

Horizon Europe

Participation Opportunities

Tigran ARZUMANYAN

CHAIRMAN, SIPAC,
HEU NCP COORDINATOR

Science Conference, 11-16/05/26, Dilijan



Table of Content

- Introduction
- Horizon Europe: General Overview
- HE Pillars and Sub-programmes
- How to engage
- COST Actions
- Support Tools

SIPAC – Horizon Europe Office in Armenia

➤ Scientific and Innovation Partnership Assistance Center created in 2017 by HESC RA

- **Main objectives:** promotion of participation of Armenian institutes/researchers in international grant programs via providing consultancy, awareness raising, organization of events, assistance in partner search with main focus to EU programmes;
- Coordination of NCP network in AM
- Hosting HE National Contact Points in several priority areas
- Wide activities to support proposal preparation and participation
- Participation in EU projects since 2006: IncoNet EECA, IncoNet CASC, IncoNet EaP, BS ERA Net, enerzi, BSH, IncoNet EAP Plus, COSME EEN, EURAXESS, NCP WIDERA.Net, NCP4HE)
- More info: www.sipac.am ; Tel: +060623542; +060623558 (SIPAC); +010525432 (NAS RA)
- E-mail: tigran.arzumanyan@sipac; info@sipac.am

WHY TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMMES

- In line with S&T internationalization efforts of the country /HES Committee new international programmes /
- Access to up-to-date research facilities & joint research on advanced themes
- Training of young specialists/staff
- Revision of research topics according to international trends
- Increasing visibility / prestige of the institution on international level
- Attracting additional funding

What is Horizon Europe

- It is European Commission's **€ 95.5 billion** programme investing in research and innovation for seven years (2021-2027) with the aims :



