Increasing Digitalisation Awareness & Readiness of Swedish Communities

in collaboration with

RI.SE

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

PHASE 3: EMPOWERMENT

European Commission

serendipity Capgemini OASC OPEN & AGILE SMART CITIES & COMMUNITIES technopolis group imec embracing a better life EUROCITIES ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability EUROPE Deloitte.

Agenda for Training Session:

SWEDEN

Phase 1:
PLANNING

Planning Phase — How to Unlock the Potential of Digitalisation

- Climate Neutral and Smart Cities Mission cities' goals, resources & how cities can get involved.
- How to assess your Local and Regional Digital Maturity with LORDIMAS
- How to implement the EU methodology to define your own digitalisation roadmap.
- EU tailor-made procurement templates aligned with EU principles and standards

Phase 2:
PREPARATION

Preparation Phase — How to Set Up Your Roadmap Infrastructure

- Understand the importance of open and shareable data as the foundation of your data infrastructures.
- Learn how to implement open data platforms and data spaces through an open reference architecture supported by MIMs
- Discover the open-source tools available through the EU Local Digital Twin toolbox

Phase 3:
EMPOWERMENT

Empowerment Phase — How the Living-in.EU Community Supports You

- Discover the Living-in.EU learning community, how to make use of the resources developed for and by the community, and how to engage with their activities
- Discover funding opportunities at EU level and learn how to apply and prepare your proposal

European Commission

LIVING-IN.EU: THE GATEWAY TO KNOWLEDGE SHARING, CURATED RESOURCES AND SCALABLE SOLUTIONS

European Commission

WATCH VIDEO

CLICK HERE

EU FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPLEMENT YOUR DIGITAL STRATEGY

European Commission

EU Funding Opportunities to Boost your Digital Strategy

1. Understand the main EU initiatives supporting your digital journey.
2. Identify funding opportunities for your digital transformation.
3. Navigate the basic requirements for participation and the application process.
4. Assess co-funding investment needs
5. Additional resources

European Commission

EU Funding Opportunities to Boost your Digital Strategy

1

Understand the main EU initiatives supporting your digital journey.

European Commission

European supporting initiatives overview

1. Support Services and Tools:

- LORDIMAS: Digital Maturity Assessment Tool
- Online Procurement Helpdesk: Procurement Support
- EU Local Digital Twin Toolbox: Open Standard Solutions

2. Development of New Regulations:

- AI Act: Guidelines for AI Applications
- Interoperable Europe Act: Promoting Interoperability
- Data Governance Act: Effective Data Governance

3. Establishment of Ecosystems:

- Living-in.EU: Community Collaboration
- OASC: Interoperability mechanisms (MIMs)
- CitiVERSE EDIC: Deployment Facilitation
- European Data Space for Smart Communities: Data Sharing

4. Funding Opportunities:

- Horizon Europe: research and innovation projects to advance digital technologies and public services.
- Digital Europe Programme: Reinforcing Digital Capacities
- CEF: digital networks and infrastructure
- Other: Interreg, ITS...
- National and Local funding opportunities

EU Funding Opportunities to Boost your Digital Strategy

2

Identify funding opportunities for your digital transformation.

European Commission

EU's 2021-2027 long-term budget

Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)

The EU's 7-year budget

€1.211 trillion

€806.9 billion

NextGenerationEU

COVID-19 recovery package

Recovery and Resilience Facility

€723.8 billion

- **€338.0** billion grants
- **€385.8** billion loans

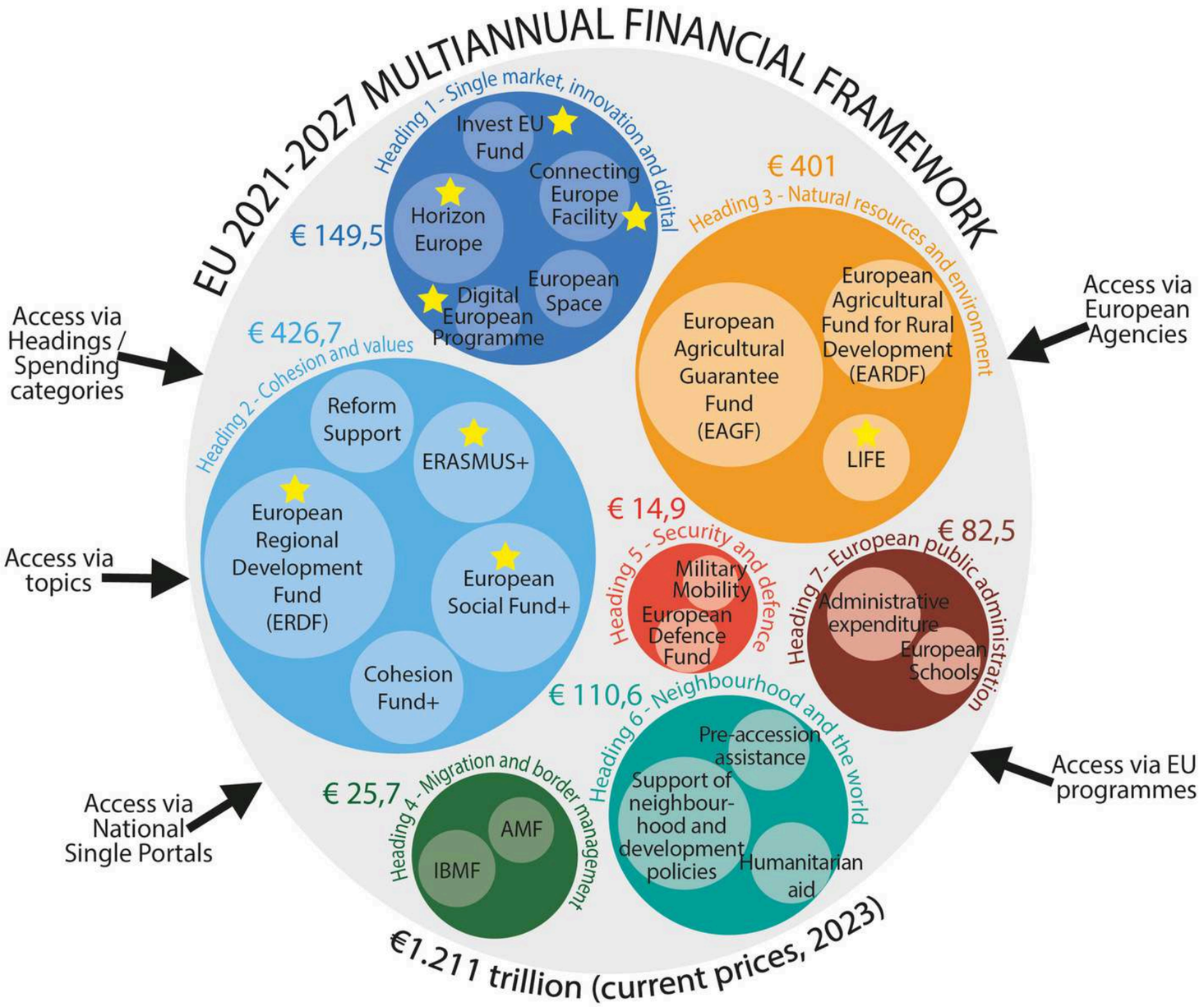
NextGenerationEU contribution to other programmes

EUR 83.1 billion

Note: All amounts are in current prices.

European Commission

EU's 2021-2027 long-term budget



European Commission

EU Digital Funding Opportunities

Each programme contributes uniquely to the digital transformation of public administrations, supporting EU objectives of sustainable growth, competitiveness, and cohesion.

Digital Europe Programme (DEP) supports the development of digital infrastructure/skills, focusing on public admin efficiency + accessibility.

Horizon Europe funds research and innovation projects to advance digital technologies and public services.

Interreg promotes regional cooperation to enhance digital connectivity and innovation in public services.

Technical Support Instrument (TSI) offers tailored technical support for designing/ implementing digital reforms in public admin.

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) improves digital networks and infrastructure, enhancing public administration services and connectivity.

