DESTINATION: INNOVATIVE RESEARCH on SOCIAL and ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Europe is being transformed by changes that impact the livelihoods and wellbeing of its citizens. Such changes present important opportunities for the EU to innovate and shape forward looking inclusive societies and economies, while avoiding the mistakes of the past and promoting an inclusive recovery that strengthens economic and social resilience. However, demographic changes, digitalisation, automation, new ways of working, environmental degradation, armed conflicts, energy dependency, the transition to a low carbon economy, health threats and globalisation all pose multidimensional, interconnected and complex social and economic challenges. At the same time, there has been an increase in inequality, poverty and social exclusion, a polarisation of skill needs in the labour market, and a slowdown in convergence in income and employment in most European countries. Inequalities, including housing inequalities, threaten social and territorial cohesion, economic growth and wellbeing. Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic consequences of the Russian invasion of Ukraine have magnified the pervasive inequalities across European societies, with significant differences in the way losses and costs of these crises are distributed in society. To seize the opportunities emerging from socio-economic transformations, including the digital and green transitions, in a strongly connected and integrated world, these challenges need to be better understood and tackled.

Population ageing increases social protection spending on pensions, health and long-term care and restricts the capacity of the redistributive system to reduce inequality. Policies need to support a transition towards more environmentally-friendly ways of producing and providing private and public services, while ensuring all regions and individuals equally benefit from these transitions and that no one is left behind, in particular when it comes to employment and access to essential services. The European Pillar of Social Rights[91] tries to pave the way towards fair and well-functioning labour markets and social protection systems. Access to social protection for those in need should be ensured, while making sure that everyone can participate in economic, social, political and cultural developments. Social protection supports individuals in emergencies that they can no longer cope with on their own and, in addition, protects them by means of long-term measures – whether in the event of illness, accident, disabilities, need for care (including childcare and long-term care), unemployment or old age. Moreover, mitigation and adaptation strategies are essential to make sure population movements shaped by these transitions are positive for all areas, and do not contribute to deepening the divide between regions or countries.

Education and training are key long-term factors in preventing and reversing inequalities and promoting equal opportunities, inclusion and social mobility. However, the educational outcomes of young people are still determined to a large extent by the socio-economic status of their parents rather than by their own potential. Without connecting to other social policies,

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[91]   https://ec.europa.eu/info/strategy/priorities-2019-2024/economy-works-people/jobs-growth-and-investment/european-pillar-social-rights/european-pillar-social-rights-20-principles_en

education and training systems may not be able to compensate for all societal inequality, however they have a vital role to play in breaking these patterns and creating a fair and inclusive society. In this context, it is important to reflect on the nature of economic growth and the need to better capture the different dimensions of social progress, including sustainable economic policy paradigms. It is increasingly important to distinguish between the different purposes of measurement: economic activity, social and cultural well-being and sustainability, and to develop relevant indicators. This is particularly the case as the pervasive effects of the COVID-19 pandemic has altered the economic performance and socio-economic fabric of many countries in Europe, bringing also to the fore mental health related issues, loneliness and their socio-economic impacts affecting the well-being of citizens.

Migration has been a critical component of the makeup of European societies, requiring comprehensive and coordinated European responses in order to ripen its benefits, both inside and outside the EU. The task of research is to better understand migration in a global and EU context, assist in its governance, support security and help the socio-economic as well as civil-political inclusion of migrants in European societies. It can enhance policies, and in particular the EU's agenda on migration as it is expressed in the New Pact for Asylum and Migration[92].

The implementation of the research activities in the two calls of this Destination will contribute to a comprehensive and reflective European strategy for inclusive growth, including social, economic, ecological and historical dimensions. It will also contribute to promote research actions and outputs that help design, implement and monitor a socially just and inclusive green and digital transition, notably in relation to social and economic transformations, inclusiveness, skills development and sustainability. Furthermore, actions will deal with the long-term challenges in education and training, talent and labour market and the resilience of our societies. This will strengthen the resilience of the EU and of its citizens, and will ensure that no one is left behind, despite instability and in the face of old and new risks. It will equally support productivity gains and their fair distribution, as well as boosting social and economic resilience that is essential to face situations of unexpected crises such as in the case of COVID-19 or the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The overall knowledge generated, including a holistic understanding of societal well-being, will feed into the design of policy strategies in line with the above mentioned objectives and will facilitate the assessment of policy needs and outcomes in the field of the societal and economic transformations.

The Destination calls for proposals that may help in reaching these key strategic policy objectives in the EU. It invites proposals to do so by integrating feedback loops with stakeholders and policymakers that may help in developing suggestions and recommendations throughout their lifecycles. These proposals should take into consideration the stakeholders associated to the decisions that are suggested, and should also account for the context in which decisions are made. Therefore, in order to maximise and facilitate the uptake of group-sensitive recommendations in policy, they should include analyses of political and financial

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[92]   https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/migration-and-asylum-package-new-pact-migration-and-asylum-documents-adopted-23-september-2020_en

trade-offs associated to the recommendations produced, reflecting also on contextual changes needed to implement proposals developed. Proposals are also invited to build upon previous research funded by Horizon 2020, valorising its experience and findings.

Expected impacts:

Proposals for topics under this Destination should set out a credible pathway to contributing to the following targeted expected impacts of the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan:

- Social and economic resilience and sustainability are strengthened through a better understanding of the social, ethical, political and economic impacts of drivers of change (such as technology, globalisation, demographics, mobility and migration) and their interplay.

- Inclusive growth is boosted and vulnerabilities are reduced effectively through evidence-based policies for protecting and enhancing employment, education, social fairness and tackling inequalities, including in response to the socio-economic challenges due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The following call(s) in this work programme contribute to this destination:

Call	Budgets (EUR million)		Deadline(s)
	2023	2024	
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01	80.00		14 Mar 2023
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01		96.00	07 Feb 2024
Overall indicative budget	80.00	96.00	

Call - Inclusiveness in times of change

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[93]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million) 2023	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)[94]	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
Opening: 14 Dec 2022 Deadline(s): 14 Mar 2023				
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-01	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-02	CSA	4.00	2.00 to 3.00	1
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-03	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04	CSA	4.00	2.00 to 3.00	1
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-05	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-06	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3

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[93] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2023 and 2024.

[94] Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-08	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-09	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-10	RIA	9.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
Overall indicative budget		80.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-01: Remote working arrangements and their economic, social and spatial effects

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.

Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

<u>Expected Outcome</u>: Projects should contribute to some of the following expected outcomes:

- Better understanding of the spatial implications of increased remote working and its challenges for different regions, including urban and rural areas.

- Increased understanding on the impact of remote working arrangements on the living and working conditions, including health and safety at work, work-life balance and consequences of cross-border working.

- Better understanding of the possible consequences to communal life and society.

- Recommendations to help urban and rural areas to shape the trends of remote working cope with the challenges and seize the opportunities.

<u>Scope</u>: Remote working arrangements have considerably increased during the COVID-19 pandemic, giving a new perspective to a long ongoing debate on a solution which before was primarily an opportunity to improve employees' work-life balance.

This phenomenon has the potential to decentralise jobs away from metropolitan areas creating opportunities for both urban and rural areas, including for the less favoured regions. For urban areas, it has, on one hand, the potential to alleviate housing prices and air quality. On the other hand, it can, at the same, change the urban landscape, notably regarding the occupation of buildings and their usage in areas where enterprises may switch completely to remote work arrangements. For rural areas, it can create more dynamism and attract necessary investments, including for essential services such as health care and transport. Moreover, rural areas tend to concentrate key sectors for the green transition, such as agriculture and clean energy production, for which attracting skilled, remote workers could affect particular challenges faced by rural areas, such as an ageing population and skills shortage. Simultaneously, increased attractiveness can also have a negative impact for the local community, for instance due to housing price increase and create pressure over existing infrastructure, as well as accelerate agricultural land take.

