

Horizon Europe – Missions 2025 Work Programme

Background

As a benefit of association to Horizon Europe, Canada can now attend meetings where the upcoming work programmes are developed. The Missions 2025 Work program is a “cross-cutting” initiative and will be discussed by the Strategic Programme Committee. The first scheduled meeting is on September 24, 2024. While we are unable to share the unredacted draft document with stakeholders, we are able to share a modified version of this document to obtain your comments. This input will be essential in shaping Canada’s approach for this as well as future work programmes with Horizon Europe.

Key Thematic Areas of the Missions 2025 Work Programme

The Missions 2025 Work Programme is allocating a **total budget of €489 million** to address six “missions”. In general, the calls will open between April/May 2025 and have a deadline of September 2025. The missions are detailed below with the anticipated number of projects to be funded and includes the general topics of focus.

1. “Adaptation to Climate Change”

10 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: updating climate risk assessments, integration of local and/or regional authorities in climate action plans, coastal region and heatwave adaptation, and promoting private sector involvement in adaptation financing

2. “Cancer”

17 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: examining the link between environmental exposure, pediatric cancer onset and health outcomes in survivors, surgical interventions for metastatic disease, clinical trials for targeted cancer therapeutics, improving the quality of life of older cancer patients, and support for cancer mission hubs and national/regional cancer research funders

3. “Restore our Ocean & Waters by 2030”

Undeclared number of funded projects

- a. Topics of Focus: exploring the Blue Parks initiative, reducing water pollution (i.e., plastics & litter), supporting the green & digital transitions of fisheries and aquaculture, restoring ocean / seas / and inland water health in collaboration with local authorities, restoration of maritime infrastructures

Horizon Europe – Missions 2025 Work Programme

and islands, ocean modelling and monitoring through the development of the Digital Twin Ocean

4. “Climate-Neutral & Smart Cities”

Undeclared number of funded projects

- a. Topics of Focus: developing governance and business models for climate mitigation and circularity, applying AI solutions for urban planning and management (i.e., Digital Twin models), and strategic procurement towards climate-neutral cities and net-zero economies

5. “A Soil Deal for Europe”

17 projects

- a. Topics of Focus: supporting the living labs research on soil health (expanding the scope to include Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean), brownfield area remediation & redevelopment, a better understanding of the socioeconomic and cultural factors in soil management, soil-water nexus, harmonization of soil health assessments in the EU, defining soil-health indicators and characterizing its footprint, land suitability assessments (especially for biomass production), engagement of local and/or regional authorities to promote soil health, carbon farming practices, and a focus on understanding soil salinity

6. “Joint call between the climate-neutral, smart cities, and cancer missions”

Undeclared number of funded projects

- a. Topics of Focus: promoting walking or cycling in cities

Please Note: As the planning processes for the Missions 2025 Work Programme are ongoing, the details are subject to change.

Questions

1. Are there any areas that align with your research? If so, what are they?
2. What areas would you like to be included in future work programmes?