

The Brussels-Capital Region's participation in Horizon Europe

9th EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

2nd Statistical report



Colophon

Study by hub.brussels

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Summary

Having received financial support totalling €1.4 billion from Horizon Europe, the European Union's framework programme for research and innovation, the Brussels Capital Region is strengthening its position as a key player in European research and innovation ecosystems.

Under Horizon Europe, 1,540 Brussels-based organisations submitted 13,654 applications between 2021 and February 2026. Of those applications, 3,390 were successful, corresponding to 2,324 research and innovation projects selected for funding. The 23% success rate for proposals involving Brussels-based organisations was five percentage points above the European average.

International organisations have a particularly strong presence in the Brussels Capital Region. They accounted for 54% of Brussels-based applicants and 61% of Brussels-based beneficiaries. SMEs represented 21% of applicants and 17% of beneficiaries. In fact, SMEs were the third-highest ranking type of organisation in terms of funding secured, after international organisations and universities. They received 81% of the Horizon Europe funding awarded to private-sector organisations in Brussels, which are made up of SMEs and large enterprises.

Research and innovation projects rely on extensive international collaboration with partners from other regions around the world. Since the start of the programme, Brussels-based organisations have been involved in joint projects with entities from 171 different countries, though the majority of proposals were developed in conjunction with entities located in Spain, Italy and Germany. Furthermore, of all research proposals involving organisations based in Brussels, 23% included applicants from Flanders as partners, 4% included applicants from Wallonia and 3% included partners from other regions.

69% of funding awarded to entities from the Brussels Capital Region related to projects aligned with the innovation priorities of the Brussels Capital Region, as detailed in the Regional Innovation Plan covering the period 2021-2027. Those priorities are, in themselves, aligned with the European Union's priorities in the field of research and innovation.

Introduction

The post-crisis recovery, the digital and green transitions and global issues such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 are all crucially important within Horizon Europe. Horizon Europe places post-crisis recovery, the digital and green transitions, and global challenges such as the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals at the heart of the programme. Through the European Union's investment in research and innovation, it aims to generate positive scientific, technological, economic and societal impacts.

The general objective of this programme is to enhance the European Union's scientific and technological bases, to foster its competitiveness across all Member States, including within its industrial sector, to deliver on the European Union's strategic priorities, to contribute towards the achievement of its objectives and political priorities, to tackle global challenges, primarily by pursuing the SDGs by following the principles of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement, and to strengthen the European Research Area.

The purpose of this report, prepared by the National Contact Point in Brussels (NCP Brussels), which supports Brussels-based organisations seeking European research and innovation funding, and by the BU Research of hub.brussels, is to analyse the involvement of Brussels-based organisations in the programme as a means of furthering the development of the research and innovation policy of the Brussels Capital Region. The analysis focuses on participation in Horizon Europe by Brussels-based organisations, examining applicant and beneficiary profiles, funding secured, proposal and participation figures, and collaborations with organisations outside Belgium.

The report also includes testimonials from Brussels-based companies supported by NCP Brussels that have secured significant Horizon Europe funding.

The methodology employed when processing these data is presented in an appendix to this report and is the result of a collaboration with NCP Wallonia (AKT), NCP FNRS - Fund for Scientific Research, NCP Flanders - Fonds Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (FWO), Flanders Innovation & Entrepreneurship (VLAIO), the Economy, Science and Innovation Department of the Flemish government (EWI), NCP Federal and Belspo. The data from the European Commission are taken from the e-CORDA (External Common Research Data Warehouse) database, which brings together dozens of files and hundreds of thousands of applications and participations. The data relating to Belgian entities undergo advanced verification carried out by hub.brussels and its various partners. The primary focus of that verification concerns their location and classification as SMEs, large enterprises, non-profit organisations (ASBLs), international organisations, universities, higher education establishments, research centres, university hospitals and public bodies.

The results obtained are therefore not directly comparable to the statistics presented on the European Commission's dashboard relating to this programme (Horizon dashboard – Country profile¹). As a result, this report does not set out to comment on or analyse the data on that dashboard. By way of information, however, and of all the regions participating in the Horizon Europe programme, the dashboard places the Brussels Capital Region in fourth position in terms of the number of participations and in sixth position in terms of funding obtained. This publication therefore reflects how Brussels is performing within the programme, approximately five years after its launch, and will be followed by a final report once the programme comes to an end.

¹ [Horizon dashboard – Country profile](#)

The Horizon Europe Framework Programme

Horizon Europe is the key funding programme of the European Union (EU) for research and innovation for the period from 2021 to 2027. It has a budget (indicative) of €93.5 billion. As was the case for its predecessor Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe actions are delivered by means of open and competitive calls for proposals. Only the highest-quality proposals are funded.

The programme is structured around **three key pillars** corresponding to the programme's three priorities: Excellent Science, Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness and, finally, Innovative Europe. Each pillar is broken down into a series of specific objectives. A **fourth, cross-cutting pillar** also includes two specific objectives: "Spreading Excellence and Widening Participation" and "Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I System".

The **first pillar, "Excellent Science"**, aims to facilitate exploratory approaches for teams of researchers, to provide them with new knowledge through mobility and training and to develop global research infrastructures.

The **second pillar, "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness"**, aims to boost key technologies and solutions resulting from EU policies and the Sustainable Development Goals. It does so within six clusters: Health; Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Civil Security for the Society; Digital; Industry and Space; Climate, Energy and Mobility; Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

The **third pillar, "Innovative Europe"**, aims to stimulate market-creating breakthroughs and ecosystems conducive to innovation by supporting innovations that possess revolutionary and commercial potential, connecting with regional and national innovation actors and bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around common objectives.

Lastly, the "Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area" component provides cross-cutting support to the three pillars. It seeks to broaden participation through collaboration and twinning, promote the circulation of researchers and talent, and strengthen the activities of national contact points. It also supports reforms to the European research and innovation system, including foresight activities, evidence for policymaking, open science, gender equality and international cooperation.

Compared to its predecessor, Horizon 2020, Horizon Europe is not a revolution but an evolution. Several new elements have therefore been introduced, including the European Innovation Council (the EIC, which was piloted under H2020 and has now been fully deployed), the Missions and a new approach towards European Partnerships.

Appendix 2 of this report contains a detailed explanation of the pillars, the instruments and the areas of action of the Framework Programme.

Key participation figures for Brussels-based organisations in Horizon Europe (2021-02/2026)



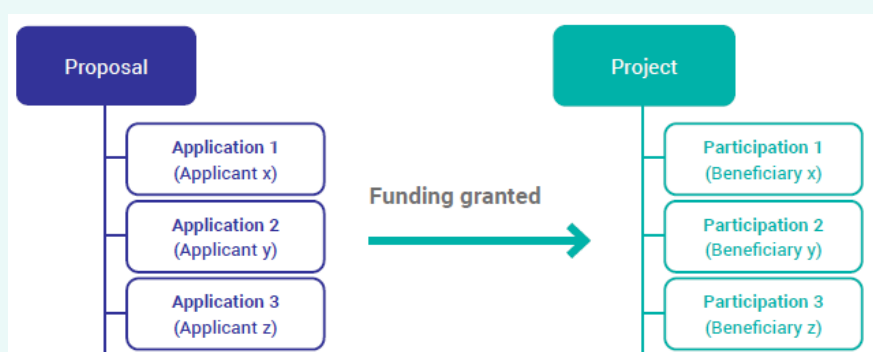
Key concepts

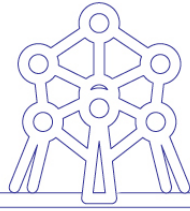
Proposal: a proposal is a request for funding for a research or innovation project that is submitted by one or more applicants.

Application/Applicant: Each applicant may submit one or more requests for funding. Known as applications, these will either take the form of a common proposal submitted jointly by several applicants or, more rarely, of an individual proposal submitted by a single applicant.

Project/Beneficiary/Participation: if a proposal is approved for funding, it becomes a project and the applicants become beneficiaries (funded participants). The various requests for funding from partners that receive funding are called participations.

A project can therefore concern more than one region if the Belgian partners for the same proposal are located in different regions (see Appendix 1 - Glossary).





The Brussels-Capital Region is the 4th region in the EU

with the highest number of participations in the programme

after Paris, Madrid and Barcelona¹



A success rate for proposals of 23 %,

compared with 20% for the entire Horizon 2020 programme (2014-2020)

784 beneficiaries
= 49 % Belgian beneficiaries

1,4 billion € in funding

13.654 applications
= 43% Belgian applications

132 participating SMEs

159 million € in funding obtained by SMEs

= 11% of the total

compared with 9% for the entire Horizon 2020 programme (2014 - 2020)

= 81% of the amount awarded to the private sector (SMEs and large enterprises)

979 million € funded

for priority themes of the Brussels-Capital Region

In particular :



Climate, Energy and Mobility



Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment



Digital, Industry



Innovation

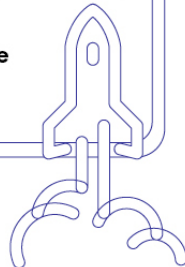


Health



Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

¹ The nomenclature used is level NUTS3.



Horizon Europe and the Brussels Capital Region (2021-02/2026)

Requests for funding and funding obtained in the BCR

Requests for funding: applications and proposals

Since the launch of the programme, **Belgian** applicants have submitted 31,810 requests for funding (applications) and have been involved in 20,400 proposals (Figure 1).

Accounting, as they do, for 43% of Belgian applications, applicants from the **Brussels-Capital Region**² have been particularly active, having submitted **13,654 applications**, corresponding to **10,375 funding proposals** (51% of Belgian proposals).

Of the Brussels-based applications, after evaluation by the European Commission:

- 28% were rejected due to insufficient quality;
- 38%, despite receiving a positive assessment, could not be funded due to an insufficient budget for certain calls;
- 23% were included in the list of projects to be funded;
- 10% were placed on the reserve list pending a possible funding solution;
- and 1% fell into one of the last two categories³.

72% of Brussels-based requests submitted therefore reached the minimum quality threshold required.

Funding obtained: participations and projects

Of the **4,396 projects** involving applicants from Belgium, **2,324** featured one or more applicants from the Brussels-Capital Region, i.e. 53% of all projects involving applicants based in Belgium.

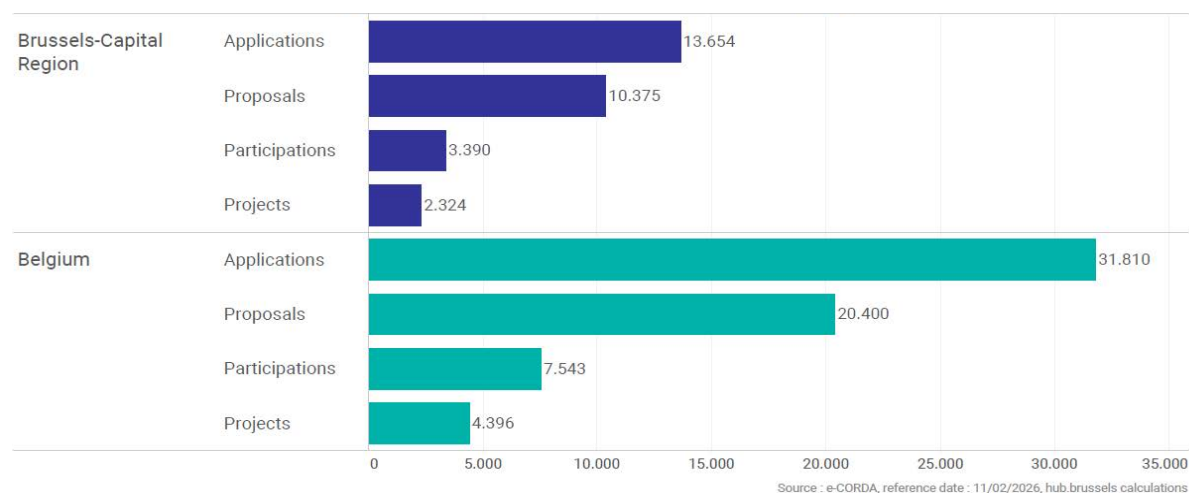
Finally, **3,390 applications involving Brussels-based applicants resulted in funded participations**(45% of Belgian participations⁴).

² The 26 applications from Sirris and Centexbel in which no region has been specified have been included in the Belgian statistics, but not the statistics by region (see methodology, "undetermined" region).

³ These are participations that did not appear in the e-CORDA database of Belgian applications. They were added to ensure that the two databases, that of the applications and that of the participations, are aligned.