The European Union (EU) supports the digital transformation of public administrations through various funding programmes. Here's an overview of how the funding works, who funds what, and who the stakeholders are for key programmes:

European Commission

More info:

Digital Europe

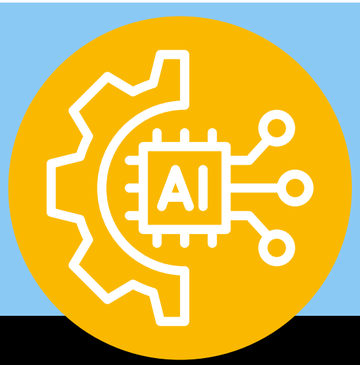
- **Funding Source**: The DEP is funded by the EU budget, with €7.6 billion allocated for 2021-2027.
- **Stakeholders**: Public administrations, industry, and research communities involved in digital transformation.
- **Objectives**: DEP aims to strengthen Europe’s digital capabilities by funding projects that develop digital infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity, and promote advanced digital skills. It supports public administrations in deploying AI, high-performance computing, and digital public services to improve efficiency and accessibility

Digital Europe Programme Overview

It will strengthen investments in supercomputing, artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, advanced digital skills, and ensuring a wide use of digital capacity across the economy and society.

Supercomputing

€ 2,2 Billion



Artificial Intelligence

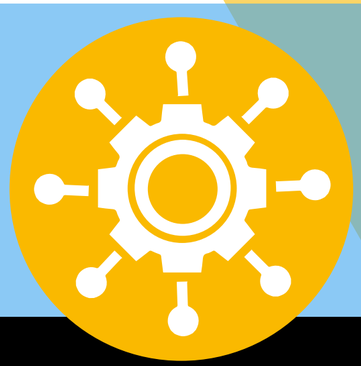
€ 2,1 Billion

Cybersecurity

€ 1,7 Billion

Advanced digital skills

€ 580 Million



Digital Capacity

€ 1,1 Billion

€7.5 BILLION OF FUNDING FOR 2021-2027

European Commission

Main Types of Actions

Simple Grants

Flexible type of action, for a variety of topics, can cover most activities and the partners will mostly use personnel costs

50% funding rate for all

SME Support Actions

Activities directly aiming at supporting SMEs involved in building up and the deployment of digital capacities.

75% funding rate for SMEs
50% funding rate for all other

Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)

A small type of action with the primary goal to promote cooperation and/or provide support to EU policies.

100% funding rate for all

European Commission

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

TOPIC OPPORTUNITY	DATES	AVAILABLE FUNDING
Data Spaces Support Centre	**Open 15.05.25 | Close 02.09.25**	10 M €
Digital solutions for regulatory compliance through data	**Open 15.05.25 | Close 02.09.25**	8 M €
Multi-Country project in Agri-Food	**Open 15.05.25 | Close 02.09.25**	15 M €
Apply AI: GenAI for public administration – grants for procurement	**Open 15.05.25 | Close 02.09.25**	21 M €
Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs with reinforced AI focus)	**Open 15.05.25 | Close 02.09.25**	181 M €

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

TOPIC OPPORTUNITY	DATES	AVAILABLE FUNDING
Sectoral digital skills academies	**Open 15.05.25 | Close 02.09.25**	27 M €
Network of Safer Internet Centres (SICs)	**Open 15.05.25 | Close 02.09.25**	42 M €
Data Space for Manufacturing (10 M €) Virtual worlds test beds (20 M €) Consolidation of the Network of European Digital Innovation Hubs (EDIHs) (80 M €) GovTech (4 M €) MCP on Innovative and Connected Public Administrations (6 M €) Digital solutions for regulatory compliance through data (10 M €)	**2026**	
Data Space for Tourism (8 M €) Data Space for Skills (4 M €) Testing genAI4EU application at scale and under realworld condition (10 M €)	**2027**	

European Commission

Horizon Europe

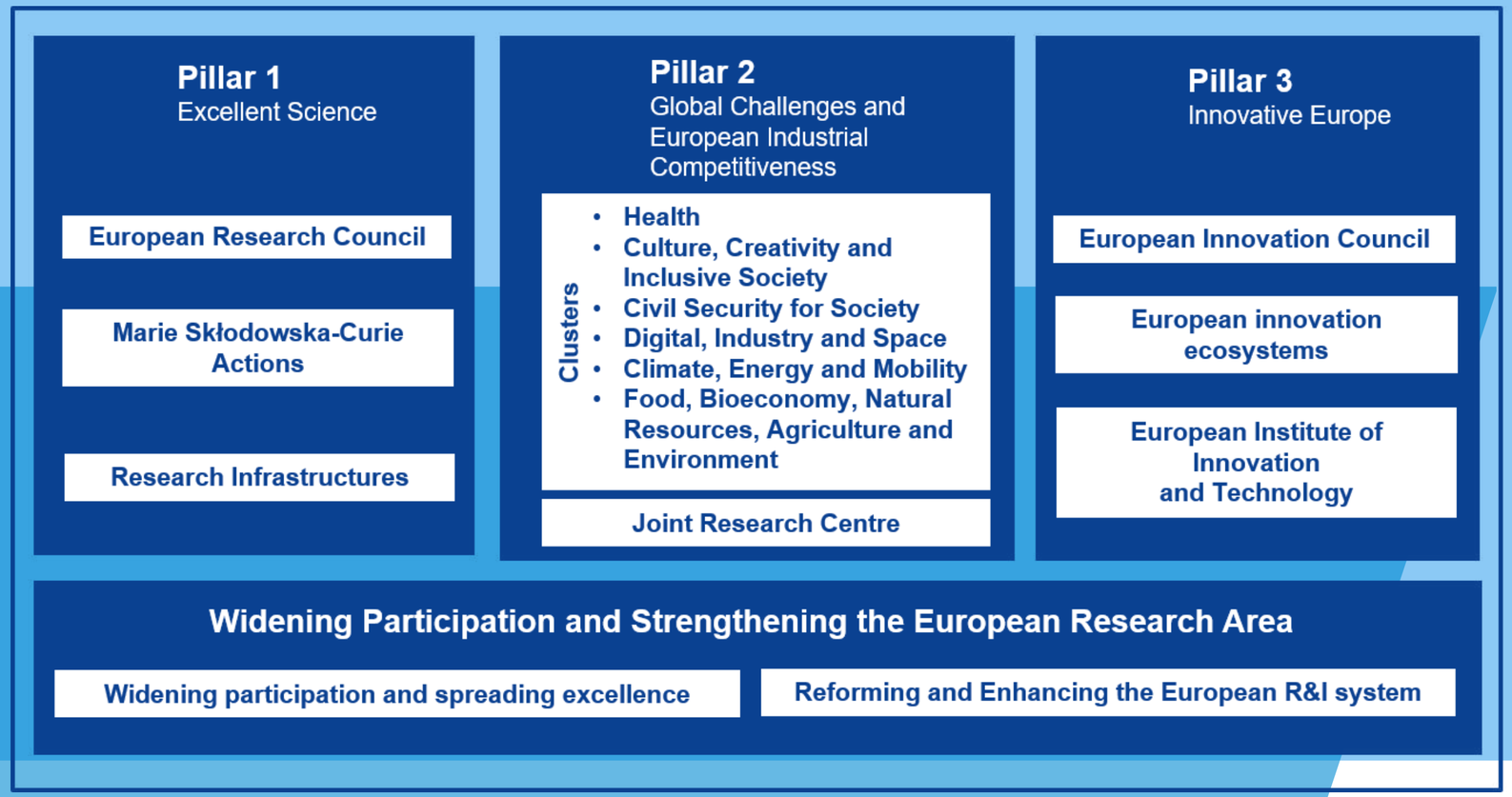
Horizon Europe

- **Funding Source**: Horizon Europe is the EU's main funding programme for research and innovation, with over €95 billion for 2021-2027. Overall it is expected that 35% will support digital transformation.
- **Stakeholders**: Researchers, universities, research organizations, SMEs, public authorities, and private sector entities.
- **Objectives**: HE has a dedicated budget for enabling technologies, such as artificial intelligence and robotics, next generation Internet, high performance computing, big data, key digital technologies, 6G.

