



December 2025

Horizon Europe Newsletter

Dear colleagues,

In this edition of the Secretariat's Horizon Europe newsletter, we are excited to feature the experience and insights of a diverse array of Canadian organizations that have been awarded funding and have participated in Horizon Europe. These organizations continue to demonstrate Canadian excellence on key topics such as artificial intelligence, health, critical raw materials, and many more! The newsletter also includes a list of upcoming information sessions and matchmaking events as well as an updated Horizon Europe applicant toolkit!

In 2025, Canada celebrated many milestones during our first year of association to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe. Through well attended information sessions and matchmaking events, Canadians continue to demonstrate a strong enthusiasm for the program and are reaping its benefits. The Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat would like to extend its sincerest congratulations for your research achievements and business innovations this year!

We wish you happy holidays and we look forward to your continued engagement in 2026!

Best regards,

Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat
Innovation, Science and Economic Development (ISED) Canada
horizoneurope@ised-isde.gc.ca | [ISED Horizon Europe Website](#)

Canadian Excellence in Horizon Europe Sensitive Calls

The [2026-2027 Horizon Europe Work Programme](#) has been recently launched. The Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat is excited to announce that the European Commission has again recognized Canadian excellence in the areas of artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum technologies, and space. Canada has been granted access to these restricted topics (commonly referred to as "sensitive calls") under the 2026-2027 Work Programme.

Please stay tuned for more details! We hope that you take advantage of these impactful funding and collaboration opportunities to showcase Canadian excellence globally.





What's in the newsletter?

Use the links below to navigate across the different featured content of the Horizon Europe newsletter!

- [Insights from Canadian Horizon Europe Participants](#)
- [Supporting Canadian Participation in Horizon Europe: Destination Horizon Grants](#)
- [Upcoming Horizon Europe Events & Webinars](#)
- [Horizon Europe Applicant Toolkit](#)

Insights from Canadian Horizon Europe Participants

Since 2024, Canadian universities, non-profit organizations, and small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and other organizations have been awarded funding and have participated in Horizon Europe consortia with international partners, tackling global issues. Canadian researchers and innovators have showcased and contributed their knowledge and expertise in common priority areas such as critical raw minerals, health, and artificial intelligence.

The Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat has invited successful Canadian organizations to tell us about their project, share their experience, and provide insights to prospective applicants! We are fortunate to hear about their motivations for applying, challenges they have overcome and their tips for other Canadians interested in applying to Horizon Europe.

To learn more about each project, please click the project title to access its CORDIS profile.

If you have success stories to share with us, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Secretariat at horizoneurope@ised-isde.gc.ca.





Unified modeling and automated scheduling for manufacturing as a service

Cluster 4: Digital, Industry & Space

Thematic Area: Manufacturing, Automation, Artificial Intelligence

Country Collaborators: Canada, Greece, United Kingdom, Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Luxembourg, Poland, and Italy



École de technologie supérieure is a university based in Montreal, Quebec, specializing in applied engineering. The testimonial below shares insights from Professor Aris Leivadeas. Please note that the original responses were provided in French and have been translated to English.

What prompted your decision to apply to Horizon Europe?

I had the opportunity to participate in the Horizon Europe program before coming to Canada. Through these experiences, I saw firsthand how research can be applied to industrial solutions and product portfolios. When I learned that an agreement had been reached between Canada and the European Union (EU) to associate to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe, I wanted to seize the opportunity to collaborate again with a multidisciplinary and international consortium that brings together industrial and academic projects.

Which aspect of your participation are you most proud?

I am pleased to be able to forge a path between the EU and Canada in areas that are strategic for the Canadian economy, such as smart manufacturing and AI-powered automation. Contributing to the training of specialized personnel in such strategic fields also makes me proud.

What is one program obstacle that surprised you and how did you overcome it?

At the time I submitted my proposal, the Canadian institutions were still familiarizing themselves with the program's administrative processes and the steps involved between signing the grant agreement and the official launch of a project.

Several elements required adjustments such as the project's agreements, the applicable legal frameworks, and the definition of partner responsibilities. Close collaboration between ÉTS and the Canadian Horizon Europe Secretariat and its National Contact Points (NCP), enabled us to resolve these issues effectively and constructively.





If you had to give one tip to an aspiring applicant, what would it be?

Succeeding in Horizon Europe hinges on the ability to build diverse consortia that bring together research teams, SMEs, and industrial partners from multiple countries. Applicants should consider monitoring the calls for proposals, participating in webinars, and use this global program to foster interdisciplinary collaborations.

It is also crucial to ensure that the application meets all program requirements. At ÉTS, for example, the Office of Research helped draft more than a dozen applications since the program's launch in Canada, gaining extensive experience with the program's procedures. This expertise represents a significant advantage for any researcher wishing to participate in the program.