⁴ Throughout the report, the term "Belgian proposal" refers to a proposal which features at least one Belgian applicant

Figure 1. Applications, proposals, participations and projects, Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



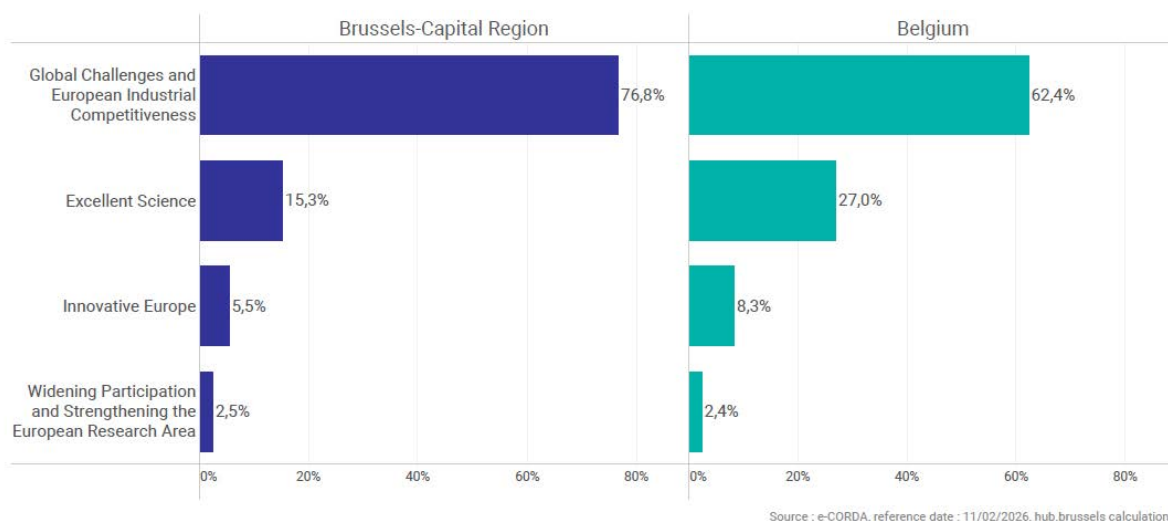
Proposals for each pillar and theme

Proposals for each pillar

In the Brussels Capital Region, the majority of the proposals submitted (76.8%) related to Pillar 2 **"Global Challenges and Industrial competitiveness"**. The other proposals were distributed across the other three pillars, "Excellent Science" (15.3%), "Innovative Europe" (5.5%) and "Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area" (2.5%).

Although the ranking of proposals for each pillar remains the same for Belgium as a whole, the percentages do differ: the "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness" pillar still accounts for the largest number of proposals overall, but now represents "only" 62.4% of all Belgian proposals, i.e. 14 percentage points less than proposals from Brussels-based organisations. "Excellent Science", however, is better represented in Belgium than in Brussels (27% compared to 15%). The same also applies in the case of "Innovative Europe" (8.3% compared to 5.5%). The relatively large share of "Excellent Science" in Belgium as a whole reflects the distribution of ecosystems of fundamental research actors across Belgium, due to the fact that Brussels is home to relatively few universities.

Figure 2. Breakdown of proposals for each pillar, Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



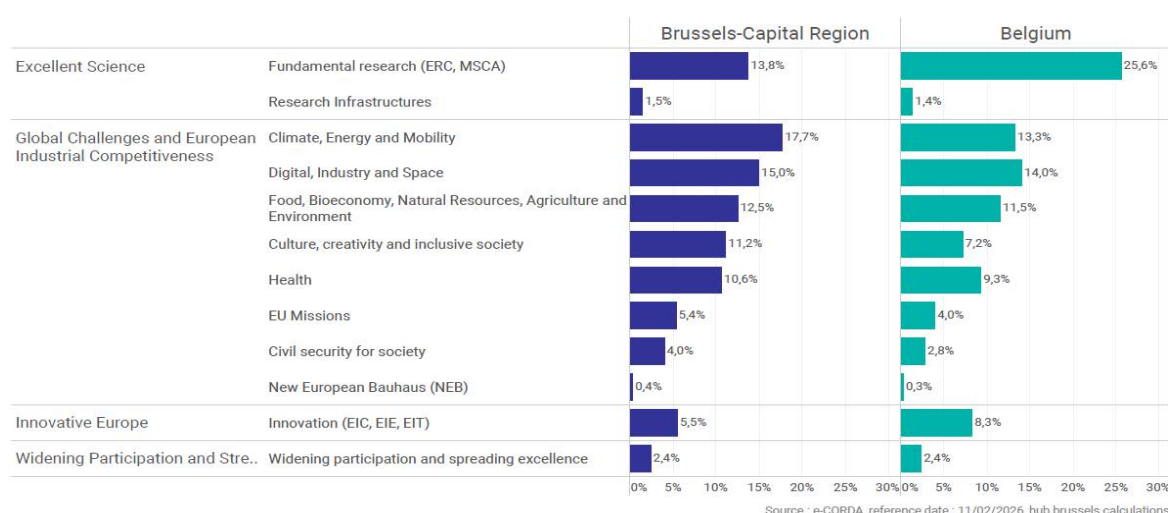
Proposals for each theme

Within Pillar 2, the theme that accounts for the largest number of proposals from the Brussels Capital Region is that of **"Climate, Energy and Mobility"** (17.7%), followed by **"Digital, Industry and Space"** (15.0%), **"Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment"** (12.5%), **"Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society"** (11.2%) and **"Health"** (10.6%)⁵.

Taking Belgium as a whole, Fundamental Research ranks first, having accounted for 25.6% of proposals, i.e. 12 percentage points more than in Brussels. The same themes mentioned in the paragraph above then complete the top rankings, although Brussels has achieved a greater presence within the "Climate, Energy and Mobility" and "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society" themes, scoring four percentage points higher than the quantity of proposals submitted under that theme from Belgium as a whole.

⁵ Themes with just one or two proposals (Horizontal – under Pillar 2, Euratom Research and Training Programme – under the cross-cutting pillar) are not presented in this analysis by theme.

Figure 3. Breakdown of proposals for each pillar and theme (%), Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



Success Story

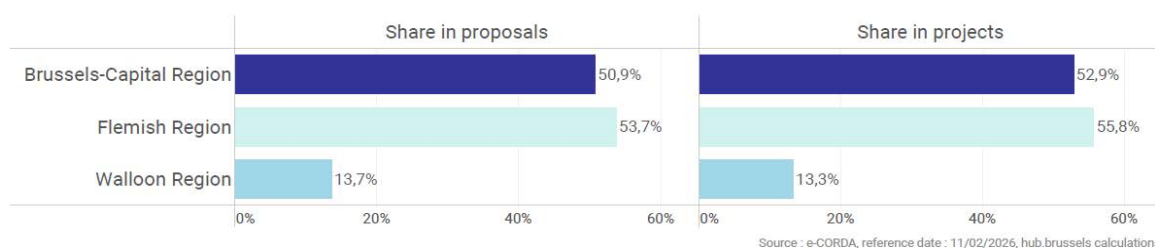


Coordinated by Toyota Motor Europe, the PH2OTOGEN project (2024-2027) seeks to accelerate the development of green hydrogen production technologies. The project is developing an innovative photocatalytic reactor capable of producing hydrogen and value-added chemical products, thereby improving the economic viability of renewable hydrogen solutions.

Participation of the regions in Belgian proposals

Of the proposals submitted by applicants from Belgium as a whole, 51% of them featured applicants from Brussels, 54% included applicants from Flanders and 14% from Wallonia. After excluding applications submitted by international organisations, 33% of Belgian proposals involved Brussels-based organisations. When the participation of the regions in Belgian projects that obtained funding is taken into account, the percentage participation of the Brussels Capital Region and of Flanders is slightly higher.

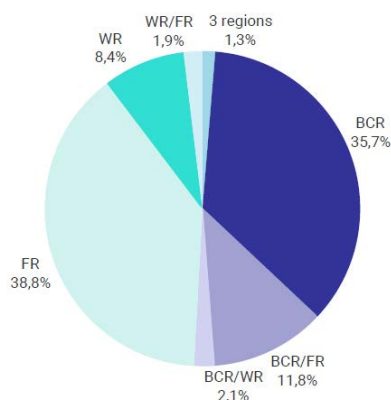
Figure 4. Participation rate of the regions in Belgian proposals and projects (%)



83% of proposals including Belgian applicants involve just a **single region** of Belgium; 16% of proposals include applicants from two regions and 1% of proposals involve applicants from all three regions.

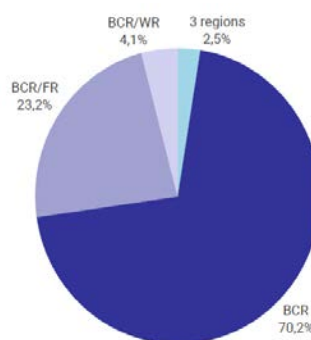
With regard to **proposals involving Brussels-based applicants**, 70% of them involve Brussels-based applicants only; 23% of them involve applicants based in Flanders; 4% of them involve applicants based in Wallonia and 3% feature applicants from all three regions.

Figure 5. Breakdown of Belgian proposals by the region(s) concerned



Source : e-CORDA, reference date : 11/02/2026, hub.brussels calculations

Figure 6. Breakdown of proposals involving Brussels-based organisations by the region(s) concerned



Source : e-CORDA, reference date : 11/02/2026, hub.brussels calculations

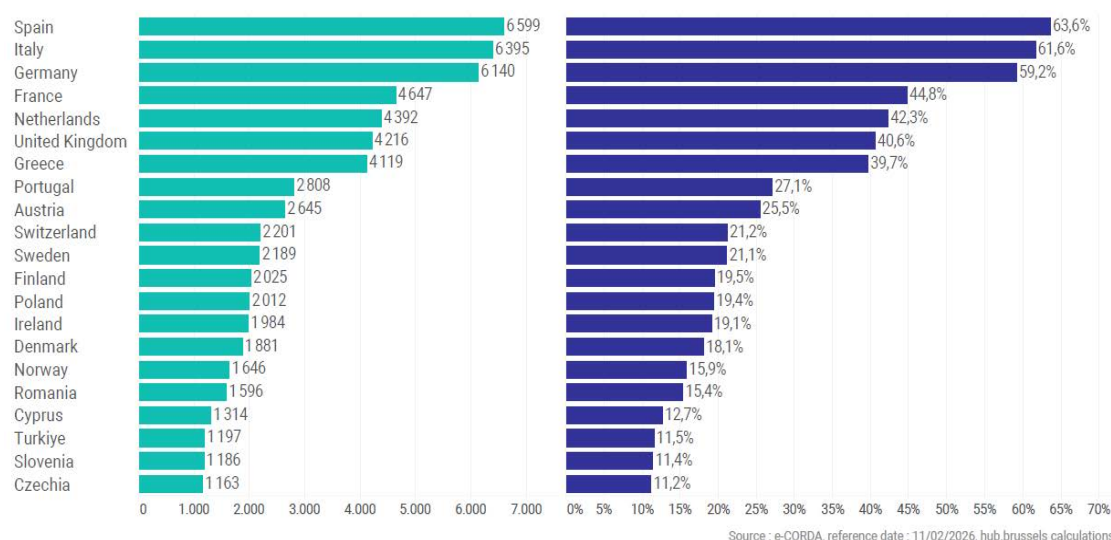
Collaborations between the Brussels Capital Region and international partners

Since the launch of the programme, Brussels-based organisations have collaborated with partners from 171 countries through Horizon Europe proposals. Three countries in particular feature more prominently than the rest: Spain (64%), Italy (62%) and Germany (59%). Organisations from each of these countries were involved in approximately six out of ten proposals submitted by Brussels-based organisations.

In total, 90% of proposals from organisations based in Brussels involved a partner or coordinator from Germany, Italy or Spain.

Four other countries also stand out: France (45%), the Netherlands (42%), the United Kingdom (41%) and Greece (40%).

Figure 7. Participation of countries in proposals submitted by Brussels-based organisations - in terms of number and as a percentage (minimum share of 10% in Brussels-based proposals)

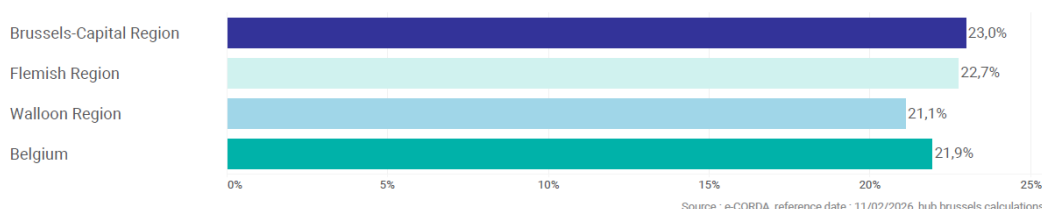


The success rate for proposals

Overall success rate

The success rate for proposals⁶ submitted by applicants from the Brussels Capital Region⁷ is **23%** (22% if international associations are excluded). That rate is similar to that of the Flemish Region and slightly higher than the rate for the Walloon Region (21%) and the EU Member States (18%)⁸.