European Commission

Horizon Europe Overview

Horizon Europe tackles climate change, helps to achieve the UN's Sustainable Development Goals and boosts the EU's competitiveness and growth. The programme facilitates collaboration and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies while tackling global challenges.

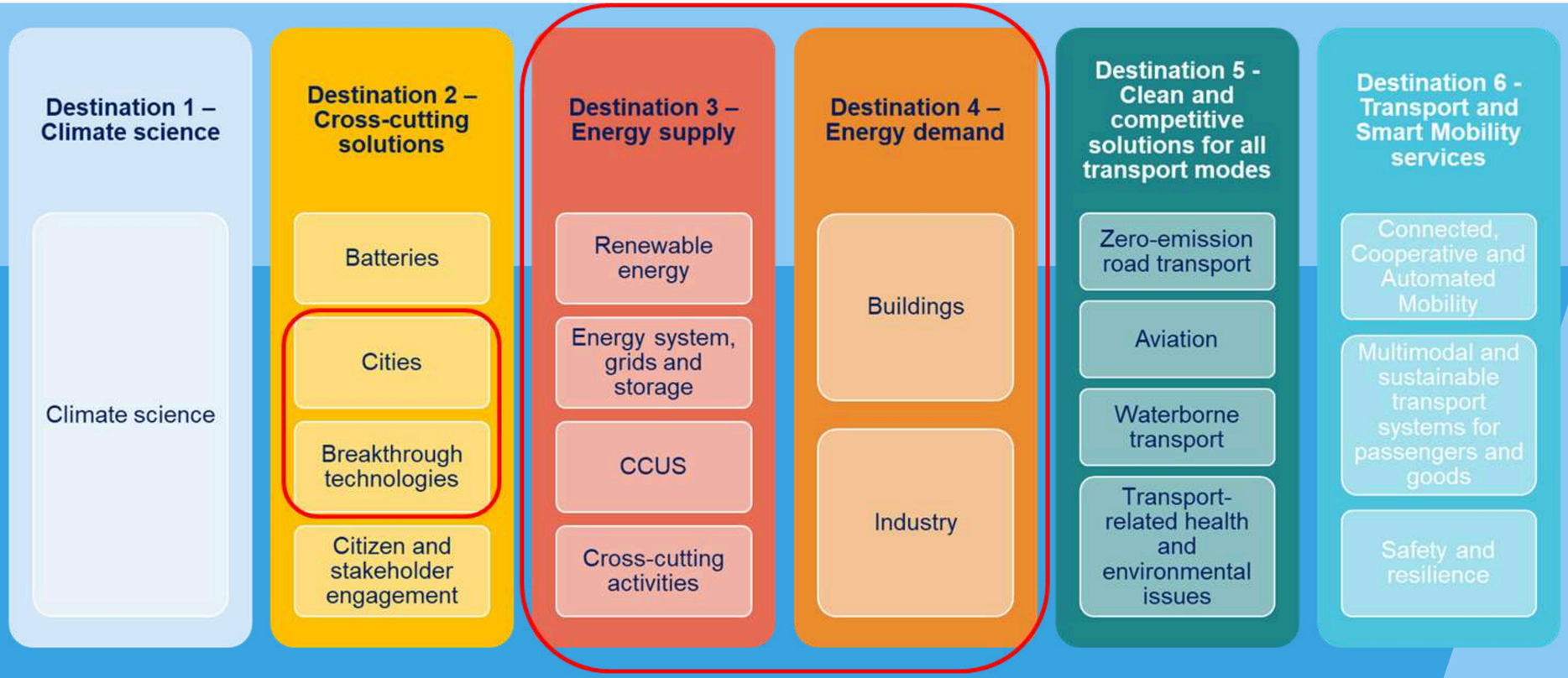


€95 BILLION OF FUNDING FOR 2021-2027

European Commission

Horizon Europe Overview

Cluster 5 focuses on **Climate, Energy, and Mobility**, offering cities funding opportunities to develop innovative solutions for sustainable urban environments. It supports projects that aim to enhance energy efficiency, promote clean transportation, and address climate change challenges, fostering resilient and smart cities



€95 BILLION OF FUNDING FOR 2021-2027

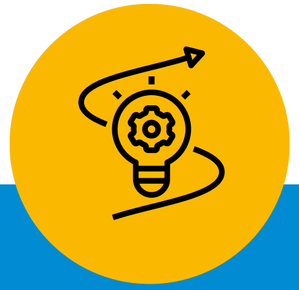
European Commission

Main Types of Actions

Research & Innovation Action (RIA)

Generate new knowledge or explore the feasibility of a new or substantially improved technology, product, process, service, or solution.

100% funding rate for all



Innovation Action (IA)

Creating plans and designs for new, modified, or improved products, processes, or services. Prototypes, tests, demos, pilot, validation/replication.

70% funding rate for for-profit

100% funding rate for all other

Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)

A small type of action with the primary goal to promote cooperation and/or provide support to EU policies.

100% funding rate for all

European Commission

Cluster 5 Topics

TOPIC OPPORTUNITY	DATES	AVAILABLE FUNDING
Efficient wireless stationary bidirectional charging solutions for road Light Duty Vehicles (2ZERO Partnership)	**Estimate - Close 17.09.25**	**TBC**
Real time monitoring of regulated and non-regulated emissions from all types of vessels and other port activities in order to enforce emission limits in waterfront cities	**Estimate - Close 17.09.25**	**TBC**
Preparing for large-scale CCAM demonstrations (CCAM Partnership)	**Estimate - Close 17.09.25**	**TBC**
Reliable data and practices to measure and calculate transport emissions in multimodal transport chains	**Estimate - Close 17.09.25**	**TBC**
Innovative air mobility and services for sustainable and smart urban, peri-urban transport – SR pilot	**Estimate - Close 17.09.25**	**TBC**

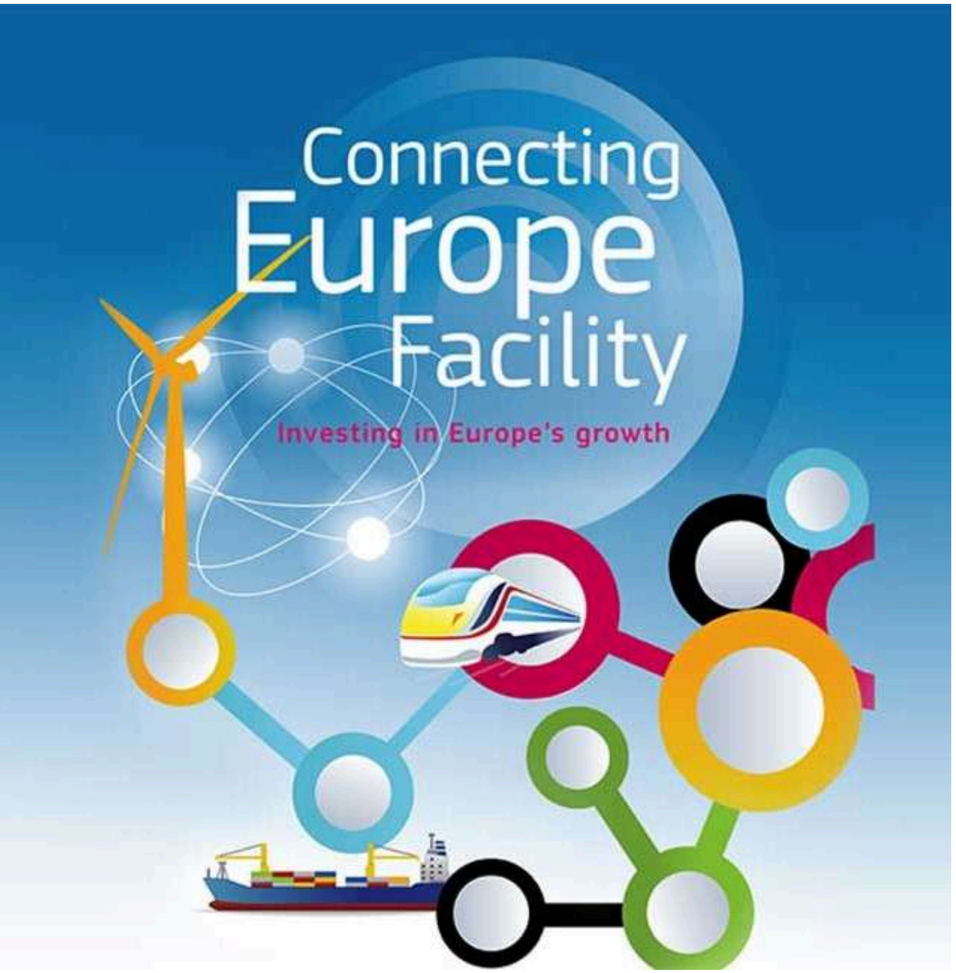
Mission Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities

TOPIC OPPORTUNITY	DATES	AVAILABLE FUNDING
Coupling circularity and climate mitigation in industrial sites and their cities and regions (IA)	**Estimate - Close 04.09.25**	It will fund 3 pilot projects up to 8,5M €.
Innovative, AI-based solutions for urban planning and management (IA)	**Estimate - Close 04.09.25**	It will fund 4 pilot projects up to 6M €.
Boosting the transformation towards climate-neutral cities, the net-zero economy and open strategic autonomy through Pre-Commercial Procurement (PCP)	**Estimate - Close 04.09.25**	It will fund between 3-4 PCPs of 7-12 M € each.
Walking and cycling: increasing their modal share to reap health benefits and emission reductions and integrating active mobility and micro-mobility devices, with smart technologies and infrastructure (IA)	**Estimate - Close 04.09.25**	It will fund 2 Pilots.

Transversal Funding Opportunities

CLUSTER	TOPICS	DEADLINE
Cluster 2 - Culture, Creativity and inclusive society	**HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-10:** The role of civic and citizenship education for strengthening civic and democratic participation and support for common Europe values **HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-12:** Community of democracy practitioners and researchers **HORIZON-CL2-2025-01-DEMOCRACY-07:** The autocratic appeal: nature, drivers	**Close 16.09.25**
Cluster 3 - Civil Security	**HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-INFRA-01:** Open topic for improved preparedness for, response to and recovery from large-scale disruptions of critical infrastructures **HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-DRS-01:** Open topic on citizen and regional and/or local authorities' engagement in enhanced disaster risk awareness, including education, and preparedness **HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-DRS-02:** Open topic on Improving disaster risk management and governance to ensure self-sufficiency and sustainability of operations in support of enhanced resilience	**Close 12.11.25**
Cluster 4 - Digital Industry	**HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-TWIN-TRANSITION-38:** Synergies and mutual learning with national and regional initiatives in Europe on Industrial decarbonisation **HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-TWIN-TRANSITION-21:** Demonstrators for clusters of social circular enterprises **HORIZON-EUSPA-2025-SPACE-02-51:** Space Data Economy	**Close 23.092025 / 10.02.2026**
Cluster 6 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural resources, Agriculture	**HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-08:** Demonstration, deployment and upscaling of circular systemic solutions in cities and regions (Circular Cities and Regions Initiative) **HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-13:** Harmonizing and optimising composting plants performances in Europe **HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-07:** Living labs and lighthouses co-creating innovative solutions for forests and freshwater ecosystems restoration	**Close 17.09.25**

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF)



- **Funding Source**: CEF is funded by the EU budget, with €33.7 billion for 2021-2027.
- **Stakeholders**: Public authorities, infrastructure operators, and private entities in the transport, energy, and digital sectors.
- **Objectives**: CEF aims to enhance EU connectivity and infrastructure by funding projects that develop and modernize digital networks. It supports public administrations in deploying high-speed broadband, digital public services, and secure digital infrastructures to improve administrative efficiency and citizen engagement

European Commission

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

TOPIC OPPORTUNITY	DATES	AVAILABLE FUNDING
Connecting Europe Facility : • 5G Large scale pilots (large scale 5G stand-alone infrastructure), €105 million. • Backbone connectivity for Digital Global Gateways (mainly submarine and terrestrial cables), €128 million . • Quantum Communication Infrastructure – The EuroQCI initiative, €90 million .	**Open 22.10.24 | Close 13.02.25**	323 MEuro funding available for co-funding the deployment of digital connectivity infrastructures

European Commission

Interreg

Interreg Europe

Co-funded by the European Union

Sharing **solutions** for **better** **regional policies**

- **Funding Source**: Interreg is financed through the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and other EU instruments.
- **Stakeholders**: Regional and local authorities, public bodies, NGOs, and businesses.
- **Objectives**: Interreg promotes cross-border, transnational, and interregional cooperation. It funds projects that enhance digital connectivity and innovation in public administrations, facilitating collaboration and knowledge sharing across regions to address common challenges and improve public service delivery.

All funds committed

European Commission

Technical Support Instrument (TSI)

- **Funding Source**: TSI is funded through the EU budget under DG REFORM, with a focus on supporting structural reforms.
- **Stakeholders**: National and regional authorities of EU Member States, experts from Member States' administrations, international organisations, private firms, and consultants.
- **Objectives**: TSI provides tailored technical expertise to help Member States design and implement digital reforms. It supports projects that enhance digital governance, modernise public administration, and improve public service delivery through the adoption of digital technologies.

European Commission

InvestEU

- **Funding Source**: InvestEU supports sustainable investments by leveraging both private and public funds. It aims to mobilize over €372 billion in investments through an EU budgetary guarantee.
- **Stakeholders**: National, regional and local governments. Public agencies. Companies and non-profit organisations.
- **Objectives**: InvestEU recognizes the importance of digitalization for Europe’s competitiveness and prosperity. At least 10% of the program’s resources will be directed toward digital objectives. This aligns with the European Green Deal and emphasizes the transition to a digital economy.

EU Funding Opportunities to Boost your Digital Strategy

3

Navigate the basic requirements for participation and the application process.

European Commission

The process of participating

The Idea

The Call for Proposals

Eligibility check

Preparing the proposal

Submitting the proposal

Evaluation

European Commission

Participation requirements

Main requirements (specific requirements in the call document)

- Most calls require proposals from consortia, consisting of partners from different eligible countries
- Most consortia need to gather a minimum number of partners.
- Some call topics specify types of organisations that have to be part of a consortium

