



EUROPEAN UNION



EU MISSIONS

ADAPTATION TO CLIMATE CHANGE



January 2022

Frequently Asked Questions on the EU Mission on Adaptation to Climate Change

This document provides answers to questions raised by participants at information sessions. Some questions have been edited for clarity. It is a living document that will be updated with more questions and answers over time. It is intended to provide general information; for specific information on how to respond to Horizon Europe calls please refer to the specific related legal documents.

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Questions & answers

I. Terminology		
Qu.1	How do you define adaptation?	In human systems, adaptation is the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects, in order to moderate harm or exploit beneficial opportunities. In natural systems, it is the process of adjustment to actual climate and its effects; human intervention may facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects.
Qu.2	How do you define regions?	For the scope of the Adaptation Mission, regions are considered to be the territories at NUTS 2 level following the definition of Regions in the Nomenclature of Territorial Units for Statistics (NUTS) classification. However, also other regions (NUTS 1, NUTS 3 or geographical regions across countries) or local authorities within regions can participate in the mission. A participating region must be represented by a legal entity.
Qu.3	How do you define communities?	For practical implementation purposes, the concept of ‘communities’ has been added. It concerns groupings of people with social ties, shared values or interests, engaged in joint action. Communities can be of different size and are not always geographically confined. They can be smaller or larger entities than regions. To engage with the Adaptation Mission and to take part in its actions, the communities must be represented by an authority that has the mandate to commit funds and to implement an adaptation strategy locally.
Qu.4	What do you understand by vulnerability?	Vulnerability is the propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected. Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.
Qu.5	How do you define climate resilience?	Climate resilience is the ability to withstand the unavoidable climate impacts. To build resilience, one must adapt to already present effects of climate change and to prepare to withstand future climate risks.
Qu.6	Are groups of municipalities, towns/cities or agglomerations eligible to participate in the Mission, in the sense of “communities” as described in the Implementation Plan?	They are indeed eligible as covered under the broad definition of “communities”. For certain actions, the relevant local authorities should be able to commit, for example in terms of funding; for that purpose, the “communities” should be established as legal entity and nominate a legal representative. (wp-13-general-annexes_horizon-2021-2022_en.pdf(europa.eu))
Qu.7	Are EU macro-regions eligible?	They are indeed eligible, as long as they constitute a legal entity according to Horizon Europe rules.

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II. Selection process		
Qu.1	How will you select the regions and communities?	The Mission has an open character and engagement in its objectives is open to all regions and communities. Concerning the support that will be provided under Horizon Europe, the selection process will not deal with regions and/or communities but with the research and demonstration projects that will involve these regions and/or communities. The proposals will be evaluated based on the Horizon Europe criteria, i.e. excellence, impact and quality of management. Additional selection criteria (for example to assure balance of the portfolio) could be added.
Qu.2	How will you assess the vulnerability of regions in the proposals?	The proposal should describe the vulnerability of the region(s) concerned, which includes the climate risks and their potential impacts (i.e. agriculture, food, buildings, infrastructures, etc) as well as preparedness to deal with these risks. The proposal needs to substantiate how the project will contribute to reduce vulnerability. During the evaluation, the experts will evaluate the quality of the concept and methodology proposed and the impact of the proposal, in line with the Horizon Europe evaluation criteria.
Qu.3	Do we need both regions and communities in a proposal?	As exchange of lessons learnt and best practices is beneficial, the Mission will foster collaboration between regions and/or communities. In general terms, a proposal can address only regions. Communities can also be addressed. However, Horizon Europe specific calls for proposals might include specific conditions in terms of the number or location of regions required to be addressed.
Qu.4	Will regions with low population but with great potential for climate adaptation be in competition with more populated regions?	The proposers should describe the potential positive impacts of the proposed actions. The evaluation is about evaluating project proposals not about evaluating regions.
Qu.5	Should regions and/or communities be legal entities?	In line with Horizon Europe rules, the “regions” and the “communities” are requested to be legal entities and nominate a legal representative to become members of a consortium.
Qu.6	Will there be a call for expression of interest like for the Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities?	There are currently no plans to issue a call for expression of interest similar to the Cities Mission.
Qu.7	Will the Mission be managed as a programme in itself with thematic calls?	Each Mission will indeed be managed as a programme, mirroring the detailed objectives as described in the Mission Implementation Plan.

III. Participation		
Qu.1	What are the opportunities for companies to participate in the Mission?	Companies are eligible to participate as legal entities in Horizon Europe. Companies can participate as innovators, for example providing innovative solutions or climate services. They can also learn how to adapt to climate change and protect their own business by participating in projects. Companies can therefore be part of a consortium that applies for a call.
Qu.2	Can associated countries participate in the Mission?	Regions established in countries associated to Horizon Europe or in other third countries negotiating association to Horizon Europe can be involved in the Mission actions funded under Horizon Europe. They should be aware that they may not be eligible to receive funding from other EU programmes.
Qu.3	Is there a minimum number of participants from different Member States in the Mission actions?	The rules that apply to Horizon Europe calls also apply to the Horizon Europe support to the Mission. For every action, minimum three independent legal entities in three different countries, two of which established in a different EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country are required. To foster exchange of knowledge and scale-up innovative solutions, there might be specific requirements for certain calls for a minimum number of regions participating different than the minimum Horizon Europe criteria.
Qu.4	How can Member States participate in the Mission?	While the Mission has a strong regional dimension requiring mobilisation of regions, Member States play an active role, through their national adaptation strategies and their support to regions, including with national programmes. The Mission aims to engage with the Member States in different ways, such as via the Working Group on Adaptation, the ad-hoc expert group set up under the Horizon Europe Strategic Programme Committee, the network of National Contact Points.
Qu.5	Is international cooperation expected or is the Mission focused on Europe?	The Mission will for the time being concentrate on the resilience of Europe (including outermost regions).
Qu.6	How can research infrastructures (ERIC, ESFRI) participate?	They can participate in all Horizon Europe calls they deem suitable for their participation.
Qu.7	Can financial institutions participate in the Mission?	Financial institutions are encouraged to join, as investors or to offer their existing products, or to develop new products that support climate resilience, such as insurance for example. Financial institutions can be part of a consortium that replies to a Horizon Europe call.
Qu.8	How can micro SMEs participate in the Mission?	Any legal entity can participate in Horizon Europe calls. A micro SME could be part of a consortium that replies to a

		call.
Qu.9	Can SMEs with expertise in adaptation be part of the Mission?	Any legal entity can participate in Horizon Europe calls. In addition, the Mission aims to regularly engage with companies as stakeholders. Companies with adaptation experience will surely be able to contribute to the Mission objectives with valuable information and knowledge.
QU.10	How do you see the involvement of the pre-commercial procurements (PCPs) and public procurements of innovative solutions (PPIs)?	PCP and PPI can provide valuable instruments to implement certain Mission actions; however, as they generally require an extensive preparation phase, they are not foreseen for the first Horizon Europe calls.

IV. Funding

Qu.1	Is co-funding required?	For certain Mission actions, in particular those going beyond research and innovation, co-funding will indeed be required. The financial needs to build climate resilient regions and communities are very large and will need to be supported and shared by several public and private sources.
Qu.2	How can co-funding be achieved?	Funding for the Mission calls comes from Horizon Europe, the EU Framework Programmes for research and innovation. Regions and communities should also mobilise other funding, for example funding from European regional and cohesion programmes. Over time, other EU funding and financing opportunities (for example from the EIB) could also support the Mission actions.
Qu.3	Are you expecting that the participant regions and communities put a part of the needed financial budget?	It is expected that Horizon Europe will contribute only partially and other sources of EU, national, regional or private funding will co-fund the efforts. This could take the form of co-funding of specific actions or supporting in full some specific actions aligned to the overall objectives.
Qu.4	Are there any activities funded at 100%?	In line with the legal basis of Horizon Europe, research actions will be funded at 100%.
Qu.5	Are external consultancy costs eligible under the Mission, as many regions need external support to apply to the Mission and implement projects/activities?	Eligibility of costs follows the Horizon Europe rules.
Qu.6	What will be the funding rates?	The funding rates will follow the Horizon Europe rules.
Qu.7	What will be the type of actions in those calls: RIA, IA, CSA, others?	Yearly calls will foresee different actions.

V. Mission budget

Qu.1	What is the budget of the	The Horizon Europe budget for Mission is slightly more
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	Mission?	than 360 million EUR for 2021-2023.
Qu.2	How will the budget be shared between calls and projects?	Yearly calls will be set up for a budget of slightly more than 120 million EUR each for 2021-2023.
Qu.3	How many calls and topics?	There will be one yearly call with dedicated topics, with a maximum of 10 topics to streamline the efforts.

VI. Evaluation and monitoring

Qu.1	How will you monitor the achievements?	There will be three different types of monitoring: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The formal monitoring tools in Horizon Europe. • The Mission Implementation Platform, which will be contracted end of 2022 through public procurement, will be in charge of analysing and monitoring the different activities of the Mission and will help designing future activities of the Mission. • The grant management monitoring will be carried out by the European Climate, Infrastructure and Environment Agency (CINEA).
Qu.2	How will the evaluation of the calls/topics take place?	The calls and topics will be evaluated in general according to Horizon Europe rules.
Qu.3	Should the scale of projects be similar to the Green Deal projects?	For the scale of projects, please refer to the Work Programme.

VII. Synergies

Qu.1	How will alignment and synergies between different programmes and funding sources be ensured?	Work is ongoing on identifying synergies amongst different Horizon Europe parts and on funding beyond Horizon Europe.
Qu.2	What are the synergies with other Missions?	There are clear areas where different Missions can act with synergetic effect and where joint actions by different Missions will be ideally implemented. For example, building climate resilience in coastal areas through natural restoration is an area where the Climate and Ocean Missions can support activities jointly.
Qu.3	What if cities want to participate in both the adaptation and climate neutral cities missions, will it require double the amount of coordination processes?	Cities wanting to participate in both missions are invited to describe in their project proposals how they plan to co-ordinate processes.
Qu.4	Can a region participate in more than one Mission?	Yes
Qu.5	Could a region implement an area-based lighthouse for both Mission Soil and Mission Climate Adaptation?	Indeed, a region could implement an action on the ground which contributes to more than one Mission. Exchange of knowledge on lessons learnt and best practices amongst actions under the same Mission but also amongst actions under different Missions will be facilitated by the Mission Implementation Platform (and its equivalent in other

Missions).

VIII. Implementation

Qu.1	What are the priority topics?	The Mission Implementation Plan identifies 10 areas of innovation and key systems and enabling conditions. For the Horizon Europe calls, the priorities are indicated in each call text.
Qu.2	What are the possibilities to help set the priorities of the Mission?	An annual Mission Forum will be organised, where progress made, and/or possible adjustments to the Mission will be discussed.
Qu.3	Is the focus on rural or urban areas?	Both rural and urban are in scope. As the Mission aims to develop a balanced portfolio, it is intended that both types of areas will be fairly represented and supported.
Qu.4	How will the Mission be linked to the Covenant of Mayors?	The EU Covenant of Mayors, as an existing regional partnership relevant for climate resilience, will be a key partner in engaging with regions and wider communities. As indicated in the Mission Implementation Plan, the Mission may contribute to scaling up the Policy Support Facility, hosted by the Covenant of Mayors.
Qu.5	Will the Mission secretariat have desk officers focusing on and having region specific knowledge of the stakeholders, governance etc.?	The Mission secretariat team coordinates overall the Mission and will link up with colleagues from other Commission departments.