Figure 8. Success rate of proposals for each pillar (%), Regions and Belgium



⁶ This rate corresponds to the conventional success rate, in terms of eligible proposals, from the European Commission.

⁷ "Brussels-based" proposals include at least one applicant from Brussels.

⁸ Proposals including at least one applicant from Wallonia for the Walloon Region/from Flanders for the Flemish Region. hub.brussels calculations.

Success rate by type of actor

Category of actor



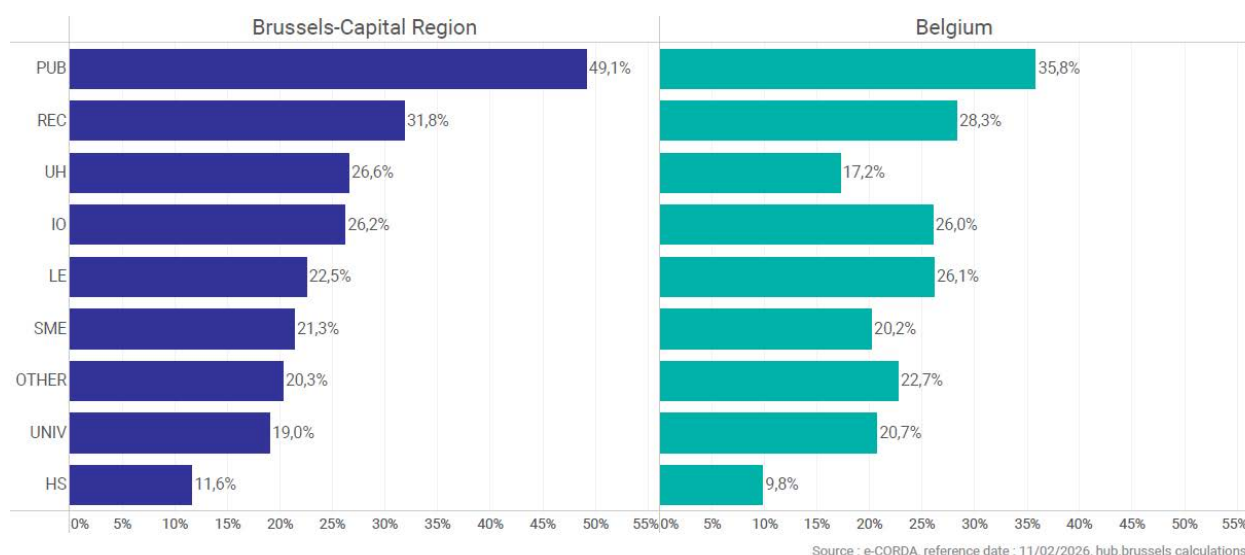
HS: Higher Education Establishment
LE: Large Enterprise
PUB: Public Body
SME: Small and Medium Enterprise
UNIV: University

IO: International Organisation
OTHER: organisation (non-profit organisation, etc.)
REC: Research Centre
UH: University Hospital

The very high success rate of public bodies in Brussels and, to a lesser extent, across Belgium is important to note: 49% and 36% of their applications were approved, respectively. Research centres, university hospitals and international organisations based in Brussels also enjoyed a relatively higher success rate than the average for Belgium as a whole. Another fact worth noting is a significant gap between the success rate of university hospitals in Brussels and that of university hospitals across Belgium as a whole: the success rate for Brussels was 27%, compared to 17% for Belgium.

The success rate achieved by most other major categories of Brussels-based applicants (large enterprises, SMEs, non-profit organisations, universities) falls within a narrow range clustered around the average (between 19% and 23%). These organisation categories have a relatively similar success rate in Brussels and in Belgium, with the exception of large enterprises in Belgium as a whole, which enjoy a slightly higher rate than enterprises of the same size based in Brussels. Furthermore, higher education establishments stand out due to their relatively low success rate, both in Brussels and across Belgium as a whole (10-12%).

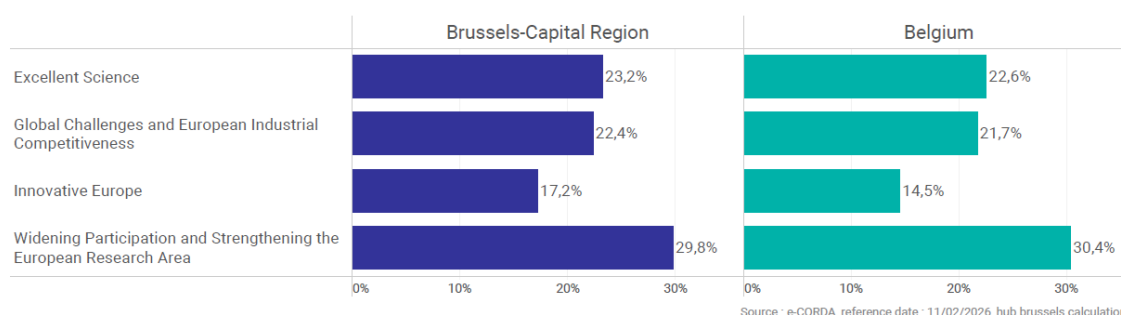
Figure 9. Success rate by type of actor, Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



Success rate for each pillar and theme

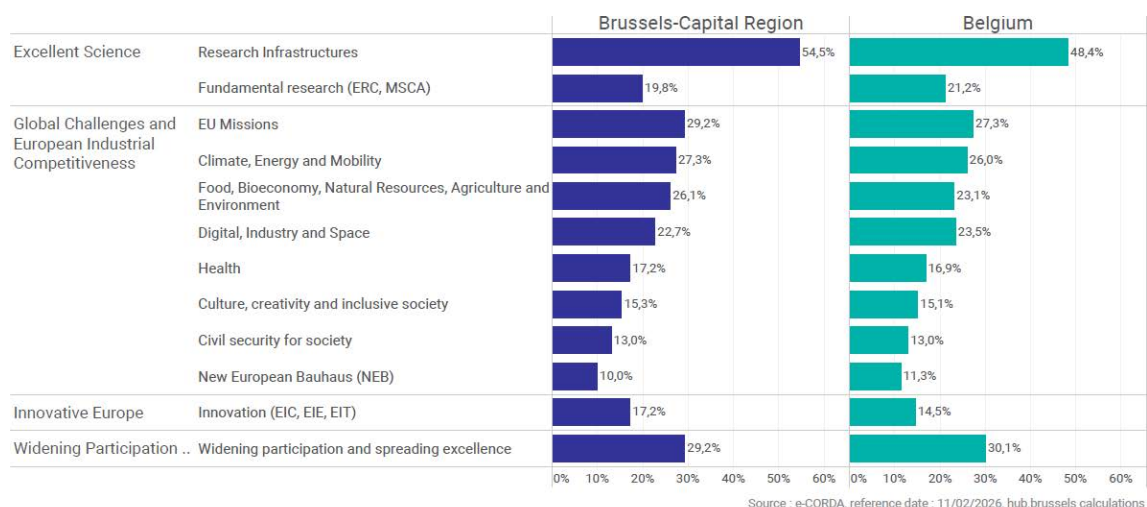
The pillar that recorded the lowest average success rate is "Innovative Europe": 17% of proposals for this pillar involving Brussels-based organisations and 15% involving organisations from Belgium as a whole were approved by the Commission, compared to a success rate of 22 to 23% for Brussels-based and Belgian proposals for the other main pillars: "Global Challenges and Industrial Competitiveness" and "Excellent Science". "Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area", which accounts for hundreds of proposals, achieved a success rate that is higher than average, both in Brussels and in Belgium as a whole (30%).

Figure 10. Success rate of proposals for each pillar (%), Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



The Research Infrastructures theme under the Excellent Science pillar recorded the highest success rates, at 55% for Brussels-based proposals and 48% for Belgian proposals. Brussels-based proposals also achieved above-average success rates under EU Missions (29%), Climate, Energy and Mobility (27%), and Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment (26%). Within Pillar II, Digital, Industry and Space matched the regional average, with a success rate of 23%, while the other themes recorded lower success rates, ranging from 10% to 17%. These included Health; Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society; Civil Security for Society; and the New European Bauhaus (NEB), which supports the green transition of the built environment.

Figure 11. Success rate for each theme, Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



Success Story



Coordinated by the Brussels-based organisation Ecolise, the SOILSTICE project (2026-2029), funded under the EU Mission "A Soil Deal for Europe", brings together public authorities, citizens and land managers to promote participatory soil management across Europe. The project involves several Brussels-based partners, including the municipalities of Saint-Gilles and the City of Brussels, Brussels Environment and REVOLVE PLANET. Together, they secured approximately €1.68 million in funding.

Brussels-based applicants and beneficiaries

Key concept

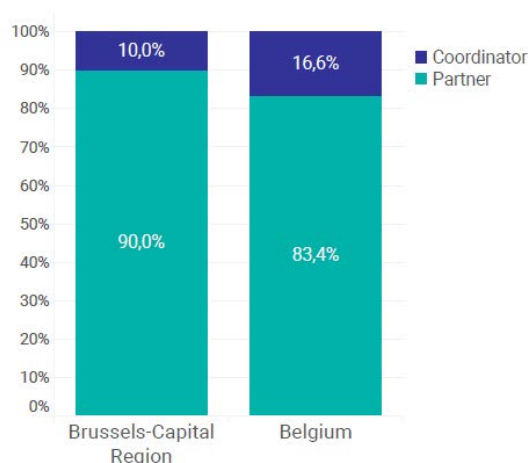


An **applicant** is a legal entity that has submitted a project proposal in response to a call for proposals.

Role played by the applicants

Brussels-based organisations predominantly participated as **partners** rather than coordinators. Partners accounted for **90%** of applications from Brussels-based applicants, compared to 83% of applications from Belgian organisations overall and 81% of applications from across the EU.

Figure 12. Breakdown of applications by the role played by the applicant, Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



Source : e-CORDA, reference date : 11/02/2026, hub.brussels calculations

Number and percentage of Brussels-based applicants

In total, 3,614 Belgian organisations⁹, of which **1,540** were Brussels-based, have submitted one or more requests for funding since the Horizon Europe Framework Programme was first launched. In Belgium, **86%** of the applicants were located in the **Brussels Capital Region** or in the **Flemish Region** (43% respectively) whereas nearly 14% were located in the Walloon Region.

After excluding international organisations, the Flemish Region accounts for just over half of Belgian applicants (55%). Although the share represented by the Brussels Capital Region is reduced by 16% in this scenario, it still accounts for 27% of Belgian applicants, compared to the figure of 18% for applicants based in the Walloon Region.

With regard to the number of applications submitted by Brussels-based organisations, just under **61%** of them submitted **at least two requests for funding**, 29% submitted 2 to 4 requests, 13% submitted 5 to 9, 17% submitted 10 to 49 and 2% submitted at least 50 requests.

Relatively speaking, a larger number of Brussels-based organisations submitted more than 10 applications: 17% of Brussels applicants fell into this category, compared with 11% of applicants across Belgium as a whole.

⁹ Sirris and Centexbel are only counted once at the Belgian level. Regionally, they are counted in each of the regions in which they have research activities (see methodology).

Figure 13. Breakdown of applicants by region (%)

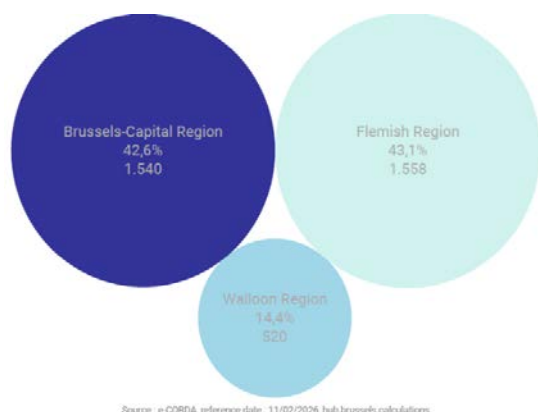
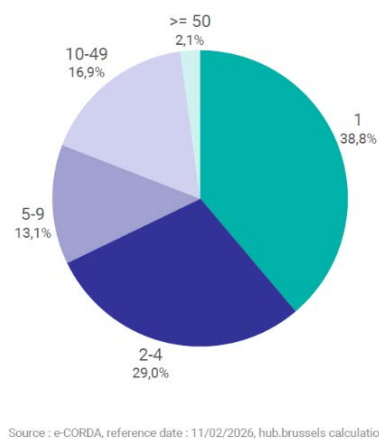


Figure 14. Breakdown of applicants by number of applications (%), Brussels-Capital Region



Number and percentage of Brussels-based beneficiaries

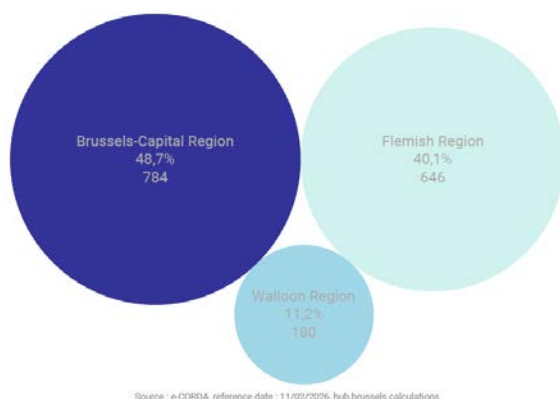
Key concept



A **beneficiary** is a legal entity carrying out an action or part of an action relating to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. It has rights and obligations with regard to the EU or another funding body, based on the rules for participation in Horizon Europe.