to strengthen the EU's scientific and technological bases



to boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and jobs



to address global challenges via international cooperation

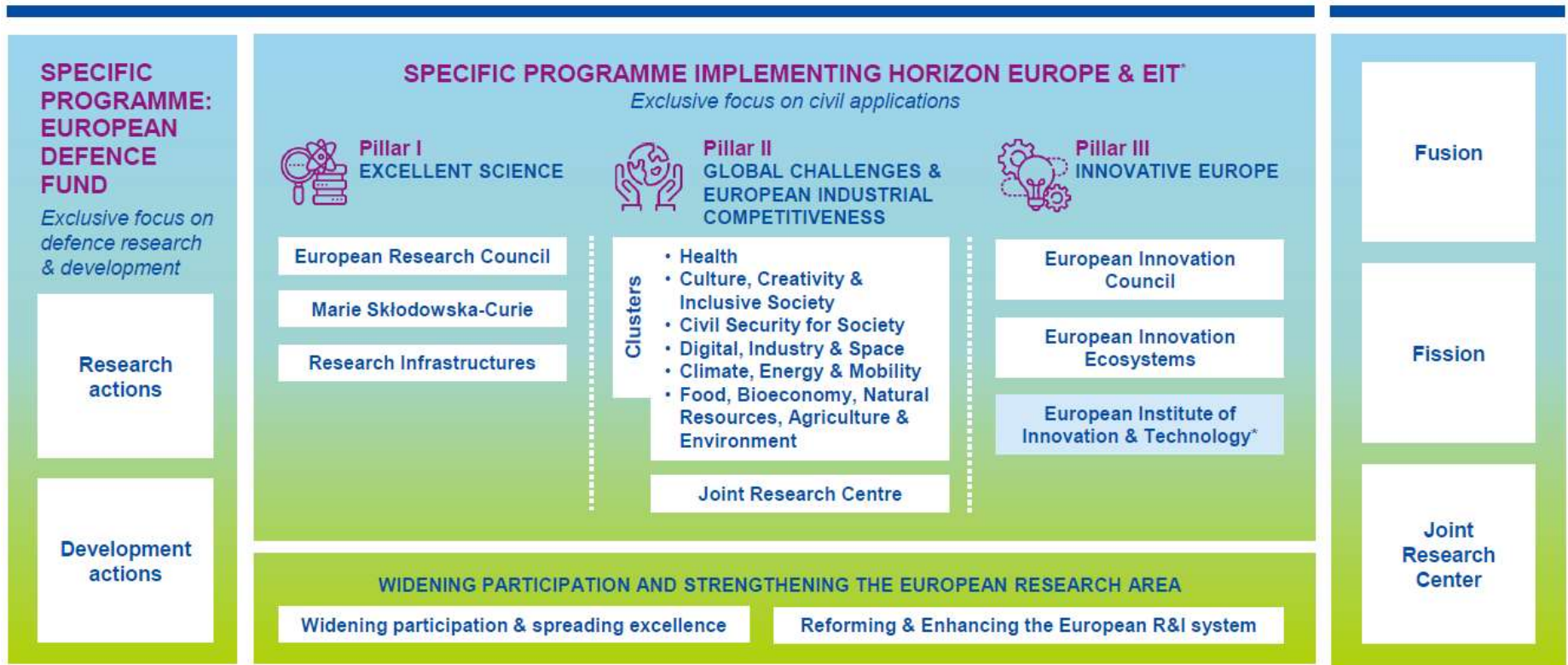


ARMENIA: Associated Country to the HEU – since 2021

HORIZON EUROPE: GENERAL STRUCTURE

HORIZON EUROPE

EURATOM



* The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

Pillar I: Excellent Science



European Research Council

Frontier research by the best researchers and their teams

€16 billion

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Equipping researchers with new knowledge and skills through mobility and training

€6.6 billion

Research Infrastructures

Integrated and interconnected world-class research infrastructures

€2.4 billion

European Research Council (ERC)

- The fundamental activity of the ERC, via its main frontier research grants, is to provide attractive, long-term funding to support excellent investigators (Principal Investigators) and their research teams to pursue ground-breaking and ambitious research, on the basis of scientific excellence.
 - An ERC grant is awarded to the institution that engages and hosts the Principal Investigator(s).
- ❑ **Starting Grant: up to €1.5 mln . for 5 years**
 - ❑ **Consolidator Grant: up to €2.0 mln . for 5 years**
 - ❑ **Advanced Grant: up to €2.5 mln. for 5 years**
 - ❑ **Proof of Concept Grant**
 - **Funding:** Lump Sum Grant of €150,000 for a period of 18 months

- ✓ **Criteria:** Applications can be made in **any field of research**.
- ✓ **Location:** Research must be conducted in a public or private research organisation (known as a Host Institution/HI). It could be the HI where the applicant already works, or any other HI located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries.
- ✓ **Host Institution:** Applications for an ERC grant require a single Principal Investigator (PI) to submit the application on behalf of their host institution.
- ✓ **Team:** ERC grants support projects carried out by an individual researcher who can employ researchers of any nationality as team members. It is also possible to have one or more team members located in a non-European country.

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships

- MSCA Fellowships are provided to excellent researchers undertaking international mobility. Applications will be made jointly by the researcher and a beneficiary in the academic or non-academic sector.

European Postdoctoral Fellowships	Global Postdoctoral Fellowships
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For researchers coming to MS/AC from any country in the world or moving within Europe to engage in R&I activities. • The standard duration of these fellowships can last between 1 and 2 years. • Host is the beneficiary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For researchers moving from MS/AC to engage in R&I activities in a Third Country (TC). • These fellowships require an outgoing phase of 1 to 2 years in a TC, and a mandatory 1 year return phase to a host organization based in MS/AC • Sending organization is the beneficiary

- HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01-01: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026
 - **Call opening:** 9 April 2026
 - **Deadline:** 9 September 2026