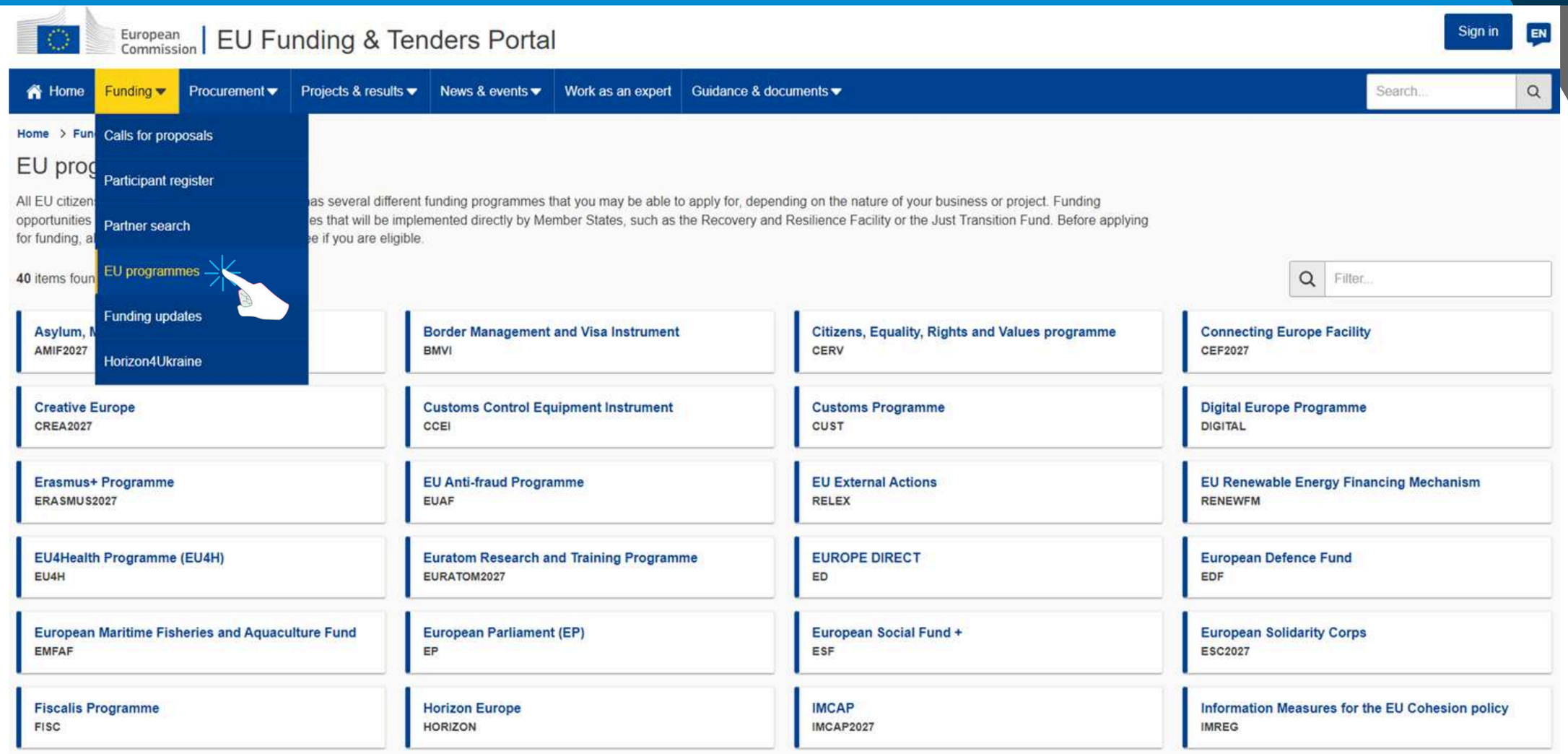
Eligibility

- Legal entities (public or private bodies and international organisations of European interest)
- that are established in a EU member state or an eligible non-EU country
- There may be restrictions regarding security and strategic autonomy (calls regarding cybersecurity, AI and HPC)

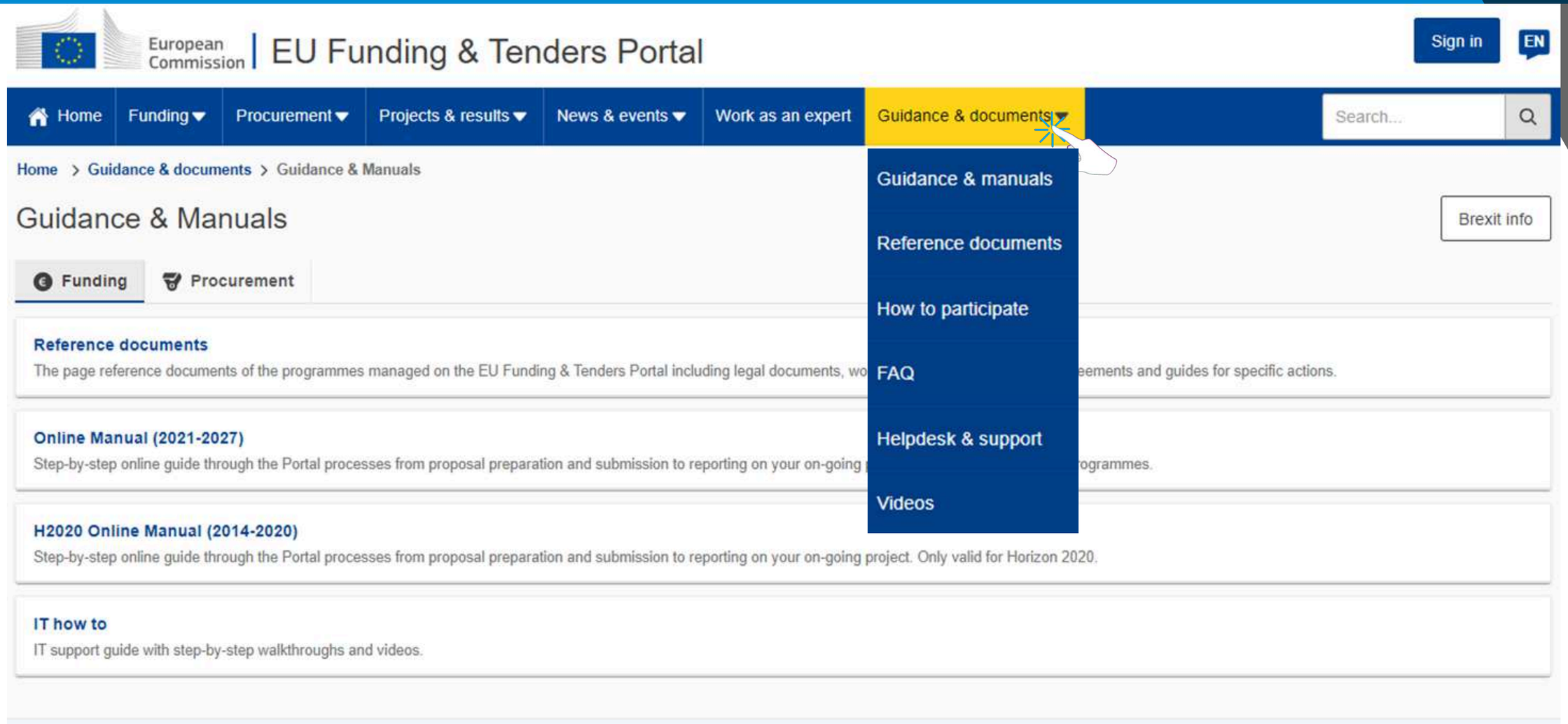
Participation of third countries

- Countries already associated: Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein (EEA)
- Countries showing interest in association: Turkey, Serbia, Israel and Ukraine
- Entities from third countries can participate in the consortia but cannot receive funding.

