional skills or acquire additional training to improve their employability;
- Job seekers and individuals in precarious situations aiming to enter or reintegrate into the labour market;
- Businesses and organisations involved in projects aimed at enhancing their workforce's skills, fostering innovation or promoting equal opportunities;
- Local, regional and national authorities implementing policies and programmes to improve employment, education, vocational training and social inclusion; and
- Disadvantaged groups such as unemployed youth.

#### Eligible actions

- Vocational training and skills development programmes,
- Entrepreneurship support projects,
- Integration programmes for migrants and refugees,

- Professional retraining programmes,
- Gender equality promotion projects, and
- Disability support programmes.

#### **Budget dedicated to the programme**

The budget allocated to the Romanian national ESF+ programme amounts to €806,858,898 for the 2021-2027 programming period, of which €650,000,000 is European investment and €156,858,898 is the national public contribution.

#### **Further information**

- [The multi-fund European Regional Development Fund \(ERDF\) and European Social Fund Plus \(ESF+\) programme in Romania](#)
- [Ministry of European Investments and Projects](#)

#### **Comments – Recommendations**

The most appropriate programme is the ESF+ Social Inclusion and Dignity programme, which aims to tackle the root causes of social disadvantage and inequality, providing funding, particularly for young people, to improve health, access to education, social dialogue, professional inclusion, entrepreneurship and social services.

#### **Example of call**

No call for proposals in the field of OSH have been published yet.

## 3.4 Portugal

EMPLOYMENT — SAFETY AT WORK — OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH — TRAINING — INCLUSION

PORTUGAL European Social Fund+ National programme 2021-2027		
National authorities	EU social partners	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts

### Synthesis of the programme to OSH areas

ESF+ funds in Portugal aim to support socially inclusive economic development. The programme aims to improve access to work and working conditions for all categories of employees.

In particular, ESF+ funds in Portugal attach great importance to reducing territorial disparities in terms of access to healthcare, education and social services. The programme also focuses on the increase in youth unemployment and the eradication of poverty and social inequality.

### Thematic priorities

- Demographics, qualifications and inclusion; and
- Innovation and digital transition.

### Objectives

- Access to employment and activation measures for all,
- Equal access to quality social and healthcare services,
- Addressing material deprivation,
- Gender-balanced labour market participation,
- Quality and inclusive education and training systems,
- Lifelong learning and career transitions, and
- Active inclusion and employability.

### Eligible organisations

- Individuals seeking to enhance their professional skills or acquire additional training to improve their employability;
- Job seekers and individuals in precarious situations aiming to enter or reintegrate into the labour market;
- Businesses and organisations involved in projects aimed at enhancing their workforce's skills, fostering innovation or promoting equal opportunities;
- Local, regional and national authorities implementing policies and programmes to improve employment, education, vocational training and social inclusion; and
- Disadvantaged groups such as unemployed youth.

### Eligible actions

- Vocational training and skills development programmes,
- Entrepreneurship support projects,
- Integration programmes for migrants and refugees,
- Professional retraining programmes,
- Gender equality promotion projects, and
- Disability support programmes.

### **Budget dedicated to the programme**

The budget allocated to the Portuguese national ESF+ programme amounts to €6,682,434,080 for the 2021-2027 programming period, of which €5,691,329,428 is European investment and €991,104,652 is the national public contribution.

### **Further information**

- [European Commission website - Demography, qualifications and inclusion Thematic Programme](#)
- [European Commission website - The ESF+ in Portugal](#)
- [Portugal 2030](#)

### **Comments – Recommendations**

The ‘Demography, Qualifications and Inclusion’ thematic programme represents the biggest ESF+ investment in people in Portugal, supporting, among other actions, capacity building for increased and better access to social and health services.

### **Example of call**

No call for proposals in the field of OSH have been published yet.

**Appendix - European programmes managed by the European Commission and eligible organisations**

European Programmes		Eligible organisations							
		National authorities	National social partners: employers' / workers' organisations	EU social partners	OSH experts	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts	Research institutes	Legal entities	SMEs and large companies
<b>ESF+ — EaSI strand</b>									
<b>EU4Health</b>									
<b>SOCPL</b>									
<b>Erasmus+</b>									
Key Action 2									
For young entrepreneurs									
<b>JPI MYBL</b>									
<b>Horizon Europe</b>	Pillar 1 'Excellent Science'								
	Pillar 2 'Global Issues and European Industrial Competitiveness' – Cluster 1 'Health'								

		Eligible organisations								
		National authorities	National social partners: employers' / workers' organisations	EU social partners	OSH experts	OSH professional networks, prevention services, OSH experts	Research institutes	Legal entities	SMEs and large companies	NGOs
Horizon Europe	Pillar 3 'Innovative Europe' – European Innovation Ecosystems	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Non eligible
	Pillar 3 'Innovative Europe' – European Institute of Innovation and Technology – EIT Health	Eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible
	Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area	Eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible
	EU Mission: Cancer	Eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible
	European Partnerships in Health	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Non eligible
	<b>Digital Europe</b>	Eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Non eligible	Eligible	Eligible

Eligible
  Non eligible

**The European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA)** contributes to making Europe a safer, healthier and more productive place to work. The Agency researches, develops, and distributes reliable, balanced, and impartial safety and health information and organises pan-European awareness raising campaigns. Set up by the European Union in 1994 and based in Bilbao, Spain, the Agency brings together representatives from the European Commission, Member State governments, employers' and workers' organisations, as well as leading experts in each of the EU Member States and beyond.

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