ERA Fellowships

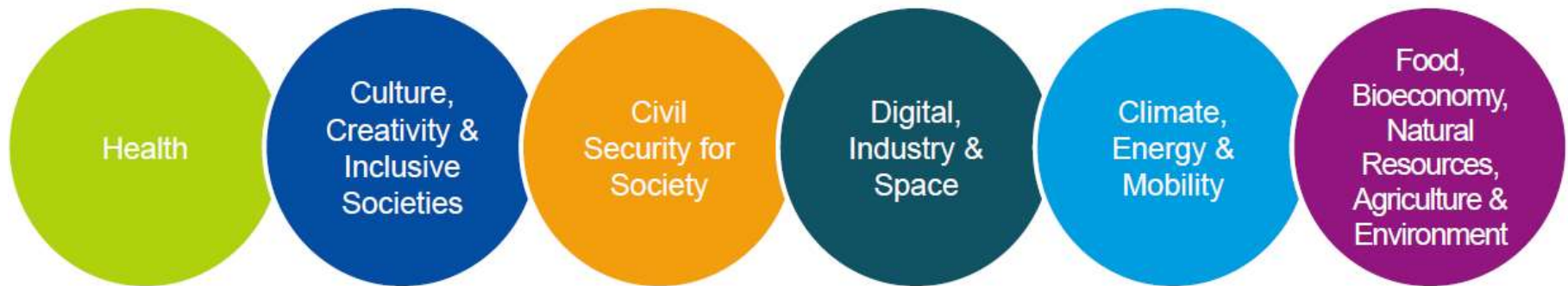
- The ERA Fellowships are a part of Widening Participation & Spreading Excellence and are open for applicants of any nationality with a beneficiary from a Widening Country (Armenia).
- In order to apply for the ERA Fellowships call, applicants must submit their proposal to the MSCA PF call and opt in at the applications stage.
- The excellent applications to the MSCA PF that cannot be funded under MSCA due to the budget constraints (fail to reach an adequate place in the ranking to be funded) will be automatically resubmitted to the ERA Fellowships call.
- Global Fellowships are not eligible.

Research Infrastructures

- Generally, under calls for proposals it is possible to have access to major European infrastructures and carry out joint research – transnational access
- Projects are not providing opportunity to buy/build new infrastructures

GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS:

- boosting **key technologies** and solutions underpinning **EU policies & Sustainable Development**
- Goals** (6 clusters and JRC - non-nuclear direct actions)



€53.5 billion

Joint Research Opportunities under HE Pillar II

- **All Work programmes 2026-2027 are published**
- **Collaborative Research and Innovation Projects:** Possibility to lead or participate in multinational consortia addressing societal challenges.
- **Interdisciplinary and Cross-Sectoral Research:** Opportunities to work on interdisciplinary projects that bridge various sectors and regions, fostering innovation and practical solutions to global challenges.
- **Funding** depends on the specific thematic call
- **Also available Work Programmes for:** EU Missions (Climate Change, Cancer, Waters, Smart Cities, Soil Deal) and New European Bauhaus
- **WPs available at:** [Funding and Tenders Portal](#)

INNOVATIVE EUROPE:



- stimulating **market-creating breakthroughs** and **ecosystems** conducive to innovation

European Innovation Council

Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

The budget: **€10.6 billion**, incl. up to **€527 million** for ecosystems (including NGEU – Recovery Fund parts dedicated to EIC).

European innovation ecosystems

Connecting with regional and national innovation actors

European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation

circa €3 billion

Summary of main EIC Calls in 2026



Call	Who can apply	What for	Deadlines: EIC Open	EIC Challenges	Deadlines/ Cut-offs
EIC Pathfinder	Open call: only consortia can apply Consortia of at least three entities (1 EU + 2 EU/AC) Challenges call: smaller consortia (at least two eligible entities) or single applicants as well as larger consortia.	Open call: up to 4 mln Euro Challenge call: up to 4 mln Euro Projects to achieve the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technologies (starting from early TRLs aiming at achieving TRL3 or 4)	12 May 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I.2.1 Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems - II.2.2 Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing - II.2.3 DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems 	28 October 2026

Summary of main EIC Calls in 2026 (2)