Not all workers can enjoy the benefits of working from home: it is estimated that only approximately 37% of EU-27 workers are in occupations that can be carried out from home. This could aggravate existing spatial segregation and inequalities. Moreover, remote work can significantly change working conditions and affect the health and safety of workers. In addition, employees whose workplace is in a different country than the place of employment may face complications regarding social security and taxation. Finally, the interlinkages of remote working with care duties can deteriorate the work-life-balance and possibly accentuate existing gender gaps.

Research should investigate how remote working arrangements can affect different spaces, focusing on the urban and rural divide and its impacts on the local communities, including on ethical and social aspects, employment, as well as on administration and infrastructures.

It should further research how remote working arrangements impact working conditions, notably health and safety of workers, the skills divide, working time, work-life balance and broader social impacts, including family and care arrangements, as well as mental health and loneliness.

Research activities should also evaluate the consequences of remote working on already existing inequalities, including gender inequality. They should forecast the development of the remote working trend and should identify populations benefitting and populations who run the risk of losing out.

As remote working is a phenomenon affecting societies on all levels, an outlook and policy recommendations should target policymakers on EU level as well as Member States', Associated Countries' and regional/local authorities.

Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged. Finally, the topic should contribute to the EU Rural Vision.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-02: Towards sustainable economic policy paradigms

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 4.00 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: The granting authority can fund a maximum of one project.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the

	Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025). [95].

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- An established network of relevant policymakers, academic experts, international organisations, non-governmental organisations, civil society organisations, fora and networks working on beyond GDP policy frameworks and measurement of multidimensional well-being, including National Statistical Offices (NSOs) or other national authorities in charge.

- An effective science-policy dialogue to increase the usability and acceptability of beyond GDP policy frameworks and well-being indicators.

- Policymakers, at European and national level, well informed about how to better incorporate well-being considerations into their work.

- Support and methodological guidance to EU Member States and Associated Countries, policymakers, national authorities, and experts on data collection and statistics for the measurement and monitoring of well-being.

- Well-working knowledge exchange and coordination on "beyond GDP" policy frameworks and well-being indicators among different stakeholders including through platforms, knowledge repositories, boards of experts, workshops and networking events.

- Links with ongoing policy priorities and initiatives, such as the European Green Deal, the 8th Environmental Action Plan (EAP), the European Pillar of Social Rights, the Resilience Dashboards, and the United Nation's Agenda 2030.

Scope: GDP is still the main macroeconomic indicator used around the world to quantify economic activity. However, the GDP indicator was never designed to measure human and planetary prosperity and well-being. Since more than a decade now[96], it is becoming clear that GDP on its own cannot reflect the real level of well-being and development of a society, or the damage done to the environment by certain economic activities and consumption choices[97]. "Beyond GDP" policy frameworks and indicators such as the Eurostat Sustainable Development Goals reporting[98] are needed to measure progress against the global challenges

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[95] This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

[96] Important steps in this context were made by the 2009 manifesto by Stiglitz-Sen-Fitoussi, and the 2009 Commission Communication on "GDP and beyond: measuring progress in a changing world" and its 2013 follow-up "Progress on 'GDP and beyond' actions".

[97] See the ECFIN Discussion Pater "Economic Policy-Making Beyond GDP: An Introduction", Alessio Terzi https://ec.europa.eu/info/publications/economic-policy-making-beyond-gdp-introduction_en

[98] Commission (Eurostat) publishes 2022 report on SDG (europa.eu) https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_22_3212

of the 21st century (such as climate change; demographic changes; changing world of work; digitalisation and technological change).

The transition to a well-being economy is embedded in the United Nation's 2030 Agenda and the related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in the 8th EAP and enshrined in both the 2030 and 2050 priority objectives. Multidimensional "beyond GDP" indicators and policy frameworks are needed to monitor and measure, inform policymaking, improve communication, and promote target setting on social, economic, and environmental objectives. Such indicators are crucial to measure well-being and prosperity as well as environmental and social sustainability at individual, community, national level and international level, while accounting for the principle of "leaving no one behind" and capturing spill over effects of the EU's activities. Well-being indicators should be used to measure both objective and subjective dimensions, where the latter refers to individual behaviours, social preferences, values systems and social norms.

Over the past decade, several new well-being indicators have been developed, which have been embraced to various degrees by several governments and international organisations. At the current juncture, the challenge is twofold: 1) to overcome data gaps caused by lack of data collection and insufficient harmonisation and coordination across Member States, and 2) to bring "beyond GDP" policy frameworks and well-being indicators into more active policymaking in a sensible and clearer way. Initiatives under this call should provide tangible solutions to this challenge.

The goal of the proposals should be to help in particular policymakers and stakeholders, who are not familiar with beyond GDP policy frameworks and well-being indicators, but want to learn how to better incorporate well-being considerations into their work. The proposals should design concrete co-creation tools that support policymakers at the national, regional, local and city levels to develop and analyse policies and programmes with a well-being lens.

To this end, the proposals should shed light on the synergies between existing data sources, initiatives on beyond GDP, and results from previous funded projects. Proposals could cover actions that provide support and methodological guidance to the EU and Member States, policymakers, national authorities, and experts on data collection and statistics to measure and monitor well-being, sustainability, and resilience. By working together with the relevant policymakers and National Statistical Offices projects could assess, for example, the feasibility of scaling up existing knowledge on well-being, sustainability and resilience metrics by integrating it into more regular and standardised data collection exercises.

The proposals may also work towards establishing a European network that would help bring existing beyond GDP policy frameworks and well-being indicators into more active policymaking. Such a network should include a broad range of stakeholders representing diverse backgrounds and needs from all EU Member States, including policymakers, academic experts, international organisations, relevant fora and National Statistical Offices or other national authorities in charge, as well as social partners. Proposals are encouraged to also collaborate with the JRC.

Outputs should, where possible, feed into online learning content accessible to the public and various stakeholders in the form of platforms and knowledge repositories, and thereby open doors for mutual learning opportunities and exchanges of good practices. The proposals are encouraged to build strong networks and liaise with other stakeholders working on well-being through regular exchanges, in the form of, for example, boards of experts, workshops and networking events.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-03: Global Shortages and Skill Partnerships

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Enhance EU migration governance by matching analyses of skills shortages in the EU and in non-EU countries.

- Provide tools to decision-makers to navigate skill shortages in EU labour markets.

- Present an overview of the trade-offs of filling shortages with migrant workforce vis-à-vis other alternatives such as education/local - and re upskilling/automation.

Scope: As the EU's workforce grows older, there is increasing political attention on how to recruit workers with the right skills for a changing labour market. The EU has proposed to develop 'Talent Partnerships'[99] with third countries of origin, in order to train and recruit workers from outside of the EU. This type of international partnership based on skills, is premised on the idea that in many sectors shortages are global, and thereby one can develop training centres at lower cost outside of the EU, training people which may then spend their skills both in the origin countries, as well as in the EU. Research has started to look at this promising principle finding interesting practices[100], yet attention is needed on a macro level to better understand causes and consequences of such shortages globally, in order to envisage scaling up such promising pilots and practices.

Firstly, research should focus on countries of destination, with a particular focus on the EU (at the national and regional level) in the context of an ageing population with a shrinking workforce and tax base. Proposals should focus on the shortage model that leads to

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[99] https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/FS_22_2656
[100] https://www.migrationpartnershipfacility.eu/labour-mobility

recruitment of foreign workers through skill partnerships, and should assess their existence and their cause, with particular attention on how to define and measure them. This should shed light on the need to expand workforce by recruiting foreign labour, also by assessing viability and trade-offs of other alternatives. These could be, but are not limited to: raising wages, also considering incentives needed employers to do so vis-à-vis foreign worker recruitment; education and upskilling of local workforce, considering the possibility of matching supply and demand of labour depending on the sector and timeframe of the needs; automation, with a focus to investments and incentives needed to reach a level of automation of work in sectors which rely on migrant workforce. As such, proposals should assess causes and consequences of shortages in destination countries warranting the establishment of partnerships with third countries to recruit needed skills.

