

Association to Horizon Europe

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP PANEL ON
RESEARCH & INNOVATION , 8th meeting,
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Our vision

- A sustainable, fair and **prosperous** future for **people** and **planet** based on European values.
- Tackling **climate change** (35 % budgetary target)
- Helping to achieve **Sustainable Development Goals**
- Boosting the Union's **competitiveness and growth**



Credits: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>



International Cooperation

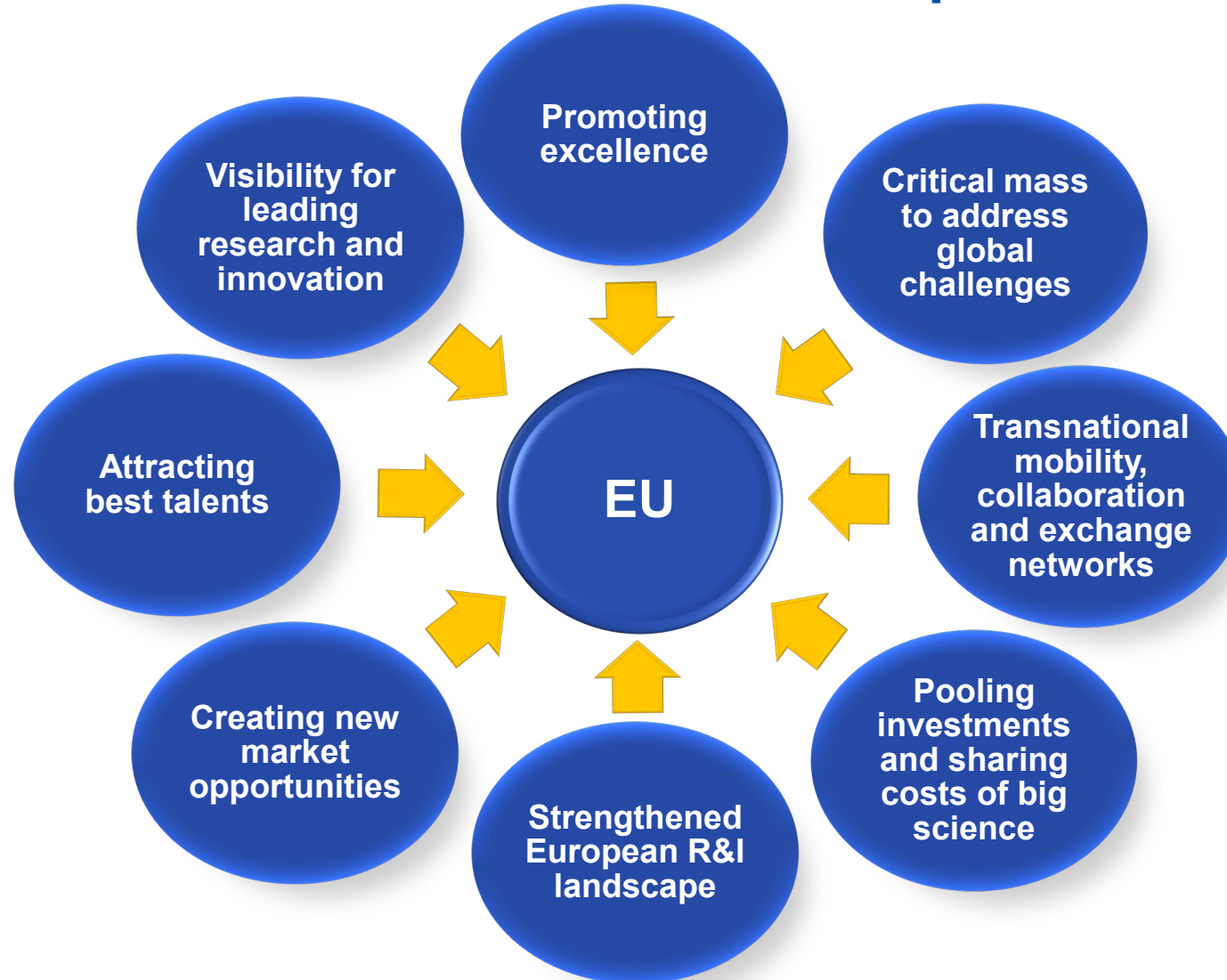
International Cooperation

Tackling together the global societal challenges; access to the world's best talents, expertise and resources; enhanced supply and demand of innovative solutions

Extended openness to association

- Third countries with good capacity in science, technology and innovation
 - Taking into account objective of driving economic growth in Europe through innovation
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- General opening for international participation
 - Intensified targeted actions (flagship initiatives, joint calls, etc.)

Benefits of International Cooperation





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Benefits of cooperation for the EU and MS

- 1. Access to knowledge, networks (business and academia), technologies and expertise**
- 2. Sharing of infrastructures**
- 3. Increase of turnover and scale up of businesses**
- 4. Closer integration between the innovation ecosystems with subsequent benefits on access to markets, standardisation etc**
- 5. Contributing to the objective of driving economic growth in the Union through innovation**
- 6. Promotion of sharing values and common principles for the conduct of research**



Association – closest form of R&I cooperation

Association

Countries / Country Categories in Horizon 2020

16 countries associated to **Horizon 2020**

- **Enlargement countries (acceding/candidate/potential candidate countries):** Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Turkey
- **EFTA members:** Norway, Iceland, Switzerland
- **European Neighbourhood Policy countries** (fulfilling conditions related to STI capacity/participation in EU R&I programmes/IPR protection):
 - Eastern partnership: Armenia, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine
 - Southern neighbourhood: Israel, Tunisia
- **Countries or territories previously associated to framework programme FP7:** Faroe Islands



International Cooperation – Horizon Europe association

International Cooperation

Article 12 of the **Horizon Europe** draft regulation sets 4 categories of associated countries

- a) EFTA (Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, without Switzerland), and EEA Countries (EU + EFTA without Switzerland)
- b) Acceding countries (last one was Croatia), candidate countries (Albania, the Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Turkey) and potential candidates (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo)
- c) Countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (MENA Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, State of Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, and EaP Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine).
- d) Third countries, including Switzerland, Faroe Islands, and possibly UK in case of orderly Brexit.



International Cooperation – Horizon Europe association

International Cooperation

Article 12 of the Horizon Europe draft regulation – novelties on association

Conditionality for association:

- *EU interests:* Driving economic growth in the Union through innovation
- *Partial-association:* Part of the programme can be excluded from association agreement of a specific country (partial association)
- *Reciprocity:* Association agreement shall provide for the participation (where appropriate) of legal entities established in the Union in equivalent programmes of associated countries
- *Pay as you go:* Automatic correction of any significant imbalance between financial contribution and benefits from the Programme



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Eligibility criteria

‘Other’ third countries must fulfil a set of criteria (‘like-minded’ countries with strong STI base)

- Good science, technology and innovation capacity
- Rules-based open market economy (protection of IPR and democratic institutions)
- Promotion of policies for economic and social wellbeing of citizens

‘Other’ third countries must conclude with the Union a specific agreement (**Chapeau Agreement**) covering the participation to ‘any Union programme’



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Other key elements

- **Possibility of partial association**
- **Reciprocity:** Provision to open for the participation, as far as possible, equivalent programmes of Associated Countries to EU entities
- **Contemplated dynamic system for financial contribution**
Ensuring an automatic correction of significant imbalance between financial contributions and amounts received by entities from an Associated Country
- **Coherence with other negotiations with a potentially Associated Country**



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Association process

1. **Expression of interest by the third country**
2. **Exploratory talks**
3. **Formal negotiations** – after the adoption of the regulation
4. **Signature and start of provisional application of the Association Agreement(s)**
5. **Entry into force of Association Agreement(s)**



Horizon Europe Association – state of play of association negotiations

- Expression of interest letters sent to the European Commission by **Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine**;
- Technical exchanges meetings with **Armenia, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine** took place in **November 2020**;
- Second round of technical exchanges meetings to be planned for **January 2021**;
- **Exploratory talks** can start only once the text of Art.12 is stabilised;
- **Formal negotiations** – only after the adoption of the HE Regulation by the EU co-legislators

Thank you

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