Overall, **784** of the 1,607 Belgian beneficiaries of the programme were **Brussels-based** organisations, accounting for **49% of all beneficiaries** in Belgium. After international organisations are excluded, the number of Brussels-based beneficiaries falls to 307, representing 28% of Belgian beneficiaries other than international organisations.

Figure 15. Breakdown of beneficiaries by region (%)



Funding granted

Brussels-based organisations secured 33% of the Horizon Europe funding awarded to Belgian entities and 2.3% of the programme's total funding (Table 1). For context, the Brussels Capital Region accounted for 13% of Belgium's gross domestic expenditure on R&D¹⁰. Based on regional R&D expenditure of €2.5 billion in 2023, the average annual Horizon Europe funding secured by Brussels-based organisations over the period analysed was equivalent to approximately 11% of the Region's annual gross domestic expenditure on R&D¹¹.

The average funding¹² awarded per Brussels-based participation (€420,386) was significantly lower than the corresponding averages for participations based in Flanders (€730,044) and Wallonia (€514,112). It was also slightly lower than the average across all Horizon Europe participations (€433,445¹³).

On average, the amount of funding¹⁴ awarded to Brussels-based organisations came to 80% of the total budget for projects, a percentage similar to the national average (80%) and to the average for the programme overall (79%).

¹⁰ BISA-Belspo, 2023.

¹¹ The average funding amount obtained by the BCR through Horizon Europe is approximately €285 million annually.

¹² The average funding amount per participation is obtained by dividing the total amount of funding obtained by the number of participations in the programme.

¹³ hub.brussels calculations

¹⁴ Funding calculated based on the Net-EU Contribution.

Table 1. Total amounts of funding granted to Belgian beneficiaries (all categories of organisations, including IO), total budget of the participations, percentage of funding in relation to the total budget for the participations and number of participations

		BCR	FR	WR	Belgium	Horizon Europe
Funding	Total amount €	1,425,107,223	2,528,871,289	352,680,984	4,307,901,557	61,023,864,934
	Share/Belgium (%)	33.1%	58.7%	8.2%	100.0%	
	Share/Horizon Europe (%)	2.3%	4.1%	0.6%	7.1%	100%
	Average amount €	420,386	730,044	514,112	571,112	433,445
Budget	Total amount €	1,791,012,608	3,096,957,611	469,466,874	5,358,679,155	77,084,342,499
	Average amount €	528,322	894,041	684,354	710,417	547,521
F/B	Funding/Budget (%)	79.6%	81.7%	75.1%	80.4%	79.2%
Particip.	Participations	3,390	3,464	686	7,543	140,788
	Share/Belgium (%)	44.9%	45.9%	9.1%	100.0%	
	Share/Horizon Europe (%)	2.4%	2.5%	0.5%	5.4%	100%

After excluding international organisations that have a strong presence in the Brussels-Capital Region, the share of the Brussels Capital Region in the funding obtained by Belgium came to 18%, whereas Belgium's share of the overall funding from the EU is reduced from 7.1% to 5.1%. If international organisations are removed from these figures, the Brussels Capital Region still managed to secure 0.9% of the total amount of the Programme. Nevertheless, the share of European funding in the budget of Brussels-based actors decreased by a few percentage points to 74% as opposed to 80%, taking into account all Brussels-based actors participating in the Programme.

Table 2. Total amounts of funding granted to Belgian beneficiaries excluding International Organisations, total budget of the participations, percentage of funding in relation to the total budget for the participations and number of participations

		BCR	FR	WR	Belgium	Horizon Europe*
Funding	Total amount €	558,795,804	2,192,116,528	344,485,478	3,096,639,871	61,023,864,934
	Share/Belgium (%)	18.0%	70.8%	11.1%	100.0%	
	Share/Horizon Europe (%)	0.9%	3.6%	0.6%	5.1%	100%
	Average amount €	393,241	656,519	527,543	571,758	433,445
Budget	Total amount €	751,500,922	2,697,140,586	460,551,525	3,910,435,094	77,084,342,499
	Average amount €	528,854	807,769	705,286	722,015	547,521
F/B	Funding/Budget (%)	74.4%	81.3%	74.8%	79.2%	79.2%
Particip.	Participations	1,421	3,339	653	5,416	140,788
	Share/Belgium (%)	26.2%	61.7%	12.1%	100%	
	Share/Horizon Europe (%)	1.0%	2.4%	0.5%	3.8%	100%

*: including international organisations

The main Brussels-based participants

Table 3 presents the 50 main Brussels-based participants, based on the amount obtained under the contracts signed and projects completed.

The largest Brussels-based beneficiary of Horizon Europe is an international non-profit organisation under Belgian law that is active in the funding of research and innovation networks: the **European Cooperation in Science and Technology** (COST association) (€273 million).

Immediately after COST, the leading Brussels-based beneficiaries in terms of participations and funding received, were undoubtedly the universities **VUB** and **ULB**, which achieved funding totalling €189.2 million and 314 participations.

Established in the Brussels Capital Region, **28DIGITAL** is an international non-profit organisation founded at the initiative of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT). As one of the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities, it received €1.1 billion in funding and strategic support from the EIT over 15 years. Following the signature of a cooperation protocol, the EIT and 28DIGITAL have worked together to stimulate innovation in digital transformation across the European Union and beyond¹⁵ while contributing to the development and strengthening of innovation ecosystems¹⁶.

Among the companies, the participation of the SMEs AVESTA (Battery & Energy Engineering), WHITE RESEARCH SRL, INNOVATION IN RESEARCH & ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS, TIME.LEX, SEASCAPE BELGIUM, ZABALA BRUSSELS, SYNERGIST SERVICES and BEEODIVERSITY should also be noted.

Outside the top 50, but still with amounts exceeding €1 million, we should also highlight the following SMEs: VOXELSENSORS, INLECOM GROUP, AXILES BIONICS, ARCTIK SRL, RELIABILITY AND SAFETY TECHNICAL CENTER, ACUMENIST, EIT RAWMATERIALS CLC WEST, EVENFLOW, TECH TOUR EUROPE SA, TECHNOLIS CONSULTING GROUP BELGIUM, WATT4EVER, INNOVATION SPRINT, STICKYDOT SRL, META SRL, MEETSIES SA, PRACIS, VEOWAR, OCTAVE, KEA EUROPEAN AFFAIRS, ECORYS BRUSSELS NV, BEINFLUENCE, MOVERIM SRL, CLERENS, EUROCORE CONSULTING, TIPIK COMMUNICATION AGENCY SA.

¹⁵ <https://28digital.eu/>

¹⁶ Thus, 28DIGITAL does not solely benefit from Horizon Europe funding for projects dedicated to Knowledge and Innovation Communities. The organisation is also a partner in several project consortia under Pillar II (Cluster 3 "Civil Security for Society" and Cluster 4 "Digital, Industry and Space"), and Pillar III (EIE – European Innovation Ecosystems). In addition, 28DIGITAL partners projects funded by the Digital Europe, Erasmus 2027 and Single Market Programmes.



Success Story

Beeodiversity, a Brussels-based SME specialising in biodiversity monitoring and restoration, has successfully secured Horizon Europe funding for three projects. Through BeeOimpact (2023-2025) and BeeOmetrics (2024-2027), the company is developing bee-based solutions to measure and monitor biodiversity. Supported first by the EIC Accelerator and later by EIC Transition, these projects secured a combined €4.2 million in funding. In 2026, Beeodiversity also joined the ECOPESIA project (2026-2031), receiving an additional €299,000 to support innovative approaches that strengthen ecosystem restoration and climate resilience in European agriculture.

Table 3. Name, number of participations and funding for the top 50 beneficiaries based on the amount obtained, contracts signed and projects completed, Brussels-Capital Region

Name	Number of participations	Funding
COST ASSOCIATION	3	273,000,000
VRIJE UNIVERSITEIT BRUSSEL	196	121,779,490
UNIVERSITE LIBRE DE BRUXELLES	118	67,379,001
28DIGITAL	31	52,102,897
AVESTA HOLDING	24	21,479,407
EUROPEAN ROAD TRANSPORT TELEMATICS IMPLEMENTATION COORDINATION ORGANISATION - INTELLIGENT TRANSPORT SYSTEMS & SERVICES EUROPE	37	18,485,124
HERCULESSTICHTING	22	18,454,700
EUROPEAN ORGANISATION FOR RESEARCH AND TREATMENT OF CANCER INPO	7	16,604,967
CENTRUM VOOR ONDERZOEK IN DIERGENEESKUNDE EN AGROCHEMIE - CODA	35	16,561,925
WHITE RESEARCH SRL	36	13,418,873
EUROCITIES NPO	16	13,313,142
THE LISBON COUNCIL FOR ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS NPO	25	11,509,343
FONDS DE LA RECHERCHE SCIENTIFIQUE- FNRS	27	10,919,633
EBRAINS	11	10,358,467
EUREKA NETWORK	3	10,300,563
ARCELORMITTAL BELGIUM NV	6	9,742,655
RETIREMENT SAVINGS VEHICLE FOR EUROPEAN RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS	3	8,348,627
POLIS	32	7,977,030
REVOLVE PLANET	21	7,845,000
INNOVATION IN RESEARCH & ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS	23	7,670,875
MARIE CURIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION	10	7,566,249

ALLIANCE FOR LOGISTICS INNOVATION THROUGH COLLABORATION IN EUROPE	23	7,222,155
TIMELEX	30	7,107,719
BRUSSELS RESEARCH AND INNOVATION CENTER FOR GREEN TECHNOLOGIES	5	6,982,438
UNION INTERNATIONALE DES TRANSPORTS PUBLICS	15	6,353,023
ROYAL BELGIAN INSTITUTE OF NATURAL SCIENCES	22	6,157,807
EUROPEAN NETWORK OF LIVING LABS IVZW	19	6,096,129
OPEN ACCESS IN THE EUROPEAN AREA THROUGH SCHOLARLY COMMUNICATION	10	5,918,107
EIGEN VERMOGEN VAN HET INSTITUUT VOOR NATUUR- EN BOSONDERZOEK	13	5,446,738
EUROPEAN FOOD INFORMATION COUNCIL	16	5,419,550
FEDERAL PUBLIC PLANNING SERVICE SCIENCE POLICY	13	5,406,217
EUROPEAN ASSOCIATION FOR INNOVATION IN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT	15	5,229,358
THE DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY INPO	10	5,115,194
SEASCAPE BELGIUM	12	5,103,629
GREENOVATE ! EUROPE	21	5,095,825
TOYOTA MOTOR EUROPE NV	21	5,057,414
INNOVIRIS	10	5,037,804
CENTRE D'ETUDES WALLON D'ASSEMBLAGE ET CONTROLE DES MATERIAUX NPO	6	5,029,445
CENTRE FOR EUROPEAN POLICY STUDIES	17	4,984,121
WATER EUROPE	26	4,956,044
ZABALA BRUSSELS	19	4,529,664
ORGANISATION OF EUROPEAN CANCER INSTITUTES	3	4,486,425
SYNERGIST SERVICES	2	4,433,606
EUROPEAN RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURE ON HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AGENTS	9	4,365,277
BEEODIVERSITY	2	4,232,043
EUROPEAN OPEN SCIENCE CLOUD ASSOCIATION INPO	3	4,145,563
EUROPEAN DIGITAL SME ALLIANCE	8	4,135,406
SOLVAY SA	4	4,014,112
ASSOCIATION HOSPITALIERE DE BRUXELLES-CENTRE HOSPITALIER UNIVERSITAIRE JULES BORDET	7	3,962,984
OPEN & AGILE SMART CITIES	9	3,862,250

Results for the BCR by type of actor

Applications and participations

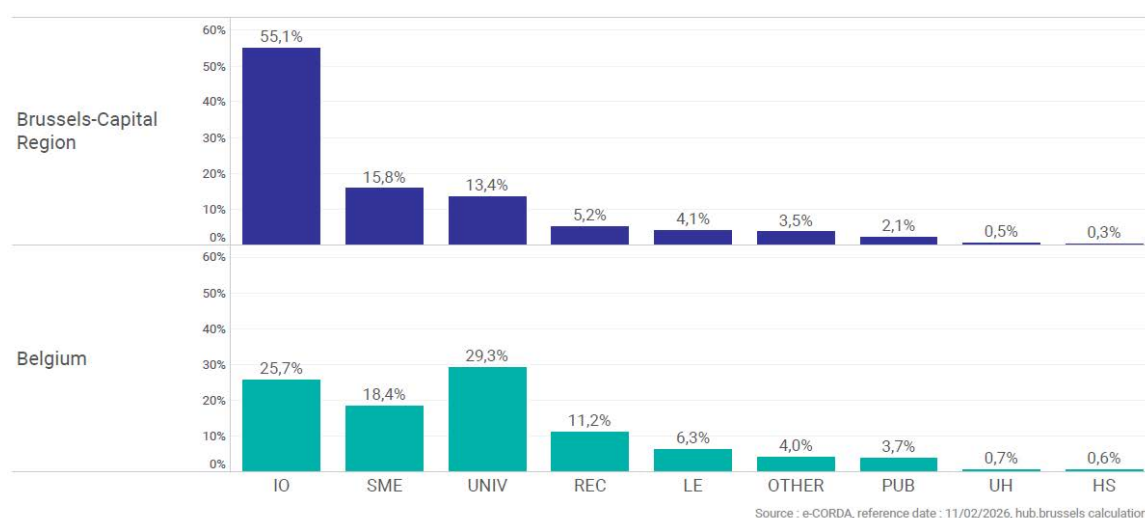
Applications

The breakdown of the applications submitted by each type of actor varies greatly from region to region. Although universities submitted the largest number of requests for funding for Belgium as a whole (29%), **international organisations** submitted the most requests within the Brussels Capital Region (55%). Having accounted for 16% of requests for funding from Brussels-based applicants, **SMEs rank second in terms of applications submitted**, followed by the **universities** (13%).