Call	Who can apply	What for	Deadlines: EIC Open	EIC Challenges	Deadlines: EIC Ch
EIC Accelerator	Single start-ups and SMEs (including spin-offs), individuals (intending to launch a start-up/SME) and in exceptional cases small mid-caps (fewer than 499 employees).	Grant component below EUR 2.5M for innovation activities (TRL 6 to 8)	Continuous with batches 7/01/2026; 04/03/2026; 06/05/2026; 08/07/2026; 02/09/2026; 04/11/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> V.2.1 Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage System V.2.2 Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants V.2.3 Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils V.2.4 Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain V.2.5 Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation 	Continuous with batches 7/01/2026; 04/03/2026; 06/05/2026; 08/07/2026; 02/09/2026; 04/11/2026

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- There is a growing **disparity** between countries and regions in terms of R&I performance, which calls for fully mobilising research, innovation and technological capacities in **less developed regions**.
- Less advanced countries eligible for hosting the coordinator of widening actions are Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia and **Associated Countries**
- **Associated Countries**: Albania, **Armenia**, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey and Ukraine, EU Outermost Regions.

Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (ERA):

Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

- Teaming, Twinning, ERA Chairs,
- European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)
- Boosting National Contact Points' (NCPs) activities, pre-proposal checks and advice
- Brain circulation
- Excellence initiatives:
- Possibility for entities from widening countries to join already selected collaborative R&I actions
- Recognition of participation
- Matchmaking services

€2.96 billion

Reforming and enhancing the EU R&I system

- Strengthening the evidence base for R&I policy
- Foresight
- Support for policy makers to the ERA development
- Support to national R&I policy reform, including Policy Support Facility
- Attractive researcher careers and links with higher education
- Open science, citizen science and science communication
- Gender equality
- Ethics and integrity
- Support to international cooperation
- Scientific input to other policies
- Support to the Programme implementation
- Support for National Contact Points
- Support to dissemination & exploitation

€0.44 billion

HOP ON FACILITY

- **Objective:** Improve Inclusiveness of HE policy by involving research institutions from Widening countries in already funded Horizon Europe Pillar II and EIC Pathfinder Actions.
- Call: HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03-WIDENING 01: Hop-On Facility
- **Who:**
 - A consortium funded under Pillar II or EIC Pathfinder actions with no partner from a Widening country
 - A legal entity from a Widening Country wishing to join this collaborative R&I Action
- **How:**
 - The proposal must be submitted by the coordinator of the consortium funded under Pillar 2 or EIC Pathfinder based on added value of a new partner performing additional task in the project
- **Costs:**
 - Expected EU contribution per project: **0,2 to 0,6 Mln Euro**
 - An additional fee of up to 10% of the increased budget can be allocated to the coordinator of the consortium
 - Type of action: RIA (total budget: 30 mln., around 60 projects to be funded)
- **Opening: 13 Jan 2026; Deadlines: 24 September 2026**
- <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/horizon/hop-on>

EIC Pre-accelerator - Widening

- **SCOPE**

- This call will increase the innovation potential of deep-tech startups in the Widening countries and enable them to better attract private investments and scale up.
- Addressing the investor and market readiness towards commercialisation and deployment
- The maturation and validation of novel technologies beyond proof of concept to viable demonstrators of the technology in the intended field of application (i.e., from minimum TRL 4 up to TRL 6).
- **Funding rate:** Between EUR 0.5 to 1.00; 70% of the eligible costs; (CSA, up to 2 years);
- **Eligibility:** Only one legal entity, SME established in Widening country (monobeneficiary)
- Call launch: 5 May 2027; Deadline: 18 Nov 2027

