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European level initiatives that can support R&D cooperation between the Albanian Academy of Sciences and industry in the areas of nanotechnologies, advanced materials and new manufacturing processes (NMP)

Giles Brandon, Intelligentsia Consultants, Wednesday 26th June 2024

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1. Introduction

- **Much of what I will present to you is based on a report that I helped to prepare for the H2020 funded FIT-4-NMP project (www.fit-4-nmp.eu).**
- ***Report on Europe's leading research and innovation organisations in nanotechnologies, advanced materials and new manufacturing processes (NMP)***



2. European level initiatives supporting NMP:

- **Advanced Materials**
- **Manufacturing Technologies**
- **Clean Industries and Circular Industries**

- **Advanced Materials 2030 Initiative (AMI2030, <https://www.ami2030.eu>)**
 - **The Advanced Materials 2030 Initiative was born with the aim to accelerate the development of sustainable advanced materials as the backbone of the green and digital transition and a source of prosperity and sovereignty in Europe.**
 - **Five working groups: Materials digitalisation, Materials scale-up, Materials policy support, Materials priority areas, Instrument selection.**

- **ERA-NET on materials and battery technologies (M.ERA-NET, <https://www.m-era.net>)**
 - **M-ERA.NET is an extensive European network of public funding organisations supporting and increasing coordination and convergence of national and regional funding programmes on research and innovation related to materials and battery technologies to support the European Green Deal.**
 - **Organises annual joint call for proposals.**
 - **However, Albania is not currently a member ...**

- **Graphene Flagship (<https://graphene-flagship.eu>)**
 - **Bringing together 118 academic and industrial partners in 12 research and innovation projects and 1 coordination and support project, the Graphene Flagship initiative continues to advance Europe's strategic autonomy in technologies that rely on graphene and other 2D materials.**
 - **ICN2 is a Core 3 Partner and UPO is an Associated Member.**
 - **Potential to apply for Associated Members and Partnering Projects.**
 - **Graphene related calls for proposals seem to be published in the Horizon Europe work programme for "7. Digital, Industry and Space".**

- **Quantum Flagship (<https://qt.eu>)**
 - **The Quantum Flagship is a large-scale initiative funded at the 1b € level on a 10-year timescale. It consists in a coherent set of research and innovation projects selected through a thorough peer-review process.**
 - **Calls for projects are issued based on the Flagship's Strategic Research Agenda, thus ensuring that all actors are aligned in the pursue of the Flagship's goals.**
 - **The European Quantum Industry Consortium (QuIC, <http://www.euroquic.org>) is a non-profit industry association, founded in 2021, dedicated to the growth of the commercial quantum technology sector.**

- **Made in Europe**
 - The Made in Europe partnership aims to boost European manufacturing ecosystems towards global leadership in technology, towards circular industries and flexibility.
 - The European Factories of the Future Research Association (EFFRA, <https://www.effra.eu>) is a not-for-profit, industry-driven association promoting the development of new and innovative production technologies. It is the official representative of the private side in Made in Europe.
 - Made in Europe related calls for proposals are published in the Horizon Europe work programme for “7. Digital, Industry and Space”.

- **EIT Manufacturing (<https://www.eitmanufacturing.eu>)**
 - **EIT Manufacturing is an innovation community within the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) that connects the leading manufacturing actors in Europe.**
 - **Supported by a strong interdisciplinary and trusted community of 60 European leading partners from business, education and research from 17 countries, it aims to build a network of ecosystems where people can acquire skills and find opportunities; and where innovators are able to attract investors and access venture capital.**
 - **Organises annual call for proposals.**
 - **Albania is covered by the South-East Region.**

- **Manufuture (<https://manufuture.org>)**
 - **The mission of Manufuture is to propose, develop and implement a strategy based on research and innovation, capable of speeding up the rate of industrial transformation to high-added-value products, processes and services.**
 - **ManuFuture National/Regional Technological Platforms have been established in EU member states to implement the main strategic and development goals defined by the European Technology Platform ... but doesn't seem to be one in Albania.**
 - **Organises annual conference.**
 - **Prepares strategic research agenda.**