Risk-enhanced community care after discharge

Cluster 1: Health – EDCTP3 Partnership

Thematic Area: Global Health, Digital Health Technology

Country Collaborators: Canada, Uganda, Kenya



THE UNIVERSITY
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The testimonial below shares insights from the Institute for Global Health at BC Children's and Women's Hospital and the University of British Columbia, both based in Vancouver. Their research aims to improve the lives and health of children, women and their families globally.

What prompted your decision to apply to Horizon Europe?

Our project aims to reduce post-discharge mortality in children hospitalized for severe infections, a challenge that crosses borders and demands collaboration. The Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking's mandate, focusing on tackling infectious diseases and strengthening the African clinical research system, matched our research focus and was a unique opportunity to conduct a multi-country clinical trial. This also builds new impact-driven partnerships in Sub-Saharan Africa, ensuring our work simultaneously generates knowledge and save lives.

What aspect of your participation are you most proud of?

I'm most proud of how our team at the [Institute for Global Health at BC Children's and Women's Hospital](#), [BC Children's Research Institute](#), [University of British Columbia](#), [Walimu](#) (Uganda), [Kenya Medical Research Institute \(KEMRI\)-Wellcome Trust](#), and [Brock University](#) worked together to conceptualize and develop our project.



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We plan to embed a risk-enhanced care approach into digitized health platforms to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of health services provided by community health workers. Over the next five years, we anticipate improving care for 10,000 children in Uganda and Kenya while laying the foundation for a sustainable 'Smart Discharges' Program across East Africa.

What is one program obstacle that surprised you and how did you overcome it?

We were surprised by how lengthy the application process was, including the grant agreement preparation processes. This was our team's first time applying to the program and there was a steep learning curve for the application components and administrative processes required to initiate the project. Strong leadership from our team lead and regular communication with all our partners was essential to our success.

If you have to give one tip to an aspiring applicant, what would it be?

Start early and focus on building a strong, complementary consortium. We have spent a number of years building strong collaborations with our partners at Brock, KEMRI and Walimu. Horizon Europe values excellent science along with measurable societal impact and cross-border collaboration, so we recommend choosing partners who bring on-the-ground expertise and operational capacity along with partners with interdisciplinary research expertise. Remember that your proposal will become the basis of your grant agreement, so spend time iterating proposals to align both with EU requirements and local realities to ensure your project is ground-breaking yet feasible.

Unified novel deep exploration for critical ore discovery

Cluster 4: Digital, Industry & Space

Thematic Area: Critical Raw Minerals, Artificial Intelligence

Country Collaborators: Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Czechia, Portugal, and Namibia



The Institut national de la recherche scientifique has five thematic and interdisciplinary research and training centres across Quebec. The testimonial below features insights from Professor Erwan Gloaguen. Please note that the original responses were provided in French and have been translated to English.





What prompted your decision to apply to Horizon Europe?

I already had collaborations with Romain Chassagne and Mathieu Darnet from the French Geographical Survey. When the UNDERCOVER project was proposed, they came to ask me to participate and bring my research group's expertise in deep learning in mineral exploration.

Which aspect of your participation are you most proud?

I find it particularly enriching to work with partners from diverse backgrounds and countries. Thanks to this synergy, the project will have a scientific impact as well as a positive impact on the mineral exploration industry and its social acceptance. The African component of the project is also a great source of pride.

What is one program obstacle that surprised you and how did you overcome it?

I had anticipated that the main obstacle would be getting all the stakeholders to agree, both on the content and on the sharing of financial resources. But, on the contrary, the partners all showed great motivation to share in order to develop a program with the best possible chance of producing optimal results.

If you have to give one tip to an aspiring applicant, what would it be?

I would advise them to go for it. It's a bit intimidating but it's worth it, because it allows you to see different, yet equally effective, ways of doing research.

AMALTHEA Project: The role of gender in violent extremism

Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society

Thematic Area: Gender, Law Enforcement

Country Collaborators: Netherlands, Belgium, Romania, Greece, France, Italy, Luxembourg, and Moldova



Queen's University's Centre for International and Defence Policy (CIDP) bridges the gap between academia and policy in matters related to the military and defence. The testimonial below features insights from Professor Yannick Veilleux-Lepage.

What prompted your decision to apply to Horizon Europe?

Canada has been a leader in research on extremist violence and gendered radicalisation, and Queen's University and the CIDP have contributed significantly to this field. In a moment of global realignment, it is important for Canadian researchers to build stronger partnerships with



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the EU. Horizon Europe offered a rare opportunity to link Canadian expertise with a large multidisciplinary consortium and to help shape tools to support prevention efforts globally.

Which aspect of your participation are you most proud?