Excellence Hubs



- **SCOPE**

- Excellence hubs are an initiative to strengthen regional innovation excellence in placed based innovation ecosystems by cross-border collaboration on a common strategy and/or alongside value adding chains.
- Excellent and sustainable regional R&I ecosystems in Widening countries and beyond in relevant domains of cutting-edge science and innovation;
 - Cross-border joint R&I strategy based on regional Smart Specialization Strategy
- **Funding rate:** Between EUR 1.50 to 4.5; 70% of eligible costs (CSA, up to 5 years);
- **Eligibility:** At least two Widening Country R&I ecosystems. Each ecosystem needs to include four different categories of actors i.e. a) academic institutions (universities and/or non-university research centers or labs), b) business entities (active established firms with relevant revenues), c) public authorities or authorised agencies and d) societal actors (civil society organisations, associations, citizens, end users, media, cultural actors etc.) or one or more umbrella organization(s) comprising four different categories.
- Call launch: 2 Sep 2026; Deadline: 04 Mar 2027

ERA Chairs

- ERA Chairs will support universities /research organizations from eligible countries to attract and maintain high-quality human resources under the direction of an outstanding researcher and research manager (the 'ERA Chair holder'), and to implement structural changes to achieve excellence on a sustainable basis - Effective institutional reforms in research institutions in widening countries; reverting brain drain.
- **Funding rate:** Between EUR 1.50 to 2.50 million (CSA, up to 5 years);
- **Eligibility:** Research organisation located in widening countries interested in establishing an ERA Chair shall submit a proposal with the prospective ERA Chair holder who should be an outstanding researcher and/or innovator in the chosen scientific domain. Up to 10 % can be directed to research activities.
- Call launch: 06 Apr 2027; Deadline: 14 Sep 2027

TYPES OF PROJECTS

	Research and innovation (RIA)	Innovation actions (IA)	Coordination and support actions (CSA)
Funding rate	100%	70% (except non-profit organisations: 100%)	100%
Min participants	3	3	1
Main activity type	Research and Development	Innovation	Support and coordination activities
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Basic and applied research • Technology development and integration • Testing and validation on a small-scale prototype • Limited demonstration or pilot activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited research and development activities • Prototyping • Testing • Demonstrating • Piloting • Large-scale product validation • Market replication 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Standardization • Dissemination • Awareness-raising and communication • Networking • Coordination or support services • Policy dialogues and mutual learning exercises • Studies and strategic planning • Networking and coordination

Where to start?



- Very competitive programme: advanced preparation & enough time for proposal development needed
- EU Funding and Tender's portal – main information and application platform
<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>
- Exploring Work Programmes available for each Pillar/Sub-programme (All WPs 2026-2027 are published);
- Finding appropriate calls for proposals: project idea fitting the call;
- Consortium building: **coordinator or participant?**

If you decide to coordinate a project...

- **Preconditions:**

- Up-to-date project idea matching appropriate call topic
- Good knowledge of policy aspects/priorities on national, European and global levels
- Good international connectivity – ability to consolidate adequate international consortium (in average 8-10 partners)
- Proposal writing skills – task sharing
- Availability of good management team – to ensure coordinated activities during proposal preparation and project implementation if proposal successful
- Be prepared for more administrative burden

And if you prefer to be a partner ...

- **Proactive Actions:**

- Project idea/expertise matching call topic – identification of relevant call topic
- Finding appropriate consortia preparing proposal is problematic
- Proactive attitude – contacting research partners in EU/AC
- Partner Search tool under each call: upload profile/project idea
- Dissemination of partner search forms via NCP networks
- Involvement in various professional networks (COST, Partnerships, etc.)
- Participation in brokerage & matchmaking events

SIPAC 's Support Tools



- Support under **NCP_WIDERA.Net** project
 - Proposal Pre-screening –assigning EU expert to pre-screen your proposals – **23 pre-screened proposals / 4 funded**
 - Grants to attend brokerage events (up to 1000 Euro) – **43 grants**
<https://sipac.am/> ; <https://www.ncpwideranet.eu/>
- Proposal Writing Camps – 4 organized / 2 upcoming (autumn 2026/spring 2027);
- Ongoing Individual Expert Consultations – [Registration link](#)
- Getting acquainted with previous successful projects in our;
- Support to partner search: dissemination of partner search profile via various NCP networks
- Register at EU T&F Portal as an Expert