Furthermore, in terms of gross figures, since the launch of this programme, international organisations located in Brussels have submitted 7,519 requests, SMEs 2,151 and universities 1,832. The remaining categories rank well behind these three groups: research centres (711), large enterprises (564), associations (other) (483), the public sector (287), university hospitals (64) and higher education establishments (43).

Across Belgium as a whole, international organisations (26%) and SMEs (18%) appear in second and third place respectively.

Figure 16. Breakdown of applications by type of actor (%), Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



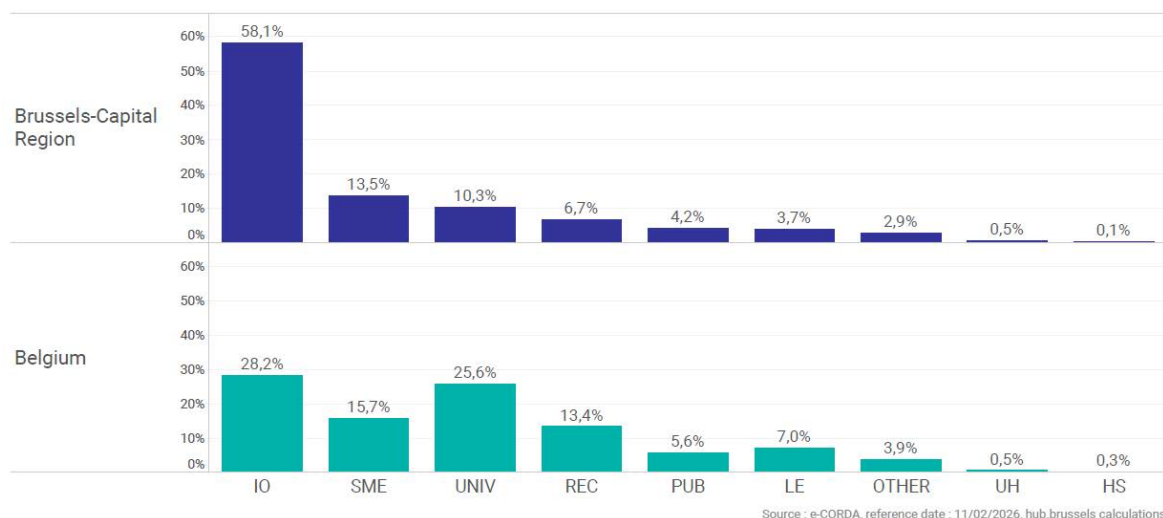
Brussels-based applicants accounted for 92% of all applications submitted by Belgian international organisations. They also accounted for 38% of applications from associations (other), 37% from SMEs, 30% from university hospitals and 28% from large enterprises.

Participations

Over half of the funded participations involving Brussels-based beneficiaries originated from **international organisations** (58%). **SMEs** formed the second-largest group, with a 14% share of all participations, whilst universities (10%) and research centres (7%) occupy the next-highest positions among Brussels-based organisations that received funding. Public bodies rank slightly ahead of large enterprises, accounting for 4% of participations.

In terms of gross participation figures, Brussels recorded 1,969 participations involving international organisations, 459 involving SMEs, 348 involving universities, 226 involving research centres, 141 involving public bodies, 127 involving large enterprises, 98 involving associations (other), 17 involving university hospitals and 5 involving higher education establishments.

Figure 17. Breakdown of participations by type of actor (%), Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



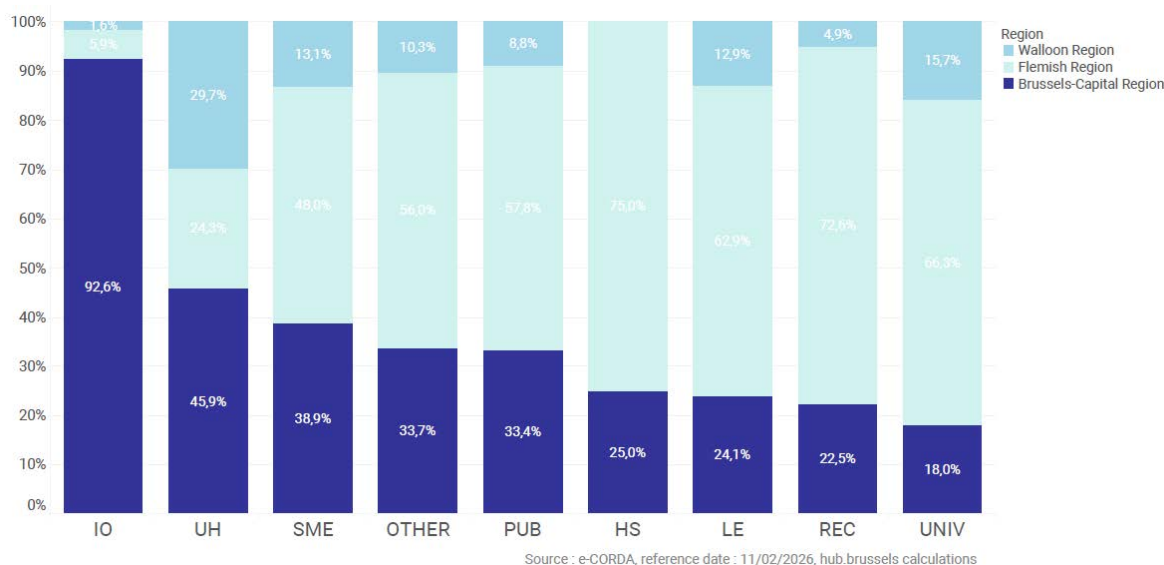
Success Story



Coordinated by EUROCITIES, the SUN4Ukraine (Sustainable Urban Net Zero Network for Ukraine) project (2024-2028) supports Ukrainian cities in aligning their reconstruction strategies with the EU Mission "100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities". Through capacity building, technical assistance, city-to-city cooperation and multi-level governance, the project helps participating cities integrate climate neutrality objectives into their long-term development plans. EUROCITIES and two other Brussels-based organisations, the Council of European Municipalities and Regions and The Democratic Society, secured €1.8 million in Horizon Europe funding within a project with a total budget of almost €5 million.

The presence of many international organisations in Brussels is once again reflected in the participations in the Horizon Europe Framework Programme: almost all (93%) of the requests submitted by Belgian international organisations that obtained funding from the European Commission were from those in the Brussels-Capital Region. It should be noted that university hospitals and SMEs based in Brussels account for a significant number of participations, as they account for 46% and 39% in their respective categories. Associations (other) and public sector organisations located in Brussels are also relatively well represented, as they account for 33% to 34% of Belgian participations.

Figure 18. Regional share of participations, by type of actor (%)



Applicants and beneficiaries

Applicants

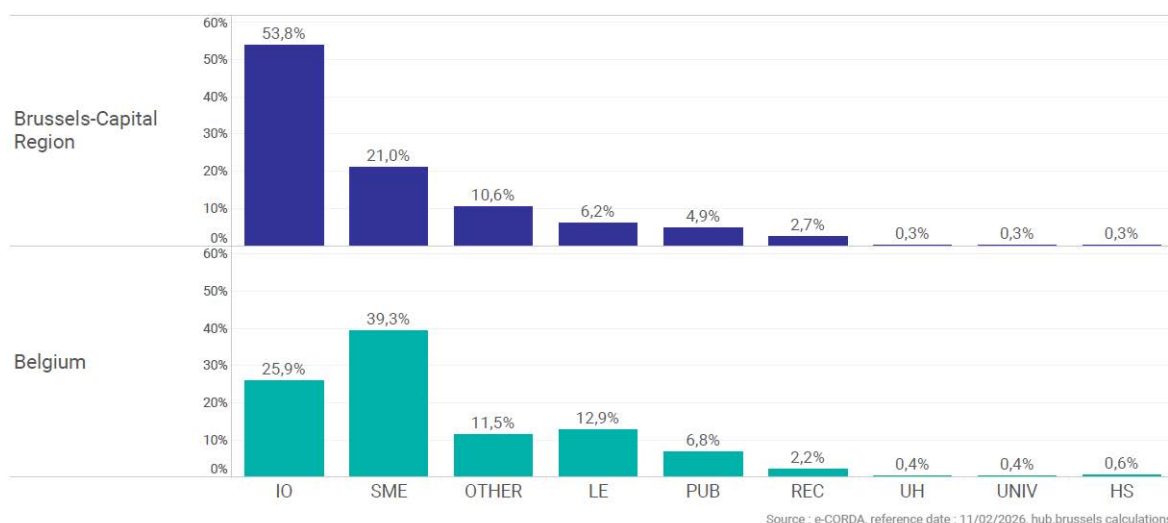
Although **international organisations** account for over half (54%) of all applicants in the Brussels-Capital Region, SMEs are the leading type of organisation among applicants from Belgium as a whole, having recorded a 39% share. In Brussels, just over 1 in 5 of all applicants is an **SME** and 1 in 16 is a large enterprise. Finally, 1 in 10 applicants is in the "associations (other)" category, which mainly includes non-profit associations.

Success Story



The Brussels-based SME **VoxelSensors** develops advanced sensing technologies for augmented reality applications. Through its SPAES project (2025-2027), the company is bringing a breakthrough 3D imaging solution to market. Selected among 71 companies out of 804 applicants, VoxelSensors secured €2.5 million in EIC Accelerator funding to accelerate the commercial deployment of its technology.

Figure 19. Breakdown of applicants by type of actor (%), Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



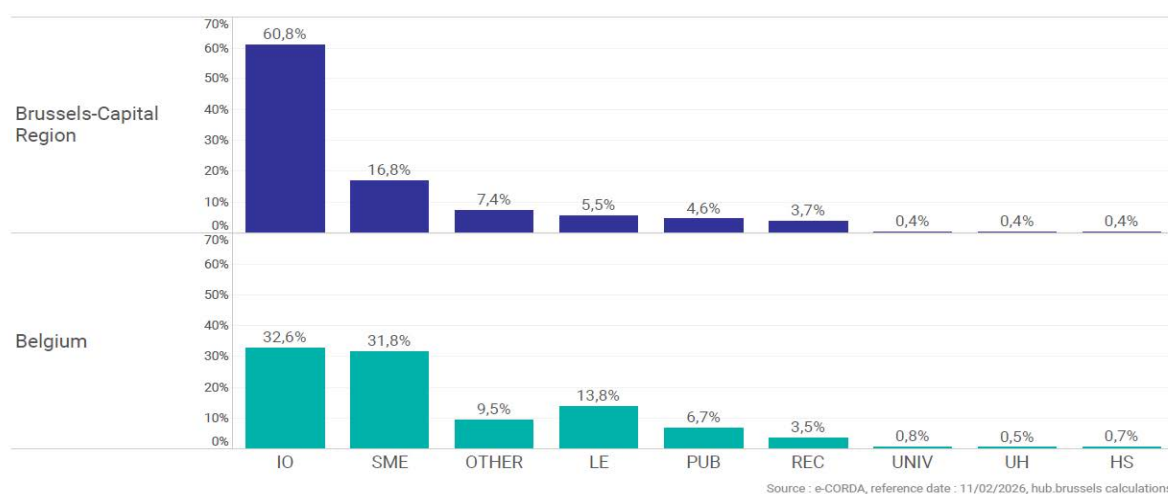
As a percentage of all Belgian applicants, the Brussels Capital Region accounts for a very large majority of the total figure for international organisations (89%), 48% of research centres, 39% of associations (other) and university hospitals, 31% of public-sector organisations, 29% of universities, 23% of SMEs, 22% of higher education establishments and 20% of large enterprises.

Beneficiaries

International organisations accounted for the largest share of Brussels-based beneficiaries (61%), followed by **SMEs** (17%), associations (other) (7%), large enterprises (6%), public bodies (5%) and research centres (4%). Universities, university hospitals and higher education establishments each accounted for less than 1%.

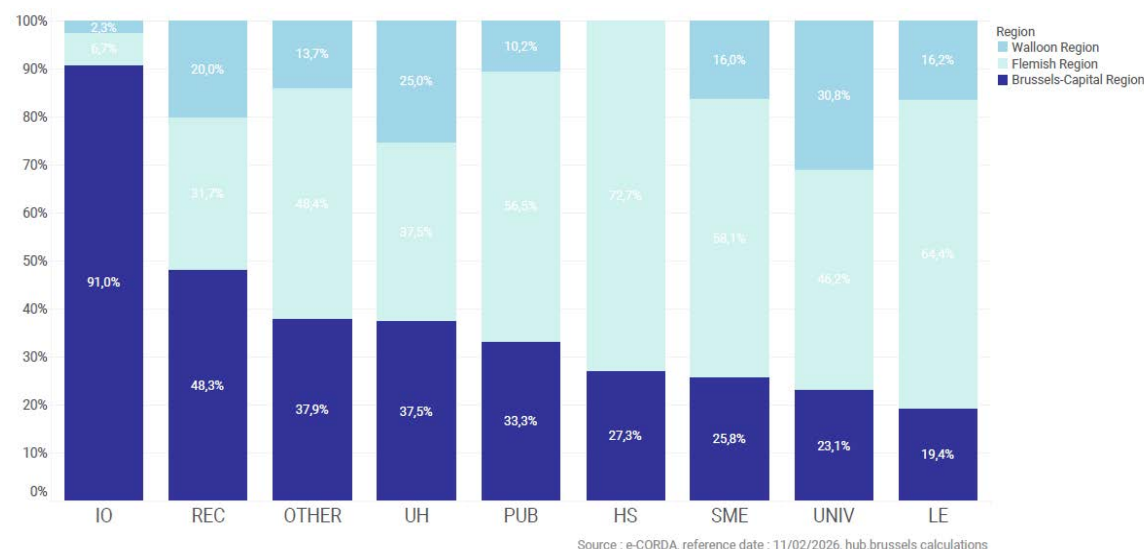
Across Belgium as a whole, SMEs accounted for the largest share of beneficiaries (33%), closely followed by international organisations (32%). Large enterprises ranked third, accounting for 14% of Horizon Europe beneficiaries.

Figure 20. Breakdown of beneficiaries by type of actor (%), Brussels Capital Region and Belgium



Brussels-based beneficiaries accounted for 91% of all Belgian beneficiaries categorised as international organisations. They also represented 48% of beneficiaries categorised as research centres, 38% of those categorised as associations (other) and university hospitals, 33% of public-sector beneficiaries, 27% of beneficiaries among higher education establishments, 26% of SME beneficiaries, 23% of university beneficiaries and 19% of large-enterprise beneficiaries.

Figure 21. Regional share of beneficiaries by type of actor (%)



Funding granted

Of the €1.425 billion allocated to Brussels-based research or innovation projects, **international organisations** received €762 million, i.e. 61% of the total amount. **Universities** appear in **second place** with a share of 14% (€205 million), followed by SMEs (€159 million) and **research centres** (€102 million) with a share of 11% and 7% respectively. Large enterprises (€37.5 million), associations (other) (€26.3 million) and the public sector (€21 million) obtained between just over 1% and almost 3% of European funding granted to Brussels-based beneficiaries.

SMEs also managed to secure 81% (73% in Belgium as a whole) of the funding awarded to the private sector in the Brussels-Capital Region, which encompasses SMEs and large enterprises based in Brussels.

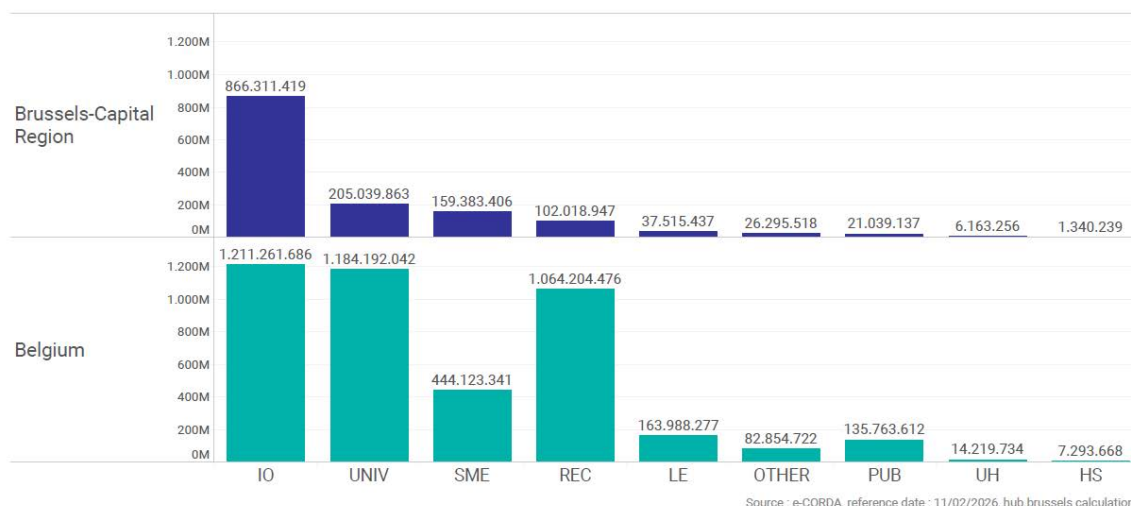
For Belgium as a whole, international organisations (28%), universities (28%) and research centres (25%) occupy the top three positions, having accounted for 80% of financial contributions.



Success Story

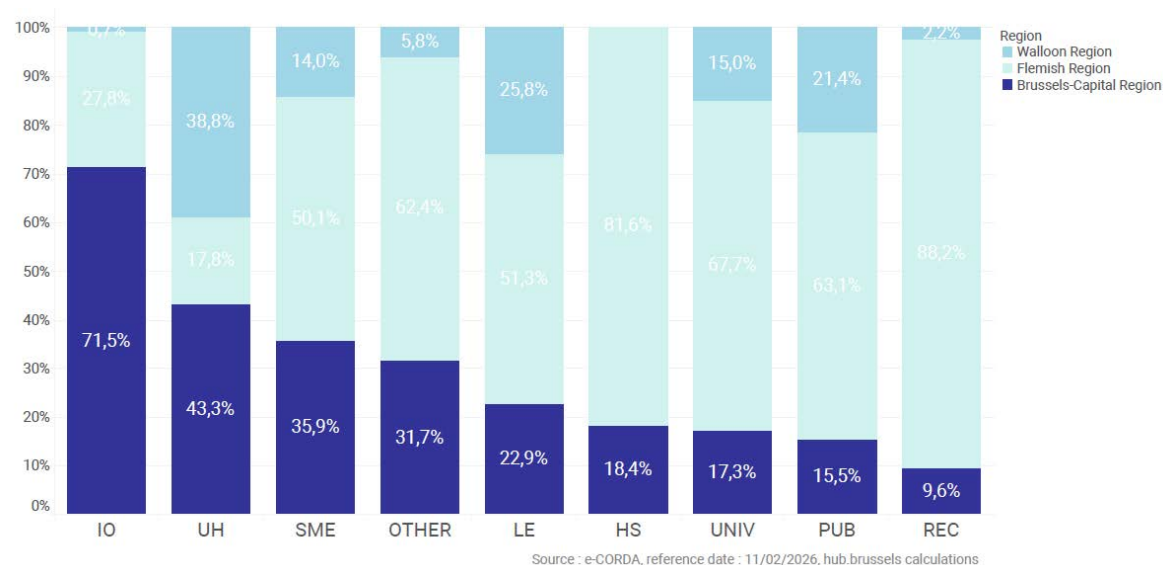
A supplier of energy storage solutions using recycled batteries, the SME **Octave** benefited from support from the "EIC Accelerator" for the purpose of developing a new technology providing improved battery and energy management and, ultimately, an extended lifespan, enhanced monitoring and predictive maintenance. Through its participation in the IBEMS-SeliBat project (2022-2025), the Octave benefited from a grant of €1 million.

Figure 22. Amount of funding obtained by type of actor, Brussels Capital Region and Belgium (€)



It is important to highlight the relatively significant share obtained by the following categories of Brussels-based beneficiaries: 72% of funding was awarded to Belgium for international organisations, 43% for university hospitals, 36% for SMEs and 32% for associations (other).

Figure 23. Regional share of the amount of funding obtained, by type of actor (%)



Priority themes for the BCR and NCP Brussels targets

BCR priorities and NCP Brussels targets: applications and participations

Of the 13,654 **applications** submitted by Brussels-based applicants, **11,987** were included within the themes covered by the **mandate of NCP Brussels** (88%) and **11,417** concerned one of the **priority themes** for the Brussels Capital Region (84%), defined in accordance with the Regional Innovation Plan¹⁷ covering the period 2021-2027.

With regard to funded applications, the percentage of **participations** aligned with the targets of NCP Brussels totalled 90%, with 83% of the participations corresponding to the region's priority themes.

After excluding "Protection and security" within the theme "Civil security" and "Space" within the "Digital, Industry and Space" pillar, the applications and participations corresponding to priority themes account for 81% and 82% respectively of the totals for the region. Over 80% of the applications that received funding were research or innovation projects whose themes are included in the more limited list of priorities of the Brussels Capital Region.

Of the 2,151 requests for funding submitted by Brussels-based SMEs, 91% of them corresponded to the priority themes of the Brussels Capital Region. 459 applications from SMEs obtained funding, 86% of them involving projects in a field representing one of the Region's priorities.

Finally, of the 2,324 Brussels-based **projects** funded by the Horizon Europe programme, **1,877** (81%) relate to one of the Region's **priority themes**.

Table 4. Number of applications/participations in one of the themes covered by NCP Brussels, number of applications/participations within the priority themes of the BCR and percentage compared with the number of applications/participations in the BCR. Total, excluding IO and SMEs

	Applications			Participations		
	Total	Excluding IO	SME	Total	Excluding IO	SME
BCR	13,654	6,135	2,151	3,390	1,421	459
NCP Scope	11,987	4,905	2,060	3,041	1,165	442
NCP Scope (%)	88%	80%	96%	90%	82%	96%
BCR priorities, including "Cybersecurity"	11,047	4,460	1,907	2,764	1,033	388
BCR priorities, including "Cybersecurity" (%)	81%	73%	89%	82%	73%	85%
BCR priorities, including "Cybersecurity and Protection and security"	11,417	4,655	1,962	2,822	1,068	396
BCR priorities, including "Cybersecurity and Protection and security" (%)	84%	76%	91%	83%	75%	86%

* Including Cybersecurity

¹⁷ [Regional Innovation Plan of the Brussels-Capital Region](#)

BCR priorities: funding by theme

Not including fundamental research and since the programme originally began, the EU has granted €978.7 million to Brussels-based research or innovation projects that address priority themes for the Region. This corresponds to **69% of the amount granted to all Brussels-based participations**. With the exception of "Protection and civil security", the amount of funding obtained by Brussels-based organisations for projects corresponding to the Region's priority topics totalled €966.4 million.

"Climate, Energy and Mobility", "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment" and "Digital, Industry¹⁸" are the key themes and account for a total share of 55% of the funding granted to participations covering the priority themes of the Brussels Capital Region. Each of these different categories represents 15% to 23% of funding granted to projects addressing priority themes for Brussels.

Following the top three, "Innovation", "EU Missions" and "Health" are neck and neck, with an 11% share in the priority themes for the Region. "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society" also stands out, having achieved its relatively high share of 7.5%.

In contrast, the themes "New Bauhaus", "EU Missions", "Research Infrastructures", "Civil security" and "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society" obtained the highest level of funding: under those particular themes, between just under 90% and 100% of the planned budget has been funded by the European Commission. On average, the participations that received funding and were included within the priority themes for the Region obtained a slightly lower rate of funding than the rate observed in the case of Brussels-based participations as a whole (73% compared to 80%).

Table 5. Funding amounts and percentages attributed to BCR beneficiaries and budgets for projects involving BCR beneficiaries for the Region's priority themes

	Funding (€)	Budget (€)	Funding/Budget (%)	Funding (% Priorities)	Funding (% Total)	Budget (% Priorities)	Budget (% Total)
Climate, Energy and Mobility	225,424,659	356,528,972	63.2%	23.0%	15.8%	26.7%	19.9%
Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment	160,623,377	217,396,036	73.9%	16.4%	11.3%	16.3%	12.1%
Digital, Industry and Space – excluding "Space"	148,207,014	200,196,080	74.0%	15.1%	10.4%	15.0%	11.2%
EU Missions	106,933,838	110,016,414	97.2%	10.9%	7.5%	8.2%	6.1%
Innovation	106,248,700	152,502,873	69.7%	10.9%	7.5%	11.4%	8.5%
Health	105,685,880	162,733,479	64.9%	10.8%	7.4%	12.2%	9.1%
Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society	73,384,774	82,127,630	89.4%	7.5%	5.1%	6.1%	4.6%
Research Infrastructures	34,991,097	37,202,611	94.1%	3.6%	2.5%	2.8%	2.1%
Civil Security – "Cybersecurity"	3,840,188	4,075,313	94.2%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%	0.2%

¹⁸ Participations relating to Space have not been selected as priority themes.

New Bauhaus (NEB)	1,039,304	1,039,304	100.0%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%
Sub-total – BCR Priorities *	966,378,831	1,323,818,711	73.0%	98.7%	67.8%	99.0%	73.9%
Civil Security – "Protection and security"	12,329,035	12,855,482	95.9%	1.3%	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%
Total – BCR Priorities	978,707,867	1,336,674,193	73.2%	100.0%	68.7%	100.0%	74.6%
Overall total	1,425,107,223	1,791,012,608	79.6%		100.0%		100.0%

* excluding "Civil Security – Protection and security" and "Space"

Appendix 1 - Methodology and glossary

Methodology

Important note



The results provided in this report have been established based on a data processing methodology that refines the data extracted directly from the European Commission's database. Consequently, some figures, such as the success rate of proposals submitted, may differ slightly from those published by the European Commission.

The data analysed in this report are taken from the European Commission's e-CORDA (External Common Research Data Warehouse) database, with access restricted to the Programme governance level. They cover all calls for proposals completed since the launch of the Horizon Europe programme. They do not cover the "DUT" and "Eurostars" calls for co-funded partnerships, which are not directly managed by the European Commission. Although they were extracted on 03/06/2026, the reference date for the data is 11/02/2026 (which was the date of the most recent update by the European Commission as at 03/06/2026).

Only the eligible applications and proposals with an output status of "Principal", "Reserve", "No money" or "Rejected" were considered for this report. Data that had no output status or a status of "Inadmissible", "Withdrawn" or "Ineligible" were removed¹⁹.

All participations in the programme as well as the projects funded were selected for this analysis, with the exception of participations that appeared in duplicate in the database²⁰.

The methodology used to process the data relating to the Horizon Europe programme was largely inspired by the methodology developed by hub.brussels as part of the data analysis for the 7th and 8th Framework Programmes, FP7 and H2020.

In this regard, it should be noted that:

- The data relating to applications are self-reported by the applicants and are not verified by the European Commission;
- The size of the enterprises is only verified by the Commission in certain cases (e.g.: for the beneficiaries of the EIC).

The processing of the data consists of:

- Searching for Belgian applicants whose location has been provided incorrectly and eliminating foreign applicants attributed to Belgium;
- Eliminating any duplicates;
- Grouping the same entities under a single identification code (PIC - Participant Identification Code);

¹⁹ Of all the 694,906 submissions, 2,016 did not have an output status, 1,248 were marked as "Withdrawn", 2,634 were deemed inadmissible and 8,316 ineligible. The initial database used in this report then had 680,656 applications deemed relevant, before including the participations that did not appear in the applications.

²⁰ Duplicate participations deleted as part of this analysis showed a partner removal status of "Finished".

- Ensuring consistency between the file relating to the participations funded and the file relating to the applications. From that point onwards, a participation will therefore be included in the applications if it does not appear in the applications file;
- Attributing a type of organisation as per the nomenclature developed (refer to the glossary);
- Searching for applications/participations and proposals/projects that are in line with Brussels' priorities and the targets of NCP Brussels;
- Assigning a region to Belgian legal entities. Whether this is the Walloon Region, the Brussels Capital Region or the Flemish Region is determined based on the location of the legal entity that submitted the proposal (postcode). The exceptions to this rule are:
 - o Sirris (the collective centre of the technological industry) and Centexbel (the scientific and technical centre of the Belgian textile industry): every application and participation has been allocated to the BRC, the Walloon Region or the Flemish Region respectively, depending on the location of the lead researcher, which in turn depends on the location of the research department listed in e-CORDA. Where the location was not clear (reference made to several departments or to no department at all), the region is considered as "Undetermined";
 - o Université Catholique de Louvain (UCL): all the participations are allocated to the Walloon Region, even participations by research centres located in the Brussels Capital Region (e.g. health at Woluwe Saint Lambert);
 - o Université libre de Bruxelles (ULB): all the participations are allocated to the Brussels Capital Region, even those of research centres located in the Walloon Region (e.g. Biopark in the Walloon Region);
 - o The Flemish and Walloon public institutions located in Brussels are allocated to the Flemish Region and Walloon Region respectively.

The analysis presented in this report primarily focuses on the results for the Brussels-Capital Region. The online Horizon Europe publication on the [analytics.brussels](#) data visualisation platform nevertheless provides more detailed statistics by region.

In this statistical report, specific analyses have been performed for:

- **The themes covered by the NCP Brussels mandate.** These correspond to the official NCP appointments of their advisors who, together, deal with 14 of the 19 functions of the common structure of the NCP systems under Horizon Europe. These are:
 - o NCP Coordinator, Legal and Financial aspects;
 - o in Pillar I, Research Infrastructures;
 - o in Pillar II, the six clusters, including associated partnerships: (1) Health, (2) Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society, (3) Civil Security for Society, (4) Digital, Industry and Space, (5) Climate, Energy and Mobility (6) Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment, as well as EU Missions and the New European Bauhaus;
 - o in Pillar III, the European Innovation Council (EIC) and European Innovation Ecosystems and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT);
 - o and in the horizontal pillar, Widening Participation and ERA.

The following five NCP functions are not covered by NCP Brussels: European Research Council (ERC), Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Fission, Fusion and Joint Research Centre;

- **The priorities and strategic innovation areas of the Brussels Capital Region²¹** as defined in the Regional Innovation Plan, not including fundamental research; these are closely linked to the sectoral themes of Horizon Europe (i.e. the large clusters of Pillar II) and to innovation with a focus on SMEs.

Glossary

The terminology used in this report is consistent with the key concepts used by the European Commission in its published report of statistics relating to the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. The official terms have also been used when referring to the structure and themes of this programme.

Key concepts

Table 6. Acronym, name and definition of key concepts, as defined by the EC

Acronym/Name	Full name/EC name	Definition/Comment
Beneficiary	"Beneficiary" as defined by the EC	A legal entity carrying out an action or part of an action under Regulation (EU) 2021/695 [Horizon Europe] and having rights and obligations with regard to the Union or another funding body based on the rules for participation in Horizon Europe (Regulation 2021/695).
Legal entity	"Legal entity" as defined by the EC	A natural person, or a legal person recognised as such under Union, national or international law, which has legal personality and can act in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations.
Budget	"Total Costs" as defined by the EC	The amount invested in the project, either in total or per participating organisation. It includes the EU's contribution and other project costs not covered by the EU funding. It is expressed in euros.
EC	European Commission	
Funding	"Net-EU-Contribution" as defined by the EC	The sum received by the participant (project beneficiary), with a deduction of the EU's contribution to an entity affiliated with this beneficiary.

²¹ A cross-cutting strategic innovation area, "Advanced Digital Technologies & Services" and 5 thematic SIAs "Climate: Resilient Buildings & Infrastructures"; "Optimal Use of Resources"; "Efficient and Sustainable Urban Flows for Inclusive Urban Space Management"; "Health & Personalised and Integrated Care"; "Social Innovation, Public Innovation and Social Inclusion".

		A project net contribution amount is equal to the grant amount.
FP7		The European Union's 7 th Framework Programme for funding research
H2020	Horizon 2020	The EU's 8 th Framework Programme for funding Research and Innovation for the period 2014 to 2020
Horizon Europe		The EU's 9 th Framework Programme for funding Research and Innovation for the period 2021 to 2027
NCP Brussels Scope		The set of themes covering the functions of the NCP Brussels system and for which advisors are officially appointed
Participation	"Participation" as defined by the EC	The participation of a legal entity in a project. The same participant can be involved in several projects.
NCP Brussels priority		The set of priority themes covered by NCP Brussels and aligned with the strategic priorities of the Brussels Capital Region as set out in the Regional Innovation Plan (RIP).
Project	"Project" as defined by the EC (e-CORDA)	A proposal for a research or innovation project that is selected to receive funding
Proposal	"Proposal" as defined by the EC (e-CORDA)	A proposal for a research or innovation project submitted by one or more applicants
BCR	Brussels-Capital Region	
FR	Flemish Region	
WR	Walloon Region	
Application	"Application" as defined by the EC	Participation of a legal entity in a proposal. The same applicant can submit several requests for funding under different proposals. The same proposal can include several organisations and, consequently, several requests for funding.
Applicant	"Applicant" as defined by the EC	A legal entity submitting a project proposal in response to a call for proposals.

Success rate		The share of proposals selected to receive funding out of the total number of eligible proposals, expressed as a percentage (Proposals funded/Eligible proposals * 100).
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Types of actor

Table 7. Acronym, name and definition of types of actor

Acronym	Full name	Definition/comment
HS	Higher Education Establishment	Non-university higher education establishment
IO	International Organisation	In addition to intergovernmental organisations, international organisations include European or international associations and federations ²² , i.e. international non-profit associations, EEIGs and non-profit associations whose title and purpose incorporate a European/international dimension
LE	Large Enterprise	Large enterprise, as defined by the EC
OTHER	Other	A type of applicant other than a REC, LE, HS, UH, IO, SME, PUB or UNIV
PUB	Public Body	A public body is a legal entity established as a public body by national law or an international organisation
REC	Research Centre	A research organisation (not including universities) is a non-profit organisation whose primary objective is scientific or technological research. This aspect of the organisation must appear in the organisation's articles of association
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises	SME, as defined by the EC
UH	University Hospital	University Hospital
UNIV	University	University

Themes

The various themes cover the following actions and clusters:

- **"Fundamental Research"** covers the actions of the ERC (European Research Council) and MSCA, the Marie-Skłodowska Curie Actions of Horizon Europe – Pillar I;

²² This definition does not correspond to the definition used by the European Commission (EC). The latter is more restrictive and only includes intergovernmental organisations or specialised agencies set up by such organisations.

- **"Health"** corresponds to Cluster 1 of Horizon Europe – Pillar II;
- **"Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society"** corresponds to Cluster 2 of Horizon Europe – Pillar II;
- **"Civil Security for Society"** corresponds to Cluster 3 of Horizon Europe – Pillar II;
- **"Digital, Industry and Space"** corresponds to Cluster 4 of Horizon Europe – Pillar II;
- **"Climate, Energy and Mobility"** corresponds to Cluster 5 of Horizon Europe – Pillar II;
- **"Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment"** corresponds to Cluster 6 of Horizon Europe – Pillar II;
- **"Innovation" covers the EIC, EIT and EIE** (European Innovation Ecosystems) category of Horizon Europe – Pillar III;
- **"EU Missions"** theme covers the five key R&I missions of the EU. These are high-ambition, wide-scale initiatives, organised within Pillar II of Horizon Europe²³:
 - o Adaptation to climate change: help at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030;
 - o Cancer: work with the Europe's Beating Cancer plan to improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030 by means of prevention, cure and solutions to enable those affected by cancer to live longer and better;
 - o Restore our oceans and waters by 2030;
 - o 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030;
 - o A soil deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to deliver the transition towards healthy soils by 2030.

The EU's R&I Missions should enable the programme to achieve a transformative and systemic impact for society in support of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The theme also encompasses the actions of the NEB – New European Bauhaus. The New European Bauhaus (NEB) is a political and funding initiative for the green transition in the built environment. The initiative promotes solutions that are not only sustainable but also inclusive and attractive, while respecting the diversity of the places, traditions and cultures of Europe and beyond.

²³ See Appendix 2 for more detail

Appendix 2 – The pillars and components of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme

The pillars of the Framework Programme

Like Horizon 2020, the 8th Framework Programme for R&I, Horizon Europe's structure is based on 3 major pillars and a horizontal part:

- The **1st pillar** "Excellent Science" promotes scientific excellence: with the ERC (European Research Council), the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions which encourage the mobility of researchers and investment in world-class research infrastructures.
- The **2nd pillar** "Global Challenges and European industrial Competitiveness" supports R&I that addresses societal issues and strengthens the Union's technological and industrial capacities.