I am proud that Queen's University and CIDP are among the first Canadian beneficiaries of Horizon Europe and that this is the first Horizon Europe grant in Queen's history since Canada's association. As a Royal Military College (RMC) of Canada faculty member who is cross appointed at Queen's, I see this project as meaningful bridge building.

We built connections between researchers and practitioners, between Canadian and European partners, and across the Cataraqui River in Kingston by having an RMC scholar lead a major initiative that strengthens Queen's international profile. Our contribution anchors a comparative, gender sensitive approach to extremism that is relevant on both sides of the Atlantic.

What is one program obstacle that surprised you and how did you overcome it?

The biggest surprise was how different the proposal culture in Horizon Europe is from North American grants. The level of structure around work packages, tasks, person months, ethics, and impact pathways requires a new way of thinking about project design.

We overcame this by relying on experienced European partners, listening carefully to their guidance, and treating the process as a collaborative design exercise. Once we understood the underlying logic, the templates became helpful rather than restrictive, and the proposal took shape much more naturally.

If you had to give one tip to an aspiring applicant, what would it be?

Aim to offer something genuinely new rather than designing a proposal you believe will simply be funded. Step outside your comfort zone, be ambitious, and build a project you truly believe in. Although I have many European contacts from my doctorate and early career, we chose not to rely on familiar networks. Instead, we partnered with new colleagues because the project demanded fresh perspectives and creative energy. I believe that committing to a bold idea and being willing to take intellectual risks was one of the key reasons our application was successful.





MODALSHIFT Project: Transport Networks & Traffic Management Optimization Framework

Cluster: Climate, Energy and Transport

Thematic Area: Energy, Smart Electric Transport

Country Collaborators: Spain, Portugal, Austria, France, Italy, Belgium, and Bulgaria



InnovÉE is a hub for collaborative research and development (R&D) projects on electric and smart transportation. The testimonial below was originally provided in French and has been translated to English.

What prompted your decision to apply to Horizon Europe?

The relevance of Horizon Europe to our sector and to members of our ecosystem has been a significant driving force. The program represents a unique opportunity to showcase Quebec's expertise in energy and smart electric transportation, while allowing us to acquire and develop best practices in our fields. It also provides a strategic gateway to structuring international collaborations.

Which aspect of your participation are you most proud?

We are particularly proud of InnovÉE's role as a key partner for the communication and dissemination of project deliverables. Operating at the intersection of smart mobility and electromobility, we are ideally positioned to effectively communicate with the Quebec and Canadian ecosystem. This contribution enhances the project's visibility and maximizes the value of the results for all stakeholders.

What is one program obstacle that surprised you and how did you overcome it?

One of the obstacles that surprised us was the costs associated with preparing proposals, particularly the use of external writing firms. This approach is less common for Quebec research organizations and businesses, which are more accustomed to internal processes. We overcame this challenge by drawing on the experience of our European partners, especially the consortium coordinators, to optimize efforts and costs.

If you had to give one tip to an aspiring applicant, what would it be?

Don't be intimidated by the scale of the program: Horizon Europe offers an exceptional opportunity to collaborate with top-tier ecosystems. Alternatively, we also recommend actively working to build a diverse network to bring together complementary expertise, better aligned





with the program's challenges and expectations—a key factor in the success of building strong consortia.

If you have success stories to share with us, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Secretariat at horizoneurope@ised-isde.gc.ca.

Supporting Canadian Participation in Horizon Europe: Destination Horizon Grants

Destination Horizon Grants, offered by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), are intended to support researchers affiliated with eligible Canadian postsecondary institutions in building capacity, fostering existing partnerships, and further developing networks and/or consortia with EU and other associated countries researchers, with the ultimate goal of applying to Horizon Europe Pillar 2 calls for proposals.

Valued at \$15,000 for one year, the grants support activities between researchers that facilitate:

- disciplinary and/or interdisciplinary exchanges;
- scholarly exchanges;
- intersectoral exchanges between academic researchers and practitioners from the public, private and/or not-for-profit sectors; and/or
- international research collaboration and scholarly exchanges between researchers affiliated with Canadian postsecondary institutions and researchers, students and non-academic partners from the EU and other associated countries.

The application deadlines for Destination Horizon Grants are January 22, May 22, September 22, 2026. For more information, please contact partnerships@sshrc-crsh.gc.ca.





Upcoming Horizon Europe Events & Webinars

Information Sessions

Looking to learn more about Horizon Europe and its technical aspects? Check out the events below:

- **January 2026:** The European Commission will host [Horizon Europe info days](#) to share information about the 2026-2027 Horizon Europe Work Programme. This includes the policy context behind each call, guidance for preparing a high-quality proposal, and a question and answer (Q&A) session.
- **February 12, 2026:** The European Commission will host a [webinar on lump sum funding](#) in Horizon Europe. The session will feature insights on preparing lump sum proposals and testimonials from funded projects.