Proposals should then focus on third countries of origin, and go beyond single case studies keeping a macro and/or cross-case comparison perspective. Proposals should develop a way to evaluate labour markets and analyse matching needs and shortages compared to the EU. Proposals could combine labour market analyses with a focus on the education system and analyse structures in place for training people for those sectors in need, including spending attention on qualifications obtained in view of EU recognition, as well as on language skills as a factor for migrant integration. Proposals should also analyse the relation between investing in upskilling local workforce in view of recruiting a proportion of this, together with the creation of local human capital that could act as a driver for local development. This could be coupled with a survey in different countries with skilled (migrant) workers, in view of developing a database of microdata on the interaction of developing skills with local development processes. Proposals could take into account mobility patterns and retention initiatives as part of their analysis, as well as the ESCO classification[101]. Overall, such analyses should shed light on conditions which influence positively or negatively local development processes vis-à-vis foreign upskilling and recruitment, analysing conditions which lead domestic institutions to capitalise on the positive effects. Proposals may also include a historical perspective with comparisons with 'guest worker' programs of recruitment of foreign workers in the second half of the 20th century, to build on what has worked and what has not in the past. Proposals are encouraged to consider in their analyses in particular the pilot projects on legal migration carried out by the Mobility Partnership Facility[102], as well as other projects running in this area, inter alia the Flagship Technical Support topic[103], the European Training Foundation's 'Skills Lab'[104], THAMM project in North-Africa[105] and the MATCH project[106].

As such, proposals should consider both sides of 'skill partnerships' including the issues of brain drain and economic development of third countries, and assess the shortage model on

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[101]   https://esco.ec.europa.eu/en/classification
[102]   https://ec.europa.eu/home-affairs/policies/international-affairs/mobility-partnership-facility-mpf_en
[103]   EU budget for the future
[104]   https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/projects-campaigns/projects/skills-demand-analysis
[105]   https://ec.europa.eu/trustfundforafrica/region/north-africa/regional/towards-holistic-approach-labour-migration-governance-and-labour_en
[106]   https://belgium.iom.int/match

which they are premised both in destination and origin countries, looking at the distribution of benefits for destination countries, origin countries and migrants themselves.

Proposals are encouraged to consider contributing to the Global Gateway Strategy by increasing scientific knowledge and transferring best practices among partner countries. In order to achieve the expected outcomes, international cooperation is strongly encouraged. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged, especially with the beneficiaries of topic 'HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07: Tackling European skills and labour shortages' to ensure complementarities wherever relevant.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04: Bridging the migration research to policy gap

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 4.00 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: The granting authority can fund a maximum of one project.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025). [107].

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Strengthen EU migration governance by developing methodology and network to share research outputs with decision-makers and practitioners.

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[107] This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

- Valorise existing research and maximise outputs produced by distilling useful information for policymakers.

- Develop series of opportunities for mutual learning between policymakers, practitioners and the research community, based on research outputs and implemented through innovative methodologies and practices.

Scope: Proposals should build a rigorous method to bridge science to policy relations on migration, building from existing literature not exclusive to migration policy, including on decision-making, organisational studies, behavioural insights, human rights, gender and intersecting aspects (e.g. socioeconomic background, ethnic/minority background, disability) and public policy literature. It should therefore define a strategy towards informing policymaking on migration through evidence, taking into careful consideration all elements of the policy cycle, including: institutions involved, networks of actors and stakeholders, frames, perceptions and narratives that shape the context in which decisions are taken, information available to decision-makers, and finally the way in which policy choices are taken. This should also include consideration of cognition, values, human rights and biases and the role these play in distilling information available and deciding upon a course of action.

Having developed such a strategy specific to EU migration policymaking at its different levels (supranational, national, local), proposals should make a selection of migration research, and distil useful findings for policymakers. The specific topics on which to focus should be selected in synergy with practitioners and policymakers, identifying research consensus as well as knowledge gaps in the policy processes on which quick advice can be most useful. Proposals are encouraged to focus first on EU funded research and projects (funded through Horizon 2020/Europe, AMIF, ESFD+, EUTF, NDICI), but are also encouraged to look for further evidence available whenever necessary.

Finally proposals should apply the strategy for engaging with policymakers already from the beginning of their lifecycle to create opportunities for mutual learning between researchers and policymakers, on the topics identified in synergy with practitioners. This should not be limited to a normal dissemination strategy (policy briefs, presentations) aimed at feeding research into policy. It should also include innovative methodologies for exchange and learning, such as, but not limited to: case study analysis, scenario building, and other useful strategies that may help simulate how to manage disagreements and the intrinsic complexity of migration policy making. This should create a network that could for example include participants from EU institutions, Member States, International Organisations, partner Countries, NGOs and other stakeholders, with a view to be sustainable as a basis for exchange beyond the lifetime of the project. The proposals are strongly encouraged to seek ways to work in complementarity and coordination with existing migration networks at the EU level, notably the European Migration Network and the Knowledge Centre on Migration and Demography.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-05: Efficiency and effectiveness of investment in high-quality education and training

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Design, develop and use methodologies to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of specific policy measures or programmes in the field of education and training based on rigorous quantitative research methods, for example randomised controlled trials, natural experiments or other statistical techniques to perform causal evaluations.

- Gather evidence to assess costs and benefits to compare the efficiency of policy measures or programmes.

- Identify education and training policies ensuring an efficient use of public resources to improve learning outcomes, as well as measures of equity and inclusion of education and training systems.

- Develop policy recommendations to inform policy measures, programmes, future evaluations and actions in the field of education and training.

Scope: Effective and efficient investment in education and training at all educational levels and for all age groups is a prerequisite for enhancing quality and inclusiveness of the education and training systems, improving the education outcomes, meeting the European Education Area objectives and targets, as well as for driving sustainable growth, improving well-being, and building a more inclusive society[108]. The Commission launched an Expert Group on Quality Investment in Education and Training[109] focusing on teachers and trainers, digital education, education infrastructure and learning environments and equity and inclusion.

Investing effectively and efficiently in education and training has a potential to aid the recovery and contribute to the green and digital transitions of the education and training sector. However, most of the empirical evidence on the evaluation of education and training

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[108] Council Resolution 2021/C 66/01: https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2021.066.01.0001.01.ENG
[109] https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/expert-groups-register/screen/expert-groups/consult?do=groupDetail.groupDetail&groupID=3759

policies comes from the United States or the United Kingdom. More analysis in EU Member States and Associated Countries is necessary to know if promising policies identified in the academic literature would be effective in a different local context. Moreover, a cost-benefit analysis of the policy measures evaluated is rarely available. Proposals should select education and training policy measures or programmes and assess their effectiveness to improve learning outcomes and measures of equity and inclusion in education and training systems, considering the situation of learners facing disadvantages, and including adult learning. Proposals could complement the quantitative research methods analysis with qualitative research methods. Proposals should also evaluate the costs associated with the policy measures or programmes analysed. Close cooperation with authorities responsible for the education and training policies analysed at the relevant level of Government is essential and should be ensured. Proposals should improve knowledge about the links between the outcomes of policy actions or programmes and their specific contexts, and about conditions for success to enhance the EU value-added. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-06: Mapping of longitudinal data and assessment of inequalities in education, training and learning achievements

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Map and collect existing regional or national longitudinal data allowing to follow individual cohorts of students over time and allowing to analyse their learning outcomes, and trends in educational inequalities.

- Provide policymakers with an analysis of the available literature and a selection of techniques used to assess inequalities in education, training and learning achievements over time.

- Identify the interventions that compensate inequalities in learning outcomes over time based on the analysis of longitudinal data.