WORK AS AN EXPERT



Funding & tender opportunities
Single Electronic Data Interchange Area (SEDIA)

English 

Register Login



SEARCH FUNDING & TENDERS ▾ HOW TO PARTICIPATE ▾ PROJECTS & RESULTS ▾ **WORK AS AN EXPERT** ▾ SUPPORT ▾

select programme 

Funding & tender opportunities (the Single Electronic Data Interchange Area) is the entry point for participants and experts in funding programmes and tenders managed by the European Commission and other EU bodies. >

Find calls for proposals and tenders

Search calls for proposals and tenders by keywords, programmes...

 Search

Calls for proposals by EU Programme

3rd Health Programme
(3HP)

Asylum, Migration and
Integration Fund (AMIF)

Consumer Programme
(CP)

Creative Europe (CREA)

European Defence
Industrial Development
Programme (EDIDP)

EU Aid Volunteers
Programme (EUAID)

Erasmus+ Programme
(EPLUS)

Europe For Citizens (EFC)

REGISTER AS AN EXPERT

Work as an expert

The European Union Institutions appoint external experts to assist in the evaluation of grant applications, projects and tenders, and to provide opinions and advice in specific cases.



In particular, experts assist in:

- **Evaluation** of proposals, prize applications and tenders
- **Monitoring** of actions, grant agreements, public procurement contracts

In addition, experts provide opinion and advise on:

- **Preparation, implementation and evaluation of EU programmes and design of policies.**

In order to select experts, the European Union Institutions publish regularly calls for expression of interest (see list below) detailing the selection criteria, the required expertise, the description of the tasks, their duration and the conditions of remuneration.

Interested? Please join the database of external experts!

[Register as expert](#)

As new expert, you will be first requested to create your EU login account and register your profile.

Registered experts can update the profile via the My Expert Area after



News

Thursday, 4 April, 2019 - 00:00

European Research and Innovation Days 24-26 September 2019 [More...](#)

Friday, 22 March, 2019 - 00:00

Call for experts on tasks for the LIFE Technical Assistance [More...](#)

Thursday, 28 February, 2019 - 00:00

Call for expression of interest for experts: Innovation Radar [More...](#)

Tuesday, 19 February, 2019 - 00:00

Call for volunteer Scientific Expert in business [More...](#)

Tuesday, 29 January, 2019 - 00:00

Call for experts to assist the European Defence Industrial Development Programme (EDIDP) [More...](#)

Wednesday, 17 October, 2018 - 00:00

Call for experts to assist the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) [More...](#)

Thursday, 30 August, 2018 - 00:00

New, improved "My Expert Area" released [More...](#)

Tuesday, 5 June, 2018 - 00:00

Expert evaluators needed: help us select high-potential (social) innovators [More...](#)

Quick Links



Statistics - AM in Horizon Europe



PROPOSALS WITH AM PARTICIPANTS	FUNDED PROJECTS	TOTAL FUNDING
147/180	27 AUA Institute of Physiology – ERA Chair Alikhanyan National Laboratory YSU Institute of Chemical Physics Institute of Botany IIAP ANPU Energy Research Institute Crises Management State Academy SIPAC	~ 8.66 mln. EURO

European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

COST is a funding organisation for the creation of research networks, called COST Actions: **European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)**. These networks offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond) and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation.