- **Sustainable raw materials**
 - **Since 2011 European research into raw materials for sustainable development and the circular economy has been coordinated by ERA-MIN (<https://www.era-min.eu>), a pan-European network of research funding organisations.**
 - **Organises call for proposals every 1-2 years.**
 - **However, Albania is not currently a member ...**

- **Sustainable process industry**
 - **The Processes4Planet (P4Planet) Partnership under Horizon Europe is about transforming European process industries to make them circular and achieve overall climate neutrality at EU level by 2050, while enhancing their global competitiveness.**
 - **A.SPIRE (<https://www.aspire2050.eu>) is the European Association which is committed to manage and implement the Processes4Planet co-programmed Partnership.**
 - **Processes4Planet related calls for proposals are published in the Horizon Europe work programme for “7. Digital, Industry and Space”.**

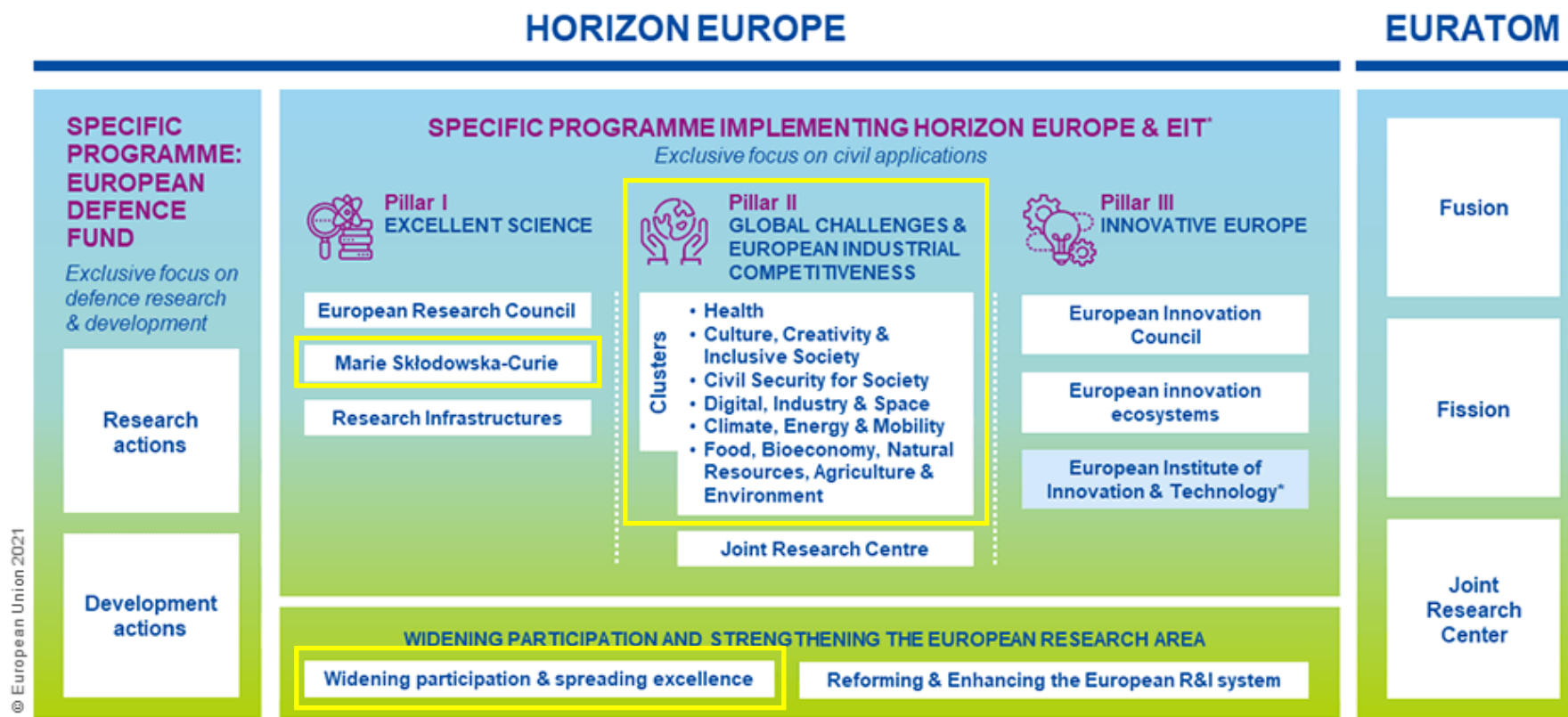
- **Electric batteries**

- **The Batteries European Partnership under Horizon Europe gathers - on the public side - the European Commission and - on the private side - all the interested stakeholders of the European battery community, regrouped in Batteries European Partnership Association (BATT4EU, <https://bepassociation.eu>). The partnership ambition is to prepare and equip Europe to manufacture and commercialise by 2030 the next-generation of battery technologies.**
- **BATT4EU related calls for proposals are published in the Horizon Europe work programme for “8. Climate, Energy and Mobility”.**

- **Clean hydrogen**
 - Research in this domain is led by the **Clean Hydrogen Partnership for Europe** (<https://www.clean-hydrogen.europa.eu>). Via the partnership's strategic research and innovation agenda, research is grouped under three main pillars - hydrogen production; hydrogen storage, transport and distribution; and end use.
 - Clean hydrogen related calls for proposals are published in the Horizon Europe work programme for "8. Climate, Energy and Mobility".

- **Clean energy transition (<https://cetpartnership.eu>)**
 - **The European Partnership for Clean Energy Transition under Horizon Europe aims to make Europe a frontrunner in energy innovation and eventually the first climate-neutral continent. The partnership will facilitate joint R&I programmes from regional to national and global level, co-supported by industry, public organisations, research and citizens' organisations.**
 - **Organises its own annual calls for proposals.**

3. Horizon Europe calls



Make sure to download the latest Horizon Europe work programmes for the area you are interested in e.g. Digital, Industry and Space.

- **Opportunities to work with industrial partners in all the challenges covered by Pillar 2: Digital, Industry and Space; Climate, Energy and Mobility; ...**
- **In fact, having industrial partners is often a call requirement.**
- **The Albanian Academy of Sciences' chances of joining a consortium would probably be increased if they also introduce an industrial partner to the consortium.**
- **Pillar 2 calls are opened several times per year.**

- **Opportunities to work with industrial partners in the following MSCA calls:**
 - **MSCA Staff Exchanges**
 - **MSCA Doctoral Networks**
- **MSCA calls are opened annually.**

- **Opportunities to work with industrial partners in the following Widening calls:**
 - **Hop-on Facility**
 - **Excellence Hubs**
 - **ERA Talents**
- **Widening calls are opened once every two years.**

4. Eureka Eurostars



Eureka and Albania

Change country

Albanian organisations participating in international R&D projects are eligible for funding through our Network projects and Globalstars programmes. If you are based in Albania and seeking funding for an R&D project, your first point of contact is with the [National Agency of Scientific Research and Innovation \(NASRI\)](#). NASRI supports Albanian organisations interested in international collaboration giving them access to expertise and supporting their growth.



Western Balkans call for projects 2024

Deadline: 15 May 2024 17:00 CEST

Apply from: 14 February 2024 **Until:** 15 May 2024 17:00 CEST

The national funding bodies from [Albania](#), [Austria](#), [France](#), [Hungary](#), [Montenegro](#), [Serbia](#) and [Türkiye](#) have allocated funding for organisations collaborating on international R&D projects. This is a bottom-up call, with no thematic restrictions.

You can submit your [Eureka R&D project application](#) for this call for projects between [14 February](#) and [15 May 2024](#). Your project consortium must include organisations based in a minimum of two of the countries listed and must include at least one partner from the participating [Western Balkan countries](#).

In addition to those partners, partners from other Eureka countries or countries outside of Eureka's network can also participate, provided their public funding or self-funding is secured within the call for projects deadlines.

If required by your national funding body, project participants must also submit [a national funding application](#), considering all relevant national procedures, deadlines and application rules.

Funding details

Albania (NASRI- National Agency for Scientific Research and Innovation)

Grant of up to 50,000 euro or up to 80% of eligible project costs for SMEs, universities and research organisations and up to 65% for large companies.

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