Scope: Long-standing educational inequalities have been pervasive across the European Union and the disruptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic have further aggravated inequalities within and between countries. Despite the richness of analysis, existing initiatives and recommendations, longitudinal studies of individual student cohorts are rare, and it is

difficult to follow students, assess their learning outcomes over time and identify trends in education inequalities. It is even more difficult to examine any causal link between educational policies and inequalities in education achievements. Proposals should map and collect surveys with a longitudinal design, following the learning progress of students over time, and linking with information for example on students' achievement scores, socio-economic background, language spoken at home, migration history, the school they attend, or whether they have attended early care and childhood education. Close cooperation with authorities and/or other institutions owning the data is essential and should be ensured. Proposals should enhance the knowledge base of what shapes the educational outcomes over time, how to best support the learning of all students and reduce education inequalities in the short, medium and long-term. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07: Tackling European skills and labour shortages

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Policymakers are provided with a set of data at European level on skills and labour shortages.

- Citizens and policymakers can access to Europe wide sound indicators for skills and labour shortages, comparable across countries.

- Provide policymakers with viable pathways to reduce skills shortages and mismatch.

Scope: Well-functioning and balanced skills and labour market are a precondition for an inclusive society, low unemployment and inequalities, and a thriving economy.

Globalisation, demographic change and migration, technological change, green transition, and covid-19 crisis are reshaping European societies and economies, the labour market demand is changing at an unprecedented pace. This increases the risks of growing labour shortages, and related skills shortages if there are skills mismatches. Currently, accepted and comparable cross-country indicators on skills and labour shortages are lacking, hindering skills match, cross-country cooperation and supranational policies in order to reduce these issues.

Hence, research activities are expected to take stock, also building on existing literature and studies, of the current labour shortages across Europe, by sectors and occupational groups, based on a sound methodology and ensuring that data is comparable across countries. Afterwards, proposals should identify the main causes of the labour shortages, with a particular focus on skills needs and skills gaps. The causes may include working conditions (pay, working hours, occupational health and safety, well-being at work, etc.) on labour supply. The proposals should focus on the skills needed for the green and digital transitions with a focus on the "transferability" of existing skills from one sector/occupation to other sectors/occupations (e.g. what is the real gap in skills).

The proposals may:

- focus on shortages forecast;

- effect on changing tasks/educational profiles within jobs;

- have a regional dimension;

- Explore the impact on labour market polarisation and segmentation;

- Explore how big data and machine learning can complement conventional data (e.g. surveys and skills forecasts available, such as those of CEDEFOP or of the Pact for Skills)

- Explore the "determinants" of education choice and training choice: e.g., family background, local labour market, individual risk propensity, welfare, gender, etc.

Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged, especially with the beneficiaries of topic 'HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04: Global Shortages and Skill Partnerships' to ensure complementarities wherever relevant.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-08: Integrated care solutions leading to better quality, person-centred long-term care and overcoming territorial inequalities in their provision

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

<u>Expected Outcome</u>: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Increased understanding of integrated care and support solutions (within formal and informal long-term care (LTC), but also between social and healthcare) to enhance the quality of the LTC services and of the impact on informal carers and the formal care workforce from the perspective of their skills development and needs.

- Promising policy practices in LTC, in particular the potential of ICT to support integrated, person-centred approaches, analysed and policy recommendations developed.

- Policymakers at EU/national/local level are provided with evidence on territorial inequalities (e.g. rural-urban) and interdependencies, particularly in relation to gender in the need and provision of LTC and the main drivers contributing to the challenge of regional and intersectional gaps between supply of and demand for formal LTC services.

Scope: The quality of LTC is affected by a number of factors, including funding, workforce, organisation, and technology. Concerning organisation, new models of integrated care have started to emerge, which aim to structure care services around personal needs to improve user satisfaction, psychological health, and well-being.

Within many EU Member States and Associated Countries, LTC is typically funded from various sources and organised at different levels. In terms of regulation, funding and service provision, the provision of LTC services may be closely interlinked with (or be part of) policies such as those in healthcare, social care, housing and housing support services, and for people with disabilities. This horizontal division may hamper the co-ordination of care and even service provision. LTC is especially strongly interlinked with the provision of healthcare, as people with LTC needs often have healthcare needs due to multiple chronic conditions or co-morbidities. The provision of integrated care, where different professionals work closely together to address people's healthcare and LTC needs, is thus essential. Technology can help improve the quality of LTC provision, for instance by personalising service provision, increasing users' independence, supporting quality-assurance efforts through monitoring of service provision, remote care management, etc.

Recent reforms include establishing new services, as well as measures reinforcing the integrated delivery of care. The latter measures mostly tackle sectoral disparities between healthcare and social care by setting up co-ordination structures. They are also aimed at improving local and regional management and enhancing co-operation between different providers of homecare.

In the context of ageing societies, a key challenge is to provide adequate, accessible, and affordable formal LTC services of high quality to those who need it. The availability of formal LTC services differs greatly among EU Member States. With a large increase in demand ahead, already today many people in need of LTC services cannot access or afford them. Among the barriers to ensuring equal access to adequate LTC are geographical disparities or even shortages in supply. Differences in the use of care reflect personal preferences and differences in family structures and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as the availability and affordability of formal LTC services. For example, effective access to care

is often hindered in rural and remote areas. However, data on regional differences of LTC provision is scarce.

The role of social economy as an important player in innovative practices in care provision is often highlighted. Proposals should identify best innovative practices, including in new and emerging areas, such as platform cooperativism in the field of LTC and in regularising undeclared workers in LTC.

The call is expected to contribute to the EU Rural Vision and EU Care Strategy. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-09: Addressing housing inequalities in a sustainable, inclusive and affordable way

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Provide guidance on effective measures that can increase the socio-economic integration of marginalised communities, migrants, refugees and disadvantaged groups by reducing housing inequalities and improving access to quality housing.

- Provide policymakers with a comprehensive overview of how income and wealth polarisation affect the housing market against the background of changing interest rates and inflation.

- Support policymakers in better understanding how the green and digital transition could affect housing inequalities and how "supply-side" land use policies as well as social innovation could help address such inequalities in a sustainable way.

- Provide local and regional policymakers with guidance based on best practices to support the development of affordable and inclusive housing facilities, including energy efficient housing.

Scope: Access to affordable and social housing as well as homelessness remain challenges to foster social inclusion and tackle entrenched poverty across Europe. Energy poverty affects nearly 34 million Europeans who are unable to afford keeping their homes warm. Housing

prices have been steadily growing every year and faster than disposable income. Housing is now the highest item of expenditure for European citizens.

The top 1% wealth shares have risen again recently in Europe, and the gap between asset owners and pure income earners and social transfer recipients is increasing further. During the COVID, high-income workers suffered limited income losses and often increased their savings compared to low-income workers for which the opposite holds. These trends are likely to bring about house purchases (sales) from high-income (low-income) households, reinforcing wealth inequalities in the housing component. Research may provide a mapping of recent household wealth dynamics and their segregation implications.

The European Green Deal will affect housing markets notably through the Renovation wave and its Affordable Housing Initiative as well as through the revision of the Energy Efficiency and the Energy Performance of Buildings Directives. Increasing the energy efficiency of buildings helps tackling energy-poverty. Research may inform policy measures that ensure energy efficiency and affordable housing go hand in hand and are accessible to all socio-economic groups. Interlinks between housing inequalities and carbon inequalities as well as mobility poverty are of interest too. Research may focus on the relation between housing inequalities and the labour mobility from regions facing job losses to regions generating new jobs in the context of the twin transition. With regard to social and affordable housing, research may shed light on the role social, green and digital innovations can play in addressing housing inequalities.

Interlinkages between the digital and green transition, sustainable spatial planning, economic regeneration and housing inequalities merit more attention. Links between workplace and housing inequality are multidimensional, with structural conditions, working conditions and family conditions playing important roles. Housing inequalities should not lead to new forms of discrimination in labour markets. Research may inform policy actions to ameliorate the organisation of work from home, notably for vulnerable households. New forms of work could also impact preferences for rental housing compared to homeownership. Research may also look at the role of social economy actors in addressing housing inequalities while stimulating inclusion, economic and social development.