Matchmaking / Brokerage Events

Looking for European and international partners to form a Horizon Europe consortium? Check out the following free matchmaking events and get ready to pitch your expertise!

- **January 14, 2026:** [Canada's NCP Network: Cluster 6 Matchmaking Event](#)
 - This virtual event brings together researchers and innovators from Canada, Sweden, Ukraine, Finland and the Baltics to explore collaboration opportunities for nature restoration, biodiversity, and ocean calls within the 2026-2027 Work Programme. Registration closes on January 5, 2026.
- **January 26 – 30, 2026:** [HHN 3.0: Cluster 1\(Health\) Matchmaking Event](#)
 - This virtual matchmaking event is organized by Health-NCP-Net (HHN). Participants can engage in online bilateral meetings using the B2M platform and present their ideas during the pitch sessions. Registration closes on January 21, 2026.
- **January 28-29, 2026:** [NCP4Missions Matchmaking Event](#)
 - This is virtual matchmaking event will open with an online plenary session to offer practical advice on EU Missions proposals. After the plenary, participants will be able to schedule online bilateral meetings with potential project partners. *Please register as soon as possible.*





- **January/February 2026:** [IDEAL-IST: Cluster 4 Digital Calls Matchmaking Platform](#)
 - This virtual matchmaking platform will support matchmaking for Cluster 4 Digital Calls. *Please register as soon as possible.*
- **February 3, 2026:** Canada's NCP Network: Ocean Science Matchmaking Event
 - This virtual matchmaking event brings together experts from Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, and Portugal to forge new collaborations on sustainable fisheries and ocean management, aquatic pollution and conservation. *Stay tuned for registration details.*
- **February 4, 2026:** [Key Enabling Technologies 2026 Matchmaking Event](#)
 - This in-person event will be hosted in Karlsruhe, Germany and will have six thematic workshops and pitching sessions on manufacturing, raw and advanced materials, energy storage (batteries), artificial intelligence, as well as communications technology. Spaces are limited. *Please register as soon as possible.*
- **February 25, 2026:** [Net4Society: Artificial Intelligence in Horizon Europe Calls](#)
 - This virtual matchmaking event brings together applicants interested in submitting proposals relating to artificial intelligence and requires the involvement of social sciences and the humanities. If you are planning to pitch, *please submit your presentation as soon as possible.* Registration closes on February 20, 2026.

The Secretariat regularly organizes webinars and matchmaking events. Stay up to date with all things Horizon Europe by visiting our [website](#) and subscribing to [our distribution list](#).





Horizon Europe Applicant Toolkit

Toolkit Essentials

- [ISED Horizon Europe Website](#): dedicated webpage for Canadians navigating Horizon Europe with an overview of the programme, applicant resources, and NCP information.
- [Horizon Europe Glossary](#): explains general Horizon Europe concepts and terminology.
- [Horizon Europe Annotated Grant Agreement](#): reference document for grant administration policies (e.g., reporting, auditing and other legal and financial topics).
- [Horizon Academy](#): publicly accessible portal for NCPs with training modules, event information and applicant tools.
- [CORDIS](#): database of EU funded research with project descriptions (e.g., coordinator, participating countries, funding, and grant timelines).

Past Webinar Recordings

- [Delegation of the EU to Canada YouTube Page](#): includes recordings of previous information sessions such as the introduction to Horizon Europe clusters, collaboration opportunities between Canada and the EU's Joint Research Centre and tips for proposals
- [European IP Helpdesk – Consortium Agreement Webinar](#): provides an overview of consortium agreements, who signs them, and shares existing model agreements.
- [European Commission – Lump Sum Funding in Horizon Europe](#): provides an overview of lump sum funding and how to prepare lump sum proposals.

Navigating Horizon Europe – Key Support Resources

- [Canada's NCP Network](#): NCPs offer both sector specific, program insights and technical expertise to Canadian applicants. With support from Canada's Trade Commissioner Service, they can also connect you with European partners.
- [ISED Horizon Europe Secretariat Inbox](#): provides guidance on general eligibility requirements, and the financial and administrative components of the programme, supporting Canada's association to Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe.
- [EURAXESS North America](#): promotes European R&I opportunities in Canada and the United States. They provide expert insights on Pillar 1 programs such as the [Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions](#) and [European Research Council Grants](#).
- [EU Funding & Tenders Research Enquiry Service](#): dedicated service for questions regarding EU research and funding and account-related questions.
- [European IP Helpdesk](#): provides free-of-charge support to SMEs and beneficiaries of EU-funded research projects to manage their intellectual property (IP).