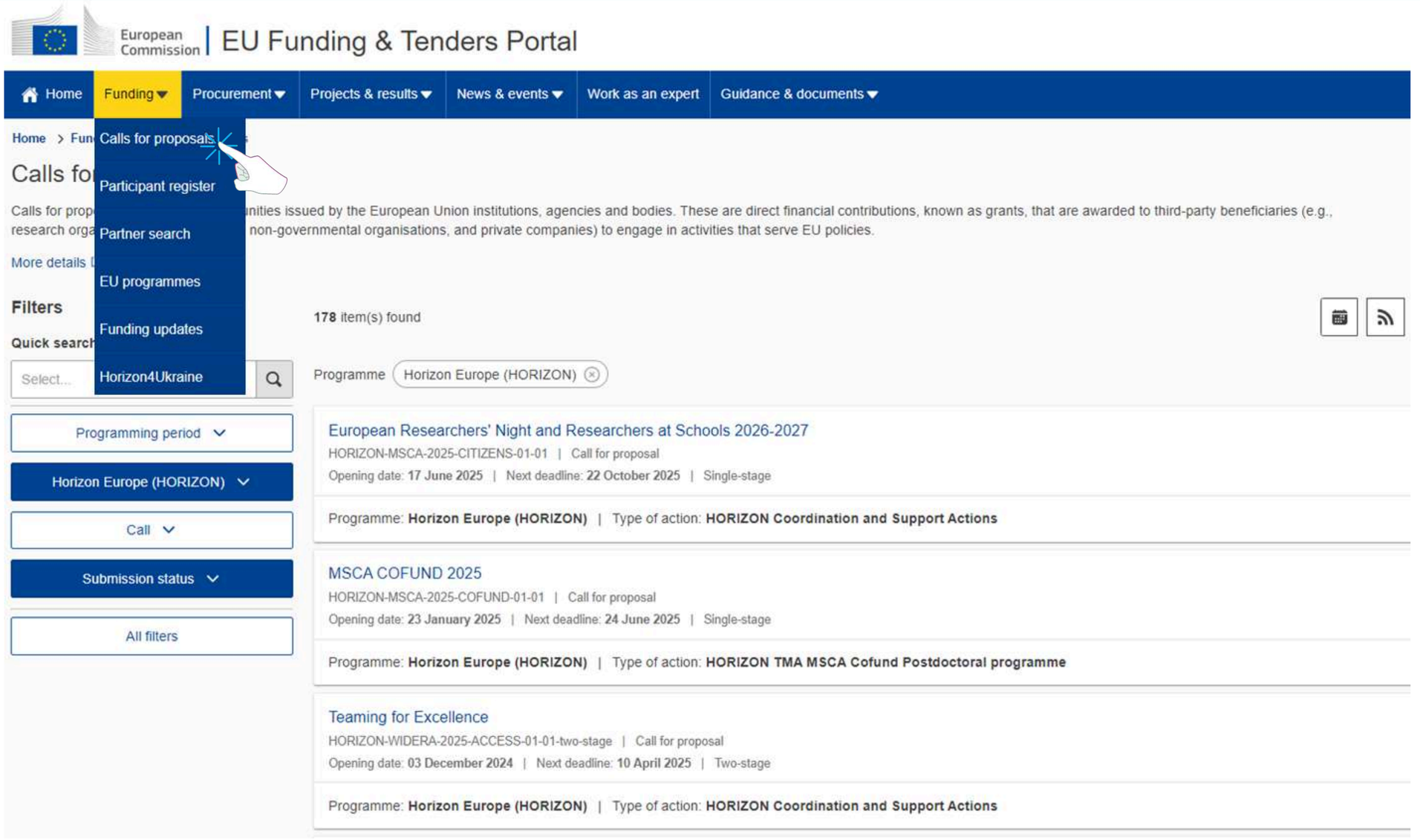
Application Process



Application Process



Application Process

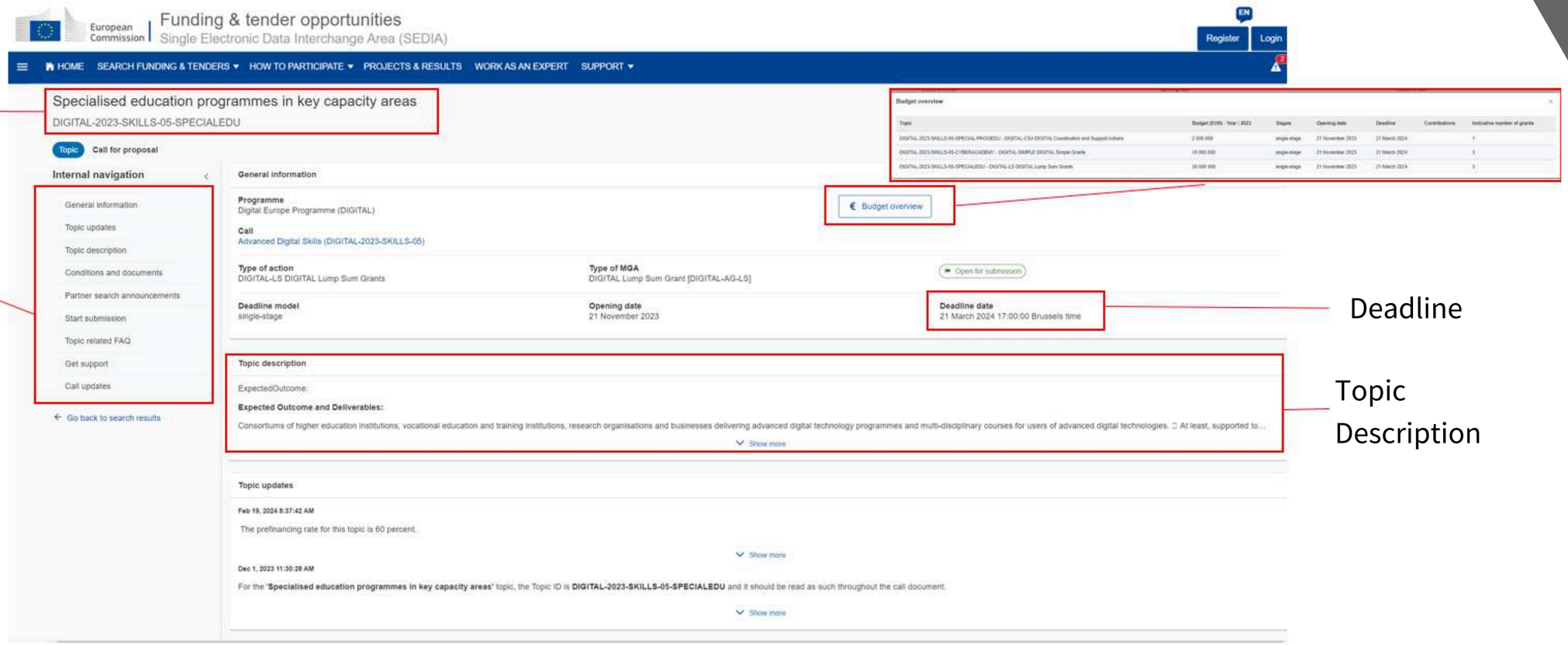


Application Process

Read the topic in the funding and tender portal carefully:

Topic Identification

Available Information



Deadline

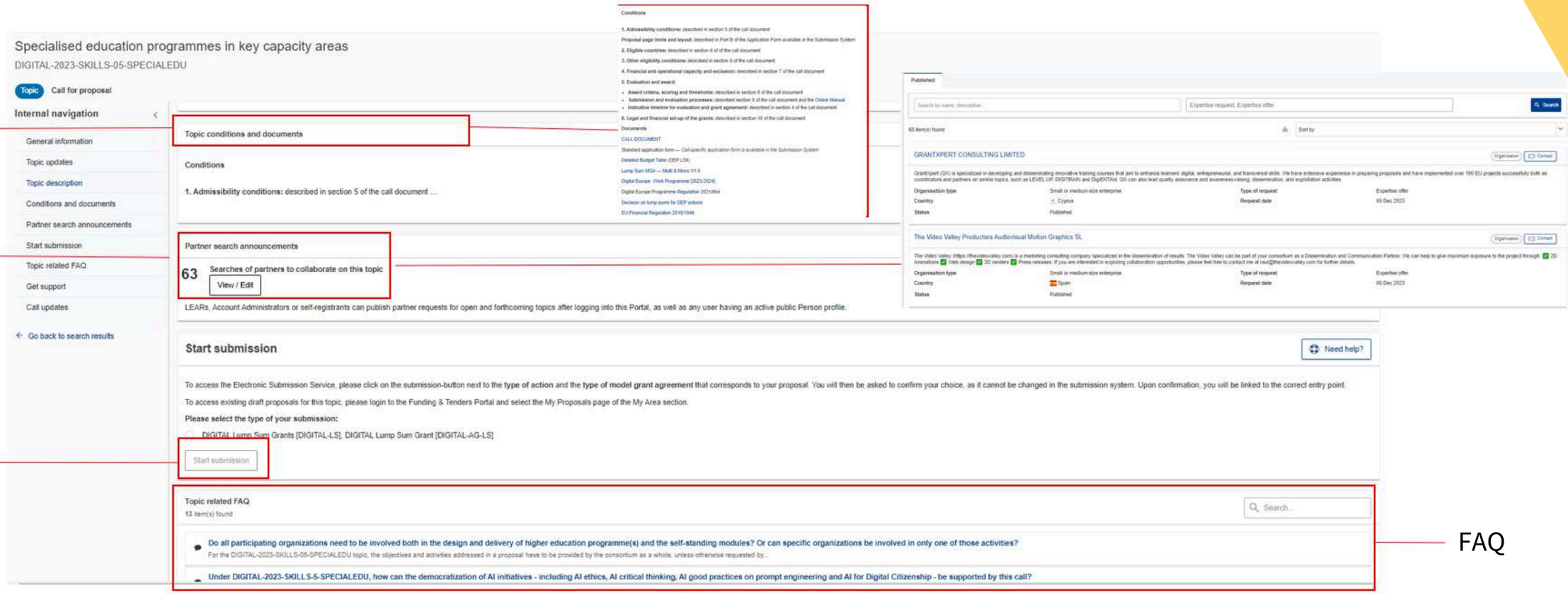
Topic Description

Application Process

Topic Documents

Partner Search Tool

Create the Proposal



FAQ

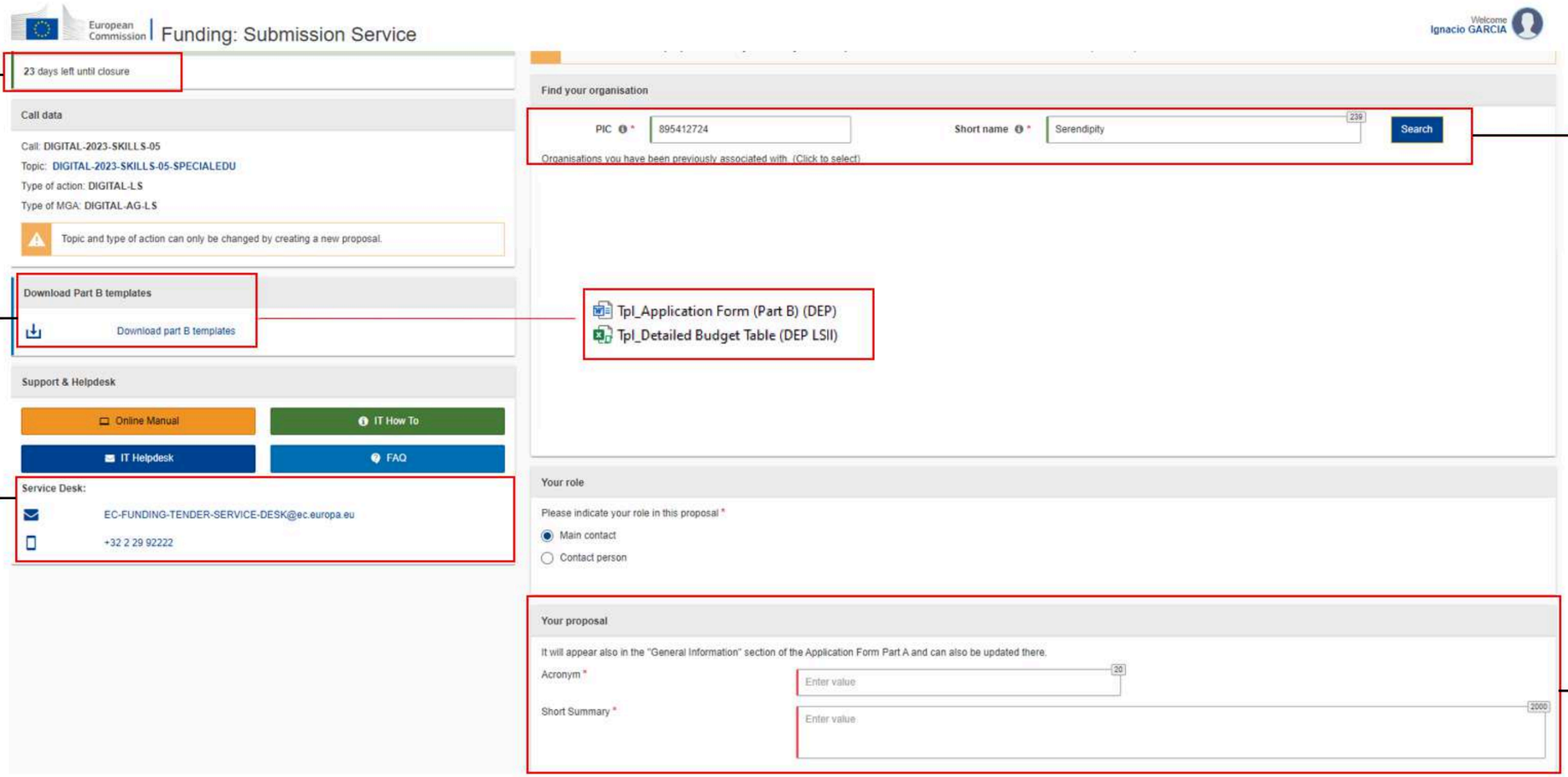
European Commission

Application Process

Days left for submission

Templates

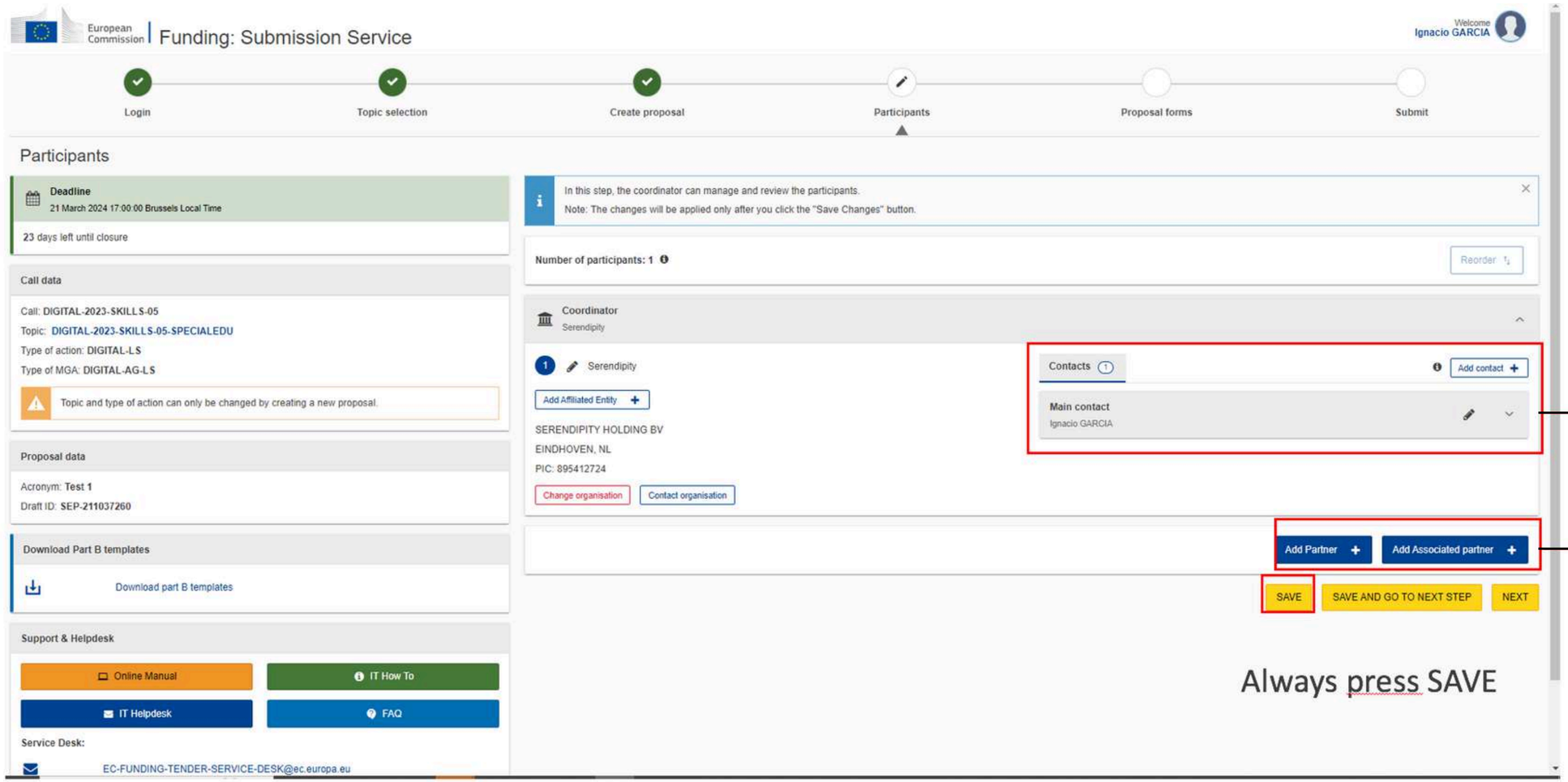
Helpdesk



Coordinator info

Proposal acronym and summary

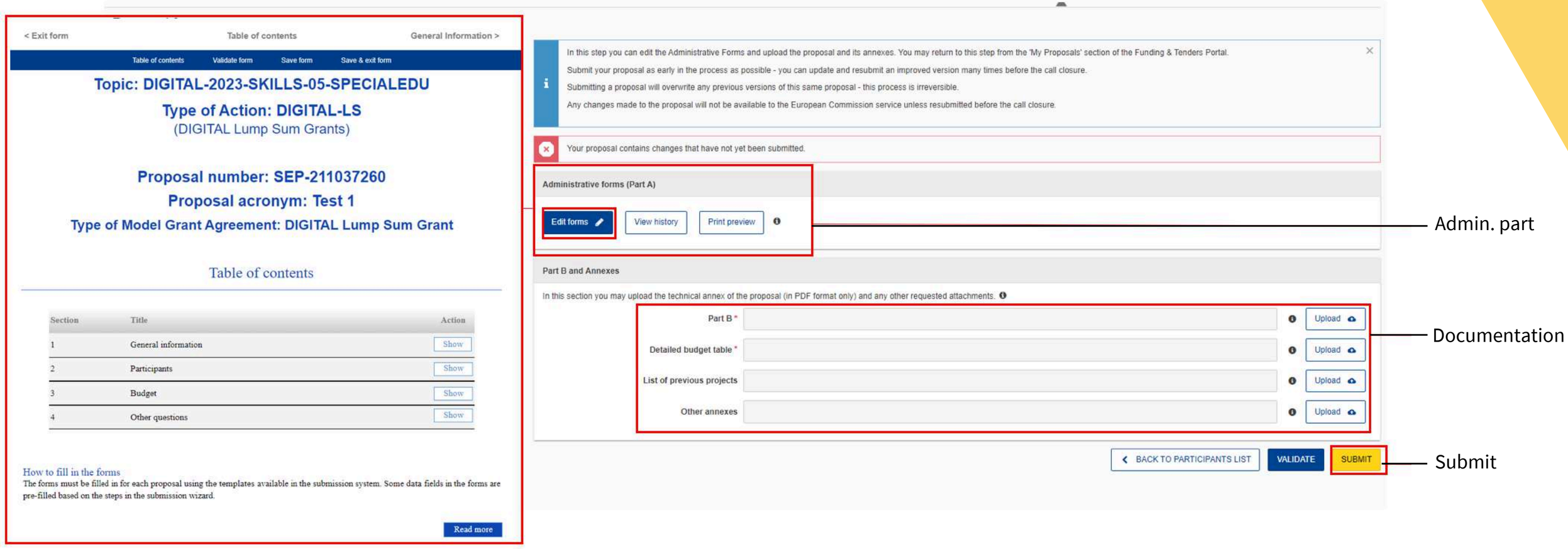
Application Process



Edit contacts per org.

Add consortium partners

Application Process



European Commission

Application Process

Application Form

- Part A – Administrative information generated by the IT system in the Portal submission system
- Part B – Narrative description of the project. Part B needs to be uploaded as PDF (+ annexes) in the Submission System. The templates to use are available in the submission site.

How to prepare and submit it?

- The Application Form must be prepared by the consortium and submitted by a representative.
- Page limit normally 70 pages (unless indicated in the Call)
- supporting documents can be provided as an annex and do not count towards the page limit
- Keep your text as concise as possible. Do not use hyperlinks to show information that is an essential part of your application

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European Commission

Application Process

- Your proposed work must be within the scope of a work programme topic
- You need to demonstrate that your idea is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art
- Your scientific methodology must take into account interdisciplinary, gender dimension and open science practices. It must not significantly harm the environment

EXCELLENCE

- You should show how your project could contribute to the outcomes and impacts described in the work programme (the pathway to impact)
- You should describe the planned measures to maximise the impact of your project ('plan for the dissemination and exploitation including communication activities')

IMPACT

- You should demonstrate the quality of your work plan, resources and participants

IMPLEMENTATION

Evaluation

Award criteria

- **Relevance** (e.g. alignment with objectives, contribution to long-term policy objectives and relevant policies, synergies with other activities)
- **Implementation** (e.g. maturity of the project, soundness of implementation plan, efficient use of resources, capacity of applicants)
- **Impact** (e.g. expected outcomes and deliverables, strengthen competitiveness, benefits for society)

Formal requirements

- Deliver on time
- Deliver all the needed documentation, no amendment is possible

Award criteria	Minimum pass score	Maximum score
Relevance	3	5
Implementation	3	5
Impact	3	5
Overall (pass) scores	**10**	**15**

Maximum points: 15 points.

Individual thresholds per criterion: 3/5, 3/5 and 3/5 points.

European Commission

Cost Categories

A- Personal Cost

- A1 - Employees
- A2 - Natural persons under direct contract
- A3 - Seconded persons
- A4 - SME owners

B- Subcontracting

C- Purchase Costs

- C1 - Travel and subsistence
- C2 - Equipment
- C3 - Other goods, work and services

D- Other Cost Categories

- D1 - Financial support to third parties
- D2 - Internally invoiced goods and services

E- Indirect Costs

- 7% of direct costs

European Commission

EU Funding Opportunities to Boost your Digital Strategy

4

Assess co-funding investment needs

European Commission

Co-Funding

Most actions foreseen in the Digital Europe Programme require co-investments from the public and/or private sectors

The models of these co-investments are described in the relevant parts of the work programmes

Co-funding rates

50 %

25 %

Co-funding sources

- Own resources
- Subsidies regional funding
- Subsidies from EU funding
- A mix of above

*By no circumstances shall the same costs be financed twice by the EU budget

European Commission

EU Funding Opportunities to Boost your Digital Strategy

5

Additional resources

European Commission

Links to interesting info

- How to prepare a successful proposal in Horizon Europe (24 March 2021)
- A successful proposal for Horizon Europe (21 April 2021)
- Tips and Tricks while writing your Horizon Europe proposal (23 June 2021)
- Recipe for success: Tips and tricks to writing your Horizon Europe proposal (29 September 2022)
- Dissemination, Communication and Exploitation (9 June 2021)
- The Funding & tenders Portal for beginners (27 May 2021)
- New features Funding & Tenders Portal (28 September 2021)
- The Gender Equality Plan (23 June 2022)
- Horizon Results Booster (17 November 2022)
- Submission and evaluation, Grant Agreement Preparation, Legal and Financial Aspects(10 December 2021)
- Grant Agreement Preparation, Legal and Financial Aspects(26 January 2022)
- Cost reporting of other costs (with focus on internal invoicing)(23 March 2022)

Links to interesting info

- Lump Sum funding: How does it work and what are the next steps? (7 April 2022)
- Lump Sum funding: How to write a proposal? (19 May 2022)
- Lump Sum funding: How does it work? How to write a proposal? (20 October 2022)
- Avoiding errors in declaring personnel costs in Horizon 2020 grants(30 November 2022)
- Coordinators' Day on Grant Agreement Preparation (2 February 2023)
- Coordinators' Day on Grant Agreement Preparation (8 June 2023)
- Lump Sum (11 May 2023)
- Horizon Europe Results Booster (24 May 2023)
- Two factor authentication in the Funding and Tenders Portal (10 May 2023)
- Avoiding common errors in Other Direct Costs in H2020 (30 May 2023)
- Horizon Implementation Day – Grant management in Horizon Europe(24 October 2023)
- Personnel Unit Cost – New cost method in Horizon Europe (19 June 2024)
- Certificates on the financial statements (CFS) in Horizon Europe (26 June 2024)

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

European Commission

Call to Action: Reminder

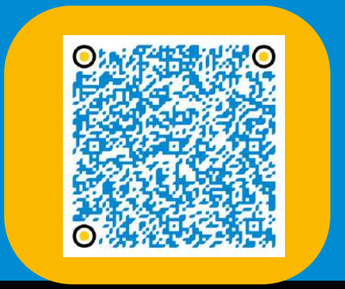
1

Prepare your strategy to implement Local Digital Twins

2

Join the Living-in.EU movement

3



Evaluate your digital maturity with LORDIMAS

4

Discover the MIMs Plus to start building your Open Data Architecture Framework

5

Access the EU Support Services for Smart Communities

6

Express your interest to participate to the Online Procurement Helpdesk

European Commission

Increasing Digitalisation Awareness & Readiness of Swedish Communities

in collaboration with

RI.SE

Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions

TACK

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