Research should make a granular assessment of these issues for different geographical areas, degrees of urbanisation, tenure statuses and different household's compositions. The gender and intergenerational dimensions are essential. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-10: Tackling inequalities in the green and digital transitions

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and

project	selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 9.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Policymakers at EU/national/local level are provided with a comprehensive view of the risks of widening existing inequalities or create new ones as a result of the twin transition.

- Policymakers at EU/national/local level are provided with policy options that could address existing inequalities and mitigate potential negative socio-economic effects of the twin transitions.

Scope: The next decades will be defined by the twin green and digital transitions. The twin transitions have be just and socially fair. To achieve this, policymakers need to both recognise existing inequalities and vulnerabilities and take duly into account the possible distributional impacts of new/revised policies (e.g. the Green Deal and its Fit for 55 Package), against (updated) baseline scenarios. While some aspects of the transitions are subject to (distributional) impact assessment and have been scrutinised by policymakers and relevant stakeholders, the twin transitions might fail to address or, worse, widen existing inequalities and/or create new ones. For this reason, research under this action should:

- Extensively investigate areas where the twin transitions – separately and jointly – and their driving policies aggravate existing inequalities and vulnerabilities and/or risk increasing inequalities, including dedicated explorations where the effects of the two transitions (and potentially implemented policies) mutually reinforce or mitigate each other.

- Put dedicated focus on gender, the age distribution (incl. old age and in particular also young people and their specific challenges), spatial aspects (incl. rural areas and degree of urbanisation), education and skill proficiencies (incl. individuals who are not in education, employment, or training (NEET)), migration backgrounds, income, labour.

- Market dimensions (incl. labour market attachment and sectoral affiliation of individuals), and other key-covariates of (financial as well as skill) vulnerabilities.

- Identify mitigation measures to counter such inequalities, including the underlying time frames and (temporal as well as spatial) order of implementation.

- Inform policymaking of the research findings with the double objective of i) reducing ex-ante the possibly negative socio-economic/distributional effects of green and digital policies and ii) promoting corrective policies/action aimed at reducing existing inequalities.

The proposals may be a forward-looking exercise, possibly making use of scenario building.

In as far as possible, research may also lay out the dedicated factors driving inequalities, and possibly explore them in more detail. This may include factors such as, but not limited to:

- The role of the financial sector e.g. via green financing and the fintech-sector.

- Digital language equity and the general (English) language proficiency.

Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

Call - A sustainable future for Europe

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[110]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million) 2024	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)[111]	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
Opening: 04 Oct 2023 Deadline(s): 07 Feb 2024				
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-01	CSA	3.00	Around 3.00	1
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-02	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-03	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2024-	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3

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[110] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening.
The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months.
All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2023 and 2024.

[111] Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04					
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-05	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-06	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07	CSA	3.00	Around 3.00	1
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-08	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-09	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-10	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-11	RIA	10.00	2.00 to 3.00	3
Overall indicative budget		96.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-01: **Policy** **recommendations** **from** socio-economic impacts of loneliness in Europe

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 3.00 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: The granting authority can fund a maximum of one project.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025). [112].

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Contribution to behavioural changes for a more resilient and just society.

- Information on key aspects of the impacts of loneliness in Europe by pooling of socio-economic data to existing data.

- Evidence-based recommendations for social and economic policies to prevent, counter, and manage loneliness in Europe at individual and population levels.

- Creation of a framework to monitor loneliness in the long-term.

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[112]   This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

- Formation of a representative network of experts, stakeholders and policymakers involved in research and policy actions addressing the socio-economic impacts of loneliness.

Scope: Loneliness is becoming an urgent public health issue that calls for effective policy interventions. In 2016, 12% of EU citizens felt lonely. With the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing, the figures have increased to 25%. Although loneliness affects citizens from all age groups, its prevalence is uneven in the Member States. The effects of loneliness are harmful for health, but also have significant impacts on social cohesion and community trust.

Several EU research projects and initiatives, such as the Pilot Project on Loneliness run by the JRC in collaboration with DG EMPL, already focus on loneliness and proposals submitted under this topic should ideally synergise with these and capitalise on available data to support the pooling of socio-economic data to existing data on individual and societal loneliness.

This effort should capitalise on available data to identify commonly agreed socio-economic and geographical risk factors, drivers and trends of loneliness within and across Member States including of specific populations (such as teenagers, unemployed, recently retired people, third country nationals who legally reside in the EU and people with disabilities), as well as gender and intersecting aspects (e.g. socioeconomic background, ethnic/minority background) and provide recommendations to design effective loneliness policies as well as develop tools for the long term monitoring of loneliness at the individual and population levels.

Work is also expected to nurture the public debate on loneliness and in particular on the stigma that is associated to it.

The approach will be based on a FAIR[113] data-sharing culture and will promote the use of new technologies to quantify and assess the social and economic effects of loneliness in Europe.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-02: Strengthen economic fairness and resilience of active labour market policies and address high unemployment

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

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[113] Data need to meet the FAIR principles: findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

<u>Expected Outcome</u>: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Improved understanding of macro effects of labour market policies on general equilibrium including displacement and substitution effects;

- Improved skills strategies and skill development, also at sectoral level, during periods of economic downturn benefitting from lower opportunity costs;

- Improving policy design to increase labour market participation and employment in a context of high unemployment and high number of job vacancies, notably in low and high skilled jobs.

<u>Scope</u>: Active labour market policies are widely used by European countries to improve the functioning of their labour markets by addressing skill mismatches, labour market segmentation, and by promoting the integration in the labour market of those facing difficulties in accessing it. Policies aimed at skill development could be effective in periods of low economic activity at the macroeconomic level, given that the opportunity cost of training programmes is lower in times of recession. These policies could facilitate the reallocation of labour, prepare the ground for a fair economic recovery, and facilitate transitions towards the green and digital sectors.

However, there have been studies post the 2007 recession arguing that training programmes have so far had only a modest effect in generating post-programme employment. Furthermore, researchers found that responses of adult learning and training to the business cycle are different for employed and not employed workers, with the participation of the latter group diminishing in times of economic downturn due to credit constraints preventing them from investing in education.

In light of such studies, more research is needed to survey the different types of active labour market policies enacted by the Member States, especially in the area of skills development during economic downturns, and their effects on people facing economic challenges, e.g. people at risk of poverty or workers whose job is at risk of automation or at risk of transformation due to transition to a decarbonised economy. Proposals should focus on the ways in which active labour market policies can be strengthened to provide economic fairness and resilience.

Research activities may focus on the response of public authorities to the COVID-19 crisis and estimate their effectiveness including displacement and substitution effects. Alternatively, research could also focus on the participation of persons coming from a vulnerable socio-economic background or from regions with a high degree of unemployment (e.g. people at risk of poverty, people coming from rural communities) to active labour market policies with an aim to mapping barriers and policy responses to increase their participation. Research could also focus on the impact of active labour market policies while incorporating a gender dimension. Another research avenue could be analysing the role of active labour market policies within broader exercises to rethink employment and income protection with an aim of

underpinning synergies that enhance their effect, e.g. the interplay between active labour market policies and housing allowances in the housing first approach.

Where relevant, activities should build upon existing research, draw lessons from recent policy interventions in a contextual and transdisciplinary manner and propose adjustment measures, or test them through social innovation experiments. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-03: Minimise costs and maximise benefits of job creation and job destruction

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Effective management of processes of job creation and job destruction triggered by macro drivers of change;

- Different socio-demographic groups and regions are favourably affected by the creation of new green jobs and new industries;

- The negative effects associated with the destruction of some jobs in carbon-intensive activities are mitigated so that nobody is left behind as a result of the reallocation of jobs across regions and sectors;

- Reskill and upskill older workers and/or unskilled workers to ensure a smooth transition to the emerging jobs/sectors.