<https://www.cost.eu/>

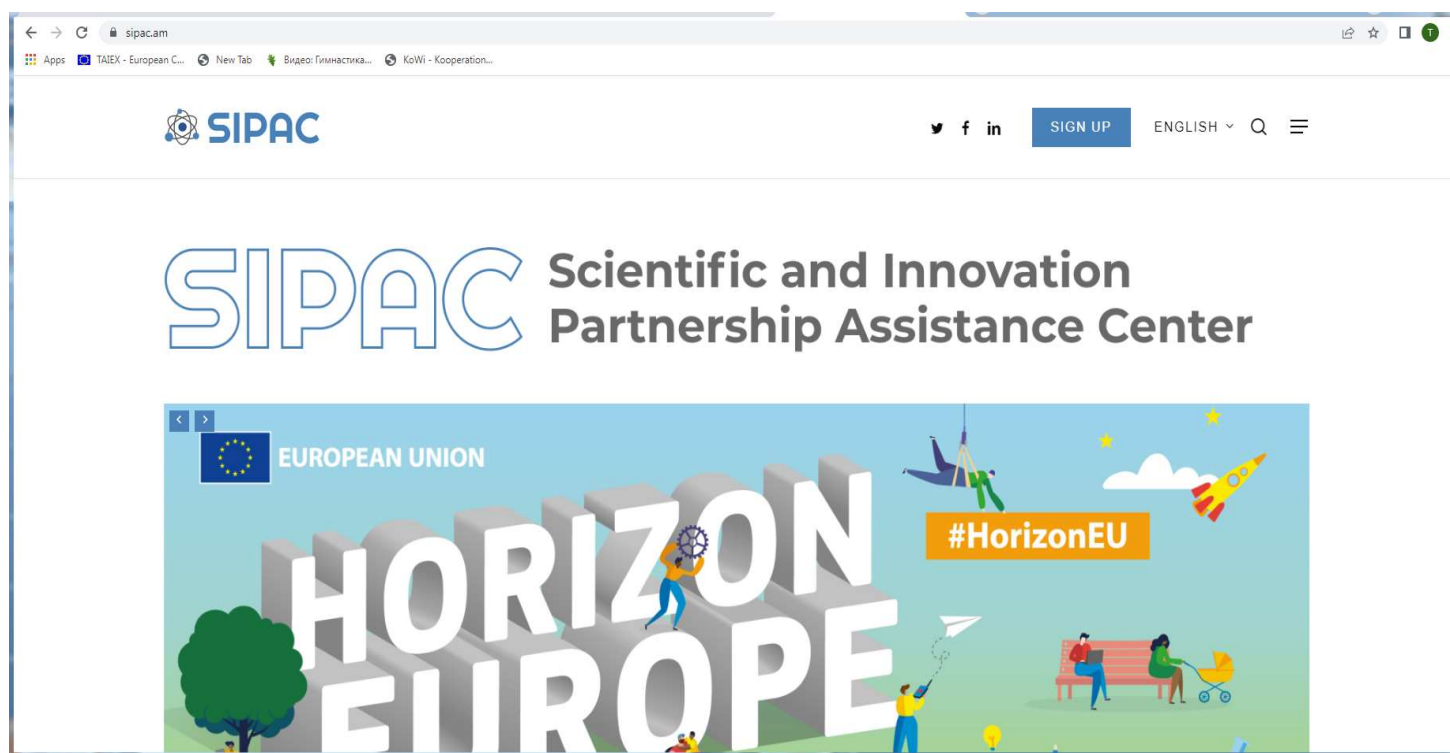


COST ACTIONS



- **COST Actions are open to:**
- COST Actions – funding of networking activities: organising events, short-term scientific missions, training schools, conference grants, etc.
- [Funding rate – approx. 150000 Euro per year for 4 year projects.](#)
- **ARMENIA IS FULL MEMBER SINCE November 2022**
- Call for proposals: **Opening in June 2026**
- Eligibility: a network of **at least 7 COST Members (at least 50% from Inclusiveness Target Countries: ... Armenia...)**
- Possibility to be engaged in ongoing COST Actions: <https://www.cost.eu/cost-actions-event/browse-actions/>
 - Register at COST website
 - Browse actions by keywords to find action of your interest
 - Apply to join working groups
- Contact CNC to become Management Committee Member of COST Actions

<https://sipac.am>



Tigran Arzumanyan

tigran.arzumanyan@sipac.am ;
info@sipac.am
Website: <https://sipac.am>

- Thank you for attention!
- Շնորհակալություն ուշադրության համար: