# Council Decision (EU) 2021/764: Establishing the Specific Programme for Horizon Europe (2021-2027) and Implementing the Strategic Research and Innovation Plan (2025-2027)

**Date**: 2024-03-20

**Location**: Brussels, Belgium

## Executive Summary

On March 20, 2024, the European Commission adopted the 2025-2027 strategic research and innovation plan under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe. This plan aims to enhance the coherence of research activities across the EU, aligning them with both EU and national priorities. It emphasizes flexibility to address emerging challenges and opportunities. The plan is structured around key areas, including climate action, digital transformation, and sustainable development, with a budget of €83.4 billion for 2021-2027. It builds on the Council Decision (EU) 2021/764, which established the framework for Horizon Europe, focusing on fostering excellence in research, innovation, and collaboration across sectors. The strategic plan is designed to ensure that the EU remains competitive globally while addressing societal challenges effectively.

## Characteristics

* The Council Decision (EU) 2021/764 establishes the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe, focusing on research and innovation across various sectors.
* It emphasizes the importance of addressing climate change, with a target of 30% of the budget supporting climate objectives.
* The programme includes multiple pillars, such as Excellent Science, Global Challenges, and Innovative Europe, each with specific components and objectives.
* It aims to enhance collaboration between research, innovation, and education, promoting responsible research and gender equality.
* The budget for the Specific Programme is set at approximately EUR 83.4 billion for 2021-2027, with provisions for flexibility to adapt to emerging challenges.
* The decision outlines the need for strategic planning and coordination with Member States to ensure effective implementation and alignment with EU priorities.

## Actors

| Category | Actor |
| --- | --- |
| Political Actors | European Commission; European Council; European Parliament; EU Member States |
| Research and Innovation Actors | European Institute of Innovation and Technology; Knowledge and Innovation Communities; Researchers; Innovators; Digital Innovation Hubs |

## Main Themes

| Category | Subcategory |
| --- | --- |
| Digital Transformation & Strategy | Digital Policy; Digital Infrastructure; Digital Economy |
| Technology & Innovation | Artificial Intelligence; AI Ethics; Tech-Driven Solutions |
| Data & Governance | Data Governance; Data Protection; Cybersecurity |
| Inclusion & Social Development | Digital Inclusion; Social Cohesion |
| Regional & International Cooperation | Global Digital Cooperation; Digital & Technological Partnerships |

## Practical Applications

* Adoption of the 2025-2027 strategic research and innovation plan under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe.
* Implementation of the Specific Programme for Research and Innovation, which includes operational objectives and activities for the period 2021-2027.
* Allocation of EUR 8,952,000,000 for the cluster ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment’ for the period 2021-2027.
* Establishment of the European Research Council (ERC) to support frontier research across all fields.
* Implementation of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) to promote researcher mobility and training.
* Establishment of the European Innovation Council (EIC) to support high-risk innovations and scale-up of innovative companies.
* Development of work programmes for various clusters under Horizon Europe, including Health, Climate, Energy, and Mobility, and Digital, Industry, and Space.
* Implementation of the European Union Recovery Instrument to support research and innovation actions addressing the consequences of COVID-19, with specific allocations for health, digital, and climate sectors.
* Establishment of a multiannual strategic plan for research and innovation activities to ensure alignment with EU and national priorities.
* Support for the development of European Partnerships to enhance collaboration in research and innovation across member states.
* Promotion of responsible research and innovation practices, including gender equality and public engagement in the research process.

## Commitments

* The 2025-2027 strategic research and innovation plan under the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe is adopted as of March 20, 2024.
* The financial envelope for the implementation of the Specific Programme for the period from January 1, 2021, to December 31, 2027, is set at EUR 83,397,000,000 in current prices.
* An additional allocation of EUR 2,790,000,000 in constant 2018 prices is provided for the Specific Programme.
* At least 35% of the overall financial envelope of the Specific Programme is committed to climate objectives.
* The Specific Programme aims for 30% of the Union budget expenditures to support climate objectives.
* EUR 8,952,000,000 is pledged for the cluster ‘Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment’ for the period 2021-2027.