In this part, the R&I activities are implemented within and between "clusters"; each cluster contributing to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and many SDGs being supported by more than one cluster:

- o Cluster 1 "Health";
- o Cluster 2 "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society";
- o Cluster 3 "Civil Security for Society";
- o Cluster 4 "Digital, Industry and Space";
- o Cluster 5 "Climate, Energy and Mobility";
- o Cluster 6 "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment";

The social sciences and humanities are fully integrated across all clusters which individually and together incentivise interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy, cross-border and international cooperation.

Pillar II of the programme covers activities with a broad range of technology readiness levels (TRLs), including lower TRLs. It also covers non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC).

- The **3rd pillar** "Innovative Europe" fosters all forms of innovation, including non-technological innovation, primarily within SMEs including start-ups, by facilitating technological development, demonstration and knowledge transfer, and strengthens deployment of innovative solutions. It supports market-creating innovation with the EIC, the European Innovation Council. It also helps to develop the European innovation landscape with the EIE (European Innovation Ecosystems) and the EIT (European Institute of Innovation and Technology), which is currently embedded within Horizon Europe in order to encourage the integration of business-research-teaching and entrepreneurship.
- **The horizontal part** "Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA (European Research Area)" supports access to excellence for researchers across Europe so as to enhance participation and collaboration, promote gender equality, open access

and open science, the integrity of R&I and ethics. It sets out to encourage an ERA in which researchers and scientific and technological knowledge can circulate freely.

The instruments and areas of intervention of the Framework Programme

Pillar I "Excellent Science"

This pillar aims to promote scientific excellence, to attract the best talent to Europe, to provide appropriate support to early-stage researchers, to support the creation and dissemination of scientific excellence, high-quality knowledge, methodologies and skills, technologies and solutions to global social, environmental and economic challenges and to contribute to the other specific objectives of the programme. Its different components have the following aims:

- **ERC – European Research Council:** to provide attractive and flexible funding to enable talented and creative individual researchers, with an emphasis on early-stage researchers, and their teams in order to pursue the most promising avenues at the frontiers of science, regardless of their nationality and country of origin and on the basis of Union-wide competition based solely on the criterion of excellence.

Area of intervention: frontier science.

- **MSCA – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions:** to equip researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and exposure across borders, sectors and disciplines, to enhance training and career development systems and to structure and improve institutional and national recruitment, taking into account the European Charter for Researchers and the Code of Conduct for the recruitment of researchers. In so doing, the MSCAs are helping to lay the foundations of an excellent European research landscape across the whole of Europe and are playing a part in boosting employment, growth, and investment, and solving current and future societal challenges.

Areas of intervention: nurturing excellence through the mobility of researchers across borders, sectors and disciplines; fostering new skills by providing researchers with excellent-quality training; strengthening human resources and skills development across the European Research Area (ERA); improving and facilitating synergies; promoting public outreach.

- **Research infrastructures:** to endow Europe with world-class sustainable research infrastructures that are open and accessible to the best researchers from Europe and beyond. To encourage the use of existing research infrastructures, including those financed from funds under Union Cohesion Policy. In so doing, to enhance the potential of the research infrastructure to support scientific progress and innovation and to enable open and excellent science in accordance with the FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable) principles, alongside activities relating to Union policies and international cooperation.

Areas of intervention: consolidating and developing the landscape of European research infrastructures; opening, integrating and interconnecting research infrastructures; supporting the innovation potential of European research infrastructures and activities for innovation and training; reinforcing European research infrastructure policy and international cooperation.

Pillar II "Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness"

This pillar supports the creation and more effective dissemination of new, high-quality knowledge, technologies and sustainable solutions, reinforces Europe's industrial competitiveness, strengthens the impact of R&I in developing, supporting and implementing Union policies, and supports the uptake of innovative solutions in industry, and in SMEs and start-ups in particular, as well as within society, in order to address global challenges. It also contributes towards the other specific objectives of the programme.

The Clusters

To maximise impact, flexibility and synergies, R&I activities are organised in six clusters, interconnected by means of pan-European research infrastructures, which individually and together incentivise interdisciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy, cross-border and international cooperation.

The social sciences and humanities are fully integrated across all clusters. Pillar II of the programme covers activities from a broad range of technology readiness levels (TRLs), including lower TRLs. Each cluster contributes towards several SDGs and many SDGs are supported by more than one cluster.

The R&I activities are implemented in and across the following six clusters. Their objectives are as follows:

- **Cluster 1 "Health"**: to improve and protect the health and well-being of citizens of all ages by generating new knowledge, developing innovative solutions, ensuring the integration, where relevant, of a gender perspective to prevent, diagnose, monitor, treat and cure diseases, and to develop health technologies; to mitigate health risks; to protect populations and promote good health and well-being, including in the workplace; to make public health systems more cost-effective, equitable and sustainable; to prevent and tackle poverty-related diseases; and to support and enable patients' participation and self-management.

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; tools, technologies and digital solutions for health and care, including personalised medicine; healthcare systems.

- **Cluster 2 "Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society"**: to strengthen democratic values, including the rule of law and fundamental rights; to safeguard our cultural heritage; to explore the potential of cultural and creative sectors, and to promote socio-economic transformations that contribute to inclusion and growth, including migration management and the integration of migrants.

Areas of intervention: democracy and governance; culture, cultural heritage and creativity; social and economic transformations.

- **Cluster 3 "Civil Security for Society"**: to respond to the challenges arising from persistent security threats, including cybercrime, as well as natural and man-made disasters.

Areas of intervention: disaster-resilient societies; protection and security; cybersecurity.

- **Cluster 4 "Digital, Industry and Space"**: to reinforce capacities and secure Europe's sovereignty in key enabling technologies for digitalisation and production, and in space technology, throughout the value chain, to build a competitive, digital, low-carbon and circular industry; to ensure a sustainable supply of raw materials; to develop advanced materials and to provide the basis for progress and innovation in global societal challenges.

Areas of intervention: manufacturing technologies; key digital technologies, including quantum technologies; emerging enabling technologies; advanced materials; artificial intelligence and robotics; next generation internet; advanced computing and Big Data; circular industries; low carbon and clean industries; space, including earth observation.

- **Cluster 5 "Climate, Energy and Mobility"**: to combat climate change by gaining a more effective understanding of its causes, evolution, risks, impacts and opportunities, by making the energy and transport sectors more climate- and eco-friendly, more efficient and competitive, smarter, safer and more resilient, by promoting the use of renewable energy sources and energy efficiency, and to improve the resilience of the Union to external shocks and by adapting social behaviour in view of the SDGs.

Areas of intervention: climate science and solutions; energy supply; energy systems and grids; buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition; communities and cities; industrial competitiveness in transport; clean, safe and accessible transport and mobility; smart mobility; energy storage.

- **Cluster 6 "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment"**: to protect the environment, to restore, and sustainably use and manage natural and biological resources from land, inland waters and sea to stop biodiversity erosion, to address food and nutrition security for all and the transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy and a sustainable bioeconomy.

Areas of intervention: environmental observation; biodiversity and natural resources; agriculture, forestry and rural areas; seas, oceans and inland waters; food systems; bio-based innovation systems in the Union's bioeconomy; circular systems.

- **Non-nuclear direct actions of the Joint Research Centre (JRC)**: to generate high-quality scientific evidence for sound, efficient and affordable public policies. To be drawn up in a rational way, new initiatives and proposals for Union legal acts must be based upon transparent, comprehensive and conclusive evidence, whereas the implementation of policies needs to rely on conclusive evidence in order to be measured and monitored. The JRC provides Union policies with independent scientific evidence and technical support throughout the policy cycle. The JRC focuses its research on the policy priorities of the Union.

Areas of intervention: strengthening the knowledge base for policy making; global challenges (health; culture, creativity and inclusive society; civil security for society; digital, industry and space; climate, energy and mobility; food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment); innovation, economic development, and competitiveness; scientific excellence; territorial development and support for Member States and regions.

EU Missions

EU Missions are a new way to bring practical solutions to some of our greatest challenges. They have ambitious goals and will deliver tangible results by 2030.

The five EU missions are:

- Adaptation to climate change: to help at least 150 European regions and communities to become climate resilient by 2030;
- Cancer: to work with the Europe's Beating Cancer plan to improve the lives of more than 3 million people by 2030, through prevention, cure and by providing solutions for those affected by cancer to live longer and better;
- To restore our oceans and waters by 2030;
- 100 climate-neutral and smart cities by 2030;
- A soil deal for Europe: 100 living labs and lighthouses to deliver the transition to healthy soils by 2030.

These missions set out a new role for research and innovation, combined with new forms of governance and collaboration, and with citizen engagement.

The EU Missions are a new feature of the Horizon Europe research and innovation programme for the 2021-2027 period.

They support Commission priorities, such as the European Green Deal, Europe fit for the Digital Age, Beating Cancer and the New European Bauhaus. For instance, Mission Climate is a tangible element of the new Climate Adaptation Strategy, Mission Cancer relates to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and Mission Soil is a flagship initiative of the Long-term Vision for the EU's Rural Areas.

EU Missions are a coordinated effort by the Commission designed to pool the necessary resources in terms of policies and regulations, as well as other activities. They also aim to mobilise public and private actors, such as EU Member States, regional and local authorities, research institutes, farmers and land managers, entrepreneurs and investors, in order to create real and lasting impact. The EU Missions engage with citizens to boost societal uptake of new solutions and approaches.

The EU Missions support Europe's transformation into a greener, healthier, more inclusive and resilient continent. They aim to bring tangible benefits to people in Europe and engage Europeans in their design, implementation and monitoring.

Each mission operates as a portfolio of actions – such as research projects, policy measures and even legislative initiatives – to achieve a measurable goal that could not be achieved by means of individual actions.

Pillar III "Innovative Europe"

Pillar III encourages all forms of innovation, primarily within SMEs and start-ups and including non-technological innovation, by facilitating technological development, demonstration and knowledge transfer, and strengthens the deployment of innovative solutions. It also contributes towards the other specific objectives of the programme. The EIC (European Innovation Council) is implemented primarily through two instruments, the Pathfinder, implemented mainly through collaborative research, and the Accelerator.

- **EIC – European Innovation Council:** focuses mainly on breakthrough and disruptive innovation, in particular targeting market-creating innovation, while also supporting all types of innovation, including incremental innovation.

Areas of intervention: Pathfinder for advanced research, supporting future and emerging breakthrough technologies, market-creating technologies and/or deep tech technologies; the Accelerator, bridging the funding gap between the late stages of R&I activities and market take-up, to effectively deploy breakthrough, market-creating innovation and scale-up companies where the market does not provide viable financing; additional EIC activities such as prizes and fellowships, and added-value services for businesses.

- **European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)**

Areas of intervention: activities consisting, in particular, of linking national and regional innovation actors together, where relevant in cooperation with the EIT, and supporting the implementation of joint cross-border innovation programmes by Member States, regions and associated countries, ranging from sharing good practice and knowledge on innovation regulation and enhancing soft skills for innovation to research and innovation activities, including open or user-led innovation, in order to boost the effectiveness of the European innovation system. This should be implemented in synergy with, among others, the ERDF support for innovation ecosystems and interregional partnerships around smart specialisation projects.

- **The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)**

Areas of intervention: sustainable innovation ecosystems across Europe; innovation and entrepreneurial skills within a lifelong learning perspective, including increasing capacities of higher education establishments across Europe; new solutions to market to address global challenges; synergies and value added within the programme.

"Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA (European Research Area)" part

While underpinning the entire programme, this part supports activities that help to attract talent, to encourage the mobilisation of talented individuals and to prevent brain drain, to create a more knowledge-based, innovative and gender-equal Europe at the forefront of global competition, and foster transnational cooperation and thereby optimise national strengths and potential across the whole of Europe in a high-performance ERA, in which knowledge and a highly skilled workforce circulate freely in a balanced manner, in which the results of R&I are widely disseminated to, understood and trusted by informed citizens and benefit society as a whole, and in which Union policy, and R&I policy in particular, is based on high-quality scientific evidence.

This part also supports activities aimed at improving the quality of proposals from legal entities from low R&I performing countries, for example by providing professional pre-proposal checks and advice, at boosting the activities of National Contact Points as a means of supporting international networking, and at activities aimed at helping legal entities from low R&I performing countries to join already selected collaborative projects in which legal entities from such countries are not participating.

Areas of intervention: widening participation and spreading excellence, including by means of training teams, twinning operations, ERA-Chairs, European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST), excellence initiatives and activities to foster the mobilisation of the best talents; reforming and enhancing the European R&I system, for example by supporting national R&I policy reform, providing attractive career prospects, and supporting citizen science that promotes equality between men and women.