Scope: Globalisation, technological change, demographic change, green transition and other macro drivers of change are accelerating the processes of job creation and job destruction. These have profound socioeconomic effects. On the one side, they lead to changes in the status of people (e.g. from unemployed to employed); working lives are more fragmented, with less stable working relationships. On the other side, they reshape the economic landscapes and ecosystems of different sectors, often linked with technological, social and business innovation. All of these impacts underscore the need to develop effective policies to minimise costs and maximise benefit. The topic should identify the best ways to train refugees, immigrants, women, older and younger people, people affected by disabilities,

unemployed and inactive, medium and low skilled employees, low and medium educated people, individuals living in rural areas, NEETs (not in education, employment, or training), since these people have fewer resources to cover transition spells.

The proposals may investigate the following issues:

- How should the reallocation of labour within and across sectors take place to ensure social integration and that nobody is left behind?

- How do we reskill and upskill older workers and/or unskilled workers to ensure a smooth transition to the emerging jobs/sectors?

- What are the upskilling/re-skilling programs that work the best (maximising the benefits while minimising the costs)?

- What are the impacts of the green transition on labour market opportunities of different and disadvantaged socio-economic groups, across economic sectors, green-vs.-brown job decompositions, and income brackets?

- Given the pre-crisis trend of constant increase of labour market participation, how could we increase the labour market participation of under-utilised workforce?

Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged. International cooperation is encouraged, especially with EU Neighbourhood and candidate countries.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-04: Social services: economic and social returns and value added

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Well-founded evidence on the social and economic returns of social services, including interlinkages between child poverty and gaps in access to social services, and interlinkages in access to employment and access to social services.

- Improved understanding of the channels through which social services may foster and accelerate a fair green and digital transition.

- Identification and use of the best methodology to capture and measure the value added of the provision of social services, including informal social services, in the EU Member States and Associated Countries in different geographical areas (rural and urban).

Scope: Social services have a fundamental role in our society, safeguarding and promoting the welfare and well-being of vulnerable groups (e.g. migrants, people with disabilities, homeless, youth at risk, and more in general, unemployed people, low-income and poor households and women). The proposals should consider social services in a broad manner, including both universal social services of general interest such as healthcare, education, as well as other social services childcare, employment services, long-term care and social inclusion services for persons at risk of poverty and social exclusion (including counselling, coaching, mentoring, crisis centres or shelters, housing support services). The proposals should also take into account the unequal availability of social services between rural and urban areas. A special attention should also be given to the different roles of social services in the context of the fair green and digital transition (e.g. supporting working-age adults with caring responsibilities to take up good quality jobs, which contribute to the twin transitions in particular in the regions most affected by the transition from fossil fuel or carbon intensive industries).

Concerning the economic and social returns of these services, the proposals should focus on estimating the impacts from a life course perspective (including through age-dependent models), on children (development in their childhood and also into adulthood),on the employment and income situation of adults of investments in healthcare and education, including childcare and extracurricular activities for the children, but also other services such as housing and nutrition and long term care for the elderly. Such impacts should in particular be estimated in terms of employment outcomes and household incomes.

More generally, linked with the "beyond GDP" approach, it is important to analyse how to better measure the actual value added of the provision of public social services, primarily in terms of monetary valuation. Currently the value added of the public provision of social services is considered into national accounts at production prices (when there are no price associated to the related services) or also sometimes at the (reduced) price the related services are financed.

However, the actual added value of the provision of these services is meant to be higher than the production costs (or related reduced prices). It would be useful to reflect on the main channels to be accounted for in this respect in ensuring a better accounting of the actual level of the value added provided by public social services. Moreover, some actual estimates of the actual added value of the provision of public social services should be provided, reflecting in a more accurate way in particular both the short term impact (such as stabilisation function on the economy) and the longer term impact. These can be related to structural positive impact on employment and incomes, or savings allowed in terms of preventing adverse impacts, such as in terms of preventing permanent adverse spells – such as health outcomes or early school leaving – or transitory periods such as unemployment or inactivity of social services provided. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant

projects are strongly encouraged, especially with HORIZON-CL2-2023-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-02: Towards sustainable economic policy paradigms.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-05: Social dialogue in the new world of work

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Assessing the impact of trade unions and employers' organisations on employment and social outcomes.

- Analysis of the distributional costs related to the activities of social partners for their members.

- Improving representation forms available to non-standard workers in the social dialogue by involving social partners.

Scope: Social dialogue plays a crucial role in the functioning of the European social market economic model. Through constructive negotiation between employers and employees, social dialogue can deliver a more competitive economy while also improving working conditions and access to social protection. However, the profound changes in the world of work kick-started by digitalisation, globalisation, and the proliferation of non-standard forms of work raise a number of constraints that hinder the ability of social dialogue to effectively steer the labour markets through economic and social transformations. Some of these constraints deal with the current legislative framework while others are tied to the deterioration of the employer-employee relationship on which social dialogue was first built.

There is an acute need for more innovative research that investigates the impact of the transforming world of work on the capacity of social actors to engage in social dialogue, as well as its effectiveness. Moreover, innovative research is needed to highlight opportunities arising from digitalisation that social partners need to seize in order to deliver positive socio-economic outcomes.

Research activities should focus on the interplay between non-standard forms of work (temporary employment; temporary agency work, part-time work, platform work, and other forms of non-standard employment) and social dialogue. Alternately, they can investigate

legislative barriers prohibiting social partners from engaging in dialogue, such as competition law in the case of self-employed workers. Research proposals should also investigate if the current legal framework remains fit for purpose and the ways in which it can be adapted to respond to the changing realities of the world of work. Proposals should analyse the outcomes of social dialogue in industries where non-standard forms of work are proliferated and where in-work poverty is present. Furthermore, they should investigate new innovative ways in which social partners have surmounted the previously mentioned barriers. Lastly, proposals should analyse the role of social dialog in defining the digital and green transition. Research activities should also focus on the specific national or regional circumstances in which social dialogue developed and how these are affecting its effectiveness today, and its ability to respond to the changes in the evolving world of work.

Where relevant, activities should build upon existing research, draw lessons from recent policy interventions in a contextual and transdisciplinary manner and propose adjustment measures, or test them through social innovation experiments. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-06: Beyond the horizon: A human-friendly deployment of artificial intelligence and related technologies

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Understanding and awareness raising about successful existing deployment of AI and the impact they have on European economy and society, providing a reality check of capabilities/benefits, but also limitations of current AI solutions, and how the latter are currently addressed.

- On the basis of lessons from successful deployment, analysis of the implementation of the ethics principles for trustworthy AI.

- Structurally enhanced capacities to foresee, evaluate and manage the future and longer term opportunities and challenges associated with artificial intelligence and related technologies.

- Well founded and prioritised recommendations for European policy on R&I and in other key areas aimed at :

  o Ensuring that Europe is prepared to exploit the opportunities for the benefit of citizens and society, and at the same time face the challenges raised by potential developments and deployments of artificial intelligence and related technologies based on science and evidence as well as human rights and European values, and

  o Reinforcing Europe's capacity to guide the development and deployment of these technologies in ways aligned to human rights and European values.

Scope: The history of "artificial intelligence" technologies (AI) is marked by great optimism and expectation, sometimes followed by disappointment. However, we have recently seen a sustained upsurge in interest and the successful uptake and application of AI in a variety of significant areas such as drug discovery, autonomous vehicles, social media, industrial robotics, and logistics, to name a few. We have witnessed significant successes in the development and deployment of machine learning, particularly for tasks normally associated with human perception[114]. We have also seen significant successes in symbolic and logic-driven AI for problems that require reasoning about constraints, automated reasoning, planning, etc.[115] AI has had significant impact in the arts and humanities, and AI-based methods and tools are becoming more widely used in the cultural arena.[116]

Nevertheless, today the collection of computer technologies commonly labelled artificial intelligence, along with related technologies for instance in the fields of data science, neuroscience and biotechnology, already show the potential to disrupt and impact the rights of individuals and the wellbeing of societal structures. For example, there have been many documented case studies where AI-based applications have exhibited undesired gender and racial bias[117]. AI systems have been (mis-)used to micro-target and influence voters in elections as well as in the creation and dissemination of disinformation[118], and otherwise impact on human agency and autonomy. Many ethical issues arise in the development of AI systems, such as their use in medical devices, brain-computer interfaces, reasoning about human mental and emotion state, etc.[119]

Concerns are often raised that AI technologies may imply major societal disruptions such as massive job displacements due to the increasing use of AI-drive automation and robotics, while research show that AI can also help filling gaps in workforce[120][121].

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[114] https://www.mygreatlearning.com/blog/deep-learning-applications/
[115] https://venturebeat.com/2022/02/11/symbolic-ai-the-key-to-the-thinking-machine/
[116] https://doi.org/10.1038/s41586-022-04448-z
[117] https://www.internationalwomensday.com/Missions/14458/Gender-and-AI-Addressing-bias-in-artificial-intelligence
[118] https://il.boell.org/en/2022/01/27/ai-and-elections-observations-analyses-and-prospects
[119] See for example https://www.technologyreview.com/2018/04/30/143155/with-brain-scanning-hats-china-signals-it-has-no-interest-in-workers-privacy/
[120] https://www.mckinsey.com/featured-insights/future-of-work/the-future-of-work-in-europe
[121] The Global Health Care Worker Shortage: 10 Numbers to Note | Project HOPE

In 2018, the European Commission established the High Level Expert Group on Artificial Intelligence (HLEG-AI), which was tasked with developing a set of ethics guidelines for Europe that would help ensure that AI systems be human-centric and trustworthy. The importance of a human-centric approach to AI has been a cornerstone of EU policymaking in the field for several years and is the clearly articulated position of the EU. The European Commission published a pioneering draft AI Act in April 2021, the first legal framework on AI in Europe, which addresses the potential risks of using AI[122]. The Horizon Europe work programme under Cluster 4 is funding related research and innovation actions under the header 'Leadership in AI based on trust'.

The common principle across all of these EU initiatives are seven key requirements for trustworthy AI[123], as proposed by the HLEG-AI and adopted by the European Commission, as well as the importance of protecting the fundamental rights of individuals[124].

Against this backdrop, before being faced with a 'fait-accompli' in terms of potentially undesirable influence of AI on the European society and economy and to make sure that all the beneficial potential of AI deployment is fully realised, we should anticipate and prepare for possible and high impact scenarios.

The proposal should cover all the following aspects:

- Decisive contributions to develop a sound European capacity building on the future and long term human and societal implications of AI, building, as appropriate, on previous work of the HLEG-AI, ADRA[125], and current development of the AI Act or other relevant European and national AI initiatives.

- A solid scientific approach, providing an in-depth analysis of successful existing deployment of AI and the impact they have on European economy and society. Such analysis should also significantly contribute to awareness raising of such deployments, providing a reality check of capabilities/benefits, but also limitations of current AI solutions, and how the latter are currently addressed.

- Scenario based analysis of future and long term potential benefits to citizens and societies, as well as an analysis of related challenges and threats.

- Based on this, proposals for development and deployment of AI, should ensure a broad support and appropriate involvement of other relevant AI initiatives, taking into account guiding ethics principles and the current development of the AI Act.

- Proposals need to take a multi-disciplinary and cross-sectorial approach, and engage with a wide set of stakeholders, including research organisations, enterprises, citizens[126],

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[122] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/library/proposal-regulation-laying-down-harmonised-rules-artificial-intelligence
[123] https://ec.europa.eu/futurium/en/ai-alliance-consultation/guidelines/1.html
[124] https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/european-approach-artificial-intelligence
[125] Home - Ai Data Robotics Partnership (ai-data-robotics-partnership.eu)
[126] of different age groups incl. children and young people as well as elderly people

policymakers, public private partnerships in particular the AI, Data and Robotics Partnership, and other relevant EU projects and initiatives around AI.

- European policy actions should be proposed in a priority order, notably in the area of research and innovation but not excluding other important policy areas, that would serve to strengthen European preparedness and resilience in the face of future developments within AI and related emerging technologies as well as to guide the development and deployment of these technologies in a desirable direction.

Proposals should build on existing knowledge, activities and networks, such as the HLEG-AI and other initiatives funded by the European Union. Funded proposals should also take into account existing EU policy in the area, such as the development of the AI Act and the Excellence and trust in artificial intelligence under A Europe fit for the digital age [127]. Furthermore, the proposals should seek synergies with closely related actions, such as relevant R&I actions funded by Horizon Europe or Horizon 2020[128].

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-07: Methodologies for teamworking of researchers – reinforcing transversal collaborative skills, behavioural and implementation sciences

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 3.00 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: The granting authority can fund a maximum of one project.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the

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[127]   See further
[128]   Such as the Networks of AI excellence centres funded under H2020 and Horizon Europe, the AI on Demand Platform as well as projects funded under Destination 6 (Leadership in AI based on trust) of Cluster 4 of the HE Work Programme.

	Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025). [129].

<u>Expected Outcome</u>: Projects should deliver results that are directed towards and contributing to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Map, evaluate and develop elements for promoting teamwork in researchers' curricula and professional updating, including for enhancing careers and jobs paths.

- Produce evidence on the impacts of teamwork, outreach activities, communication and dissemination skills for systemic thinking and researchers/stakeholders' relationships and their connection with wider society.

- Provide collaborative, participatory and co-creative methodologies to include behavioural and implementation sciences for improving teamwork among researchers.

- Produce recommendations and toolkits for Universities and research Institutions on how to enhance teamwork, co-creation and teambuilding to tackle global challenges and produce changes in societies.

<u>Scope</u>: As acknowledged by UNESCO, 'Transversal skills are increasingly in high demand for learners to successfully adapt to changes and to lead meaningful and productive lives.'

To maximise impact and incite societal changes, the following elements should be considered:

- to further develop, promote and demonstrate methodologies that transfer relevant and proven concepts from for example, the behavioural and implementation sciences, management science, and professional development, in order to equip researchers for effective teamworking and maximise research impact on social and economic transformation through collaborative interactions and co-creation

- to design methodologies for training of researchers in transversal skills, such as communication, cross-sectoral teamwork and research involving collaborating with stakeholders

- to develop cultural competence that enables researchers to work productively and meaningfully in teams that span countries, sectors, disciplines and other cultural divides

- to promote interdisciplinary research teams around key societal challenges

Proposals under this topic should therefore combine communication, management and collaborative skills with behavioural sciences and implementation sciences for the lifelong training of researchers in 'transferrable' skills, in the course of their curricula or as part of the

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[129] This [decision](#) is available on the Funding Wand Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

updating of their professional careers. A focus on teamworking will be an asset in the career and job paths and will gradually lead to achieve and maximise impact on and in our societies, economies and democracies.

Efforts should be directed to identify, evaluate and suggest methodologies for training of researchers in behavioural and implementation sciences and transversal skills, in the course of their curricula or as part of the updating of their professional careers. Work should also concentrate on the practical aspects of teamworking.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-08: Arts and cultural awareness and expression in education and training

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Develop and apply methods to support the use of arts in education and interventions to foster cultural awareness and expression and to assess their impacts on the development of competences and inclusion of all children and young people.

- Inform policies, programmes and actions using arts in education and contributing to foster cultural awareness and expression, identify existing gaps and effective actions to reach most children and young people and develop recommendations.

Scope: Arts in education and developing cultural awareness and expression - one of the key competences for lifelong learning[130] have value in themselves. They are also used to develop creativity, innovation, critical and design thinking, communication, collaboration and intercultural skills and, more broadly, for inclusive education and training systems, democracy and civic engagement, but stronger evidence is needed to better understand and assess these impacts. Research evidence is also missing on whether, and how, education and training systems have capacity to support learners in developing cultural awareness and expression.

Proposals should support policymakers and professional development providers in identifying effective actions and gaps in their systems, and better understanding how their investments could be improved. Proposals should include a lifelong learning perspective (early childhood

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[130] European Commission, Directorate-General for Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, *Key competences for lifelong learning*, Publications Office, 2019, https://data.europa.eu/doi/10.2766/291008

education and care, school, vocational education and training and higher education, non-formal learning), and assess national, regional and local support for partnerships, for example between education institutions and arts and cultural heritage organisations.

Proposals are expected to contribute to the New European Bauhaus (NEB) initiative[131] by interacting with the NEB Community, NEBLab and other relevant actions of the NEB initiative through sharing information, best practice, and, where relevant, results. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged. International cooperation is encouraged, especially with EU Neighbourhood and accession countries.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-09: The role of social economy in addressing social exclusion, providing quality jobs and greater sustainability

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Address challenges of the policy and legal frameworks that hinder the thriving of social economy and the scaling up of its successful activities.

- Better integrate the role and weight of social economy organisations in addressing social exclusion and providing quality jobs in multilevel policymaking.

- Contribute to improve the working conditions in social economy organisations, including in the care sector.

Scope: Almost 3 million social economy entities in Europe offer concrete and innovative solutions to key challenges EU society faces e.g. they create quality jobs, contribute to equal opportunities and socioeconomic inclusion of disadvantaged groups (including people with disabilities), they also play an important role in Europe's welfare systems and help revitalise Europe's rural and depopulated areas, therefore contributing to the Long-term vision for the EU's rural areas.

The social economy can also help implement the principles of the European Pillar for Social Rights and deliver on its 2021 Action Plan and the 2030 headline targets e.g. by increasing the

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[131] https://europa.eu/new-european-bauhaus/index_en

employment rate and the reduction of the number of people at risk of poverty and social exclusion.

There is an uneven development of the social economy within the EU and a major untapped economic and job creation potential for the social economy in several Member States and regions. The Social Economy Action Plan [132], adopted in December 2021 puts forward measures to help further mobilise the potential of the Social Economy.

The proposals should provide a comprehensive analysis of the extent to which social economy contributes to countering social exclusion in the EU, in Associated Countries and in Third Countries, what services it provides, and compare efficiency, cost and quality aspects of services provided by the social economy with those of other providers. The proposals can tackle (one or more) different angles of socioeconomic exclusion. For instance, the role of social economy as an important player in innovative practices in care provision is often highlighted. Research could identify best innovative practices, including in new and emerging areas in the field of care provisions.

As the availability and use of formal care services differ significantly between Member States and regions, research should investigate the role of social economy between different countries and the drivers of these differences in order to design effective long-term care and social economy policies. Residents in rural areas in particular can suffer with limited access to long-term care services, while social economy organisations are often motivated to provide services based on local needs and can play a revitalising role in the economies of rural regions.

Research should also investigate what are the working conditions in social economy organisations, including in the care sector.

Proposals should aim to provide policymakers with recommendations in the field of social economy support.

Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects (such as HORIZON-CL6-2023-COMMUNITIES-01-1: Enhancing social inclusion in rural areas: focus on people in a vulnerable situation and social economy) are strongly encouraged. International cooperation is encouraged, especially with EU Neighbourhood and candidate countries.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-10: Effective education and labour market transitions of young people

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed

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[132]   COM(2021)   778   final   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52021DC0778&from=EN

project	appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to the expected outcomes described in the first and second bullet points, or to the expected outcomes described in the third and fourth bullet points:

- Provide quantitative and qualitative evidence of what determines participation and completion rates in upper secondary and tertiary education, including the long-term impact of the Covid-19 crisis and the role of policies and investments to promote equity and inclusion in education and training.

- Enhanced knowledge base about which policies and practices can promote better-informed and more effective educational choices at all levels, including the role of vocational education and training.

- Improved understanding of the long-term impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the transition from education to (vocational) training or from education and training to the labour market of young people across the EU, including through foresight.

- Informed policies and programmes aiming to help the transition from education to (vocational) training or from education and training to the labour market, including in the area of student and graduate international mobility.

Scope: Effective educational transitions, in particular participation and completion rates in upper secondary and tertiary education, are prominent in the European Education Area[133], which includes targets [134] on early school leaving and tertiary educational attainment. Promoting successful transitions from education to the labour market has been one of the core European Commission policy activities since the outburst of the Great Recession. The COVID-19 crisis has made educational and labour market transitions more challenging, especially for disadvantaged young people. This may lead to worsening inequalities, which could become persistent unless education and training policies and investments tackle them appropriately.

Proposals should use quantitative and qualitative methods to analyse transitions between educational levels (including between general education and vocational training) and/or between education/training and the labour market and improve the evidence base for policy decisions by addressing several interrelated research questions, such as: what are the determinants of participation and completion rates in upper secondary and tertiary education and how can they evolve in the post-COVID world? What are the implications of COVID-19

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[133]   https://education.ec.europa.eu/
[134]   https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=uriserv:OJ.C_.2021.066.01.0001.01.ENG

on learning mobility and on graduates' labour market outcomes? How do education outcomes interact with sources of disadvantage in defining labour market outcomes of young people? How can vocational education and training institutions adapt to the future of education and work, including the digital transition? Proposals should also include the voice of young people and other relevant stakeholders as part of the data collection. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.

HORIZON-CL2-2024-TRANSFORMATIONS-01-11: Assessing and strengthening the complementarity between new technologies and human skills

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of between EUR 2.00 and 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 10.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions

Expected Outcome: Projects should contribute to all of the following expected outcomes:

- Deepened our understanding on the potential and impact of new technologies such as artificial intelligence technologies and robotics to substitute or complement human skills and in performing job tasks.

- Development and deployment of technologies that complement and enhance human skills, and development of the corresponding skills in the workforce.

Scope: Recent research highlights that new technologies may increase or reduce overall employment opportunities: they tend to increase them in the presence of strong productivity gains or if they create new tasks that are best carried out using human skills (possible example: a nurse using medical machines to perform checks previously carried out by a doctor), but can reduce them if the substitution of labour by machines dominates (possible example: self-service supermarket counters). However, there is still a limited understanding of which types of technologies and technology applications are particularly promising from the perspective of *enhancing* rather than *displacing* human skills and of creating employment opportunities as well as decent working conditions.

Some authors argue that recent technological change has been biased towards automation and has focused insufficiently on creating new tasks where labour can be productively employed, with associated declining labour shares in national income, rising inequality and lower productivity growth. This highlights the need to better understand the complementarity between new technologies and skills that can serve as basis for policy recommendations that complement and enhance human skills, such as targeting investment subsidies. Policy may for

instance want to prioritise public investment support in areas where innovation is more complementary to existing skills (possible examples: education and healthcare as opposed to pattern recognition "across the board"), including of people without high formal qualifications (or for other disadvantaged groups, e.g. those affected by disabilities), or it may want to support the development of skills complementary to emerging technologies with targeted education and training programmes. Both types of policy interventions could improve the impacts of new technologies on employment prospects, decent working conditions and social inclusion, but their design requires opening the "black box" of technology-skill demand complementarity.

Examples of research activities carried out under this topic include the development of criteria to assess the complementarity of specific new technologies with human skills and vice versa. This could include an analysis of specific applications of new technologies (such as artificial intelligence technologies and robotics), possibly with a sectoral or occupational focus. It could also include the development of policy recommendations to support technologies and skills/training courses that are conducive to a digital transition that creates more good jobs. Clustering and cooperation with other selected projects under this call and other relevant projects are strongly encouraged.