

Networking Support in Brussels

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UNIVERZA V LJUBLJANI
University of Ljubljana



REPUBLIKA SLOVENIJA
MINISTRSTVO ZA IZOBRAŽEVANJE,
ZNANOST IN ŠPORT



NAČRT ZA
OKREVANJE
IN ODPORNOST



Financira
Evropska unija
NextGenerationEU



Slovenian Business & Research Association
Slovensko gospodarsko in raziskovalno združenje

Our SBRA Structure

- **Established in 1999 – in 2024 we had the Silver Anniversary;**
- **Five employees;**
- **Connects research, business and local communities in Slovenia with other European research, business and local communities and the EU institutions and other public and private bodies at the EU level;**
- **EU funding;**
- **High level events incl. conferences, promotion and collecting all useful info for our clients/members;**
- **Our clients are not only Slovenian entities since our presence, references and respect in Brussels date more than 25 years back in history.**

Core Activities

- **Informing** members on economic developments, with a renewed focus on EU projects, programs and funds. A weekly scan of news, relevant calls, events, publications, etc. – disseminated via **weekly e-news bulletin**. Additional, bimonthly news bulletin regarding the economy.
- **Partner Search** – besides informing members of relevant EU programs and projects, we actively strive to find and search for relevant partners and potential project consortia.
- **Training** – preparing workshops and study trips for its members
- **Networking** – Secretariat of Network of European Financial Institutions for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (**NEFI**), membership in **IGLO** (Informal Group of RTD Liaison Offices), **ERRIN** (European Regions Research and Innovation Network), **UnLiON** (Universities Informal Liaison Offices Network), **Vanguard initiative** (regional network for promoting regional innovation ecosystems) and **ENDR** (Network of Defence Related Regions).
- **Promotional** events, publishing reports and organizing conferences. Publication **MOST** allows us to widely disseminate our members' achievements.



UnLiON (Universities Informal Liaison Offices Network)

- [Ghent University](#)
- [KU Leuven](#)
- [Vrije Universiteit Brussel](#)
- [University of Zagreb](#)
- [European Office of Cyprus](#)
- [Aalborg University](#)
- [Central Denmark EU Office](#)
- [Greater Copenhagen EU Office](#)
- [Helsinki EU Office](#)
- [LUT University](#)
- [University of Eastern Finland](#)
- [University of Helsinki](#)
- [Aix-Marseille University](#)
- [École Polytechnique](#)
- [Université de Lorraine](#)
- [Bavarian Research Alliance \(BayFOR\)](#)
- [Berlin University Alliance](#)
- [Technical University of Munich](#)
- [Kansai University](#)
- [Kobe University](#)
- [Waseda University](#)
- [Maastricht University](#)
- [Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam](#)
- [Universities of Applied Sciences Netherlands](#)
- [Norwegian University of Science and Technology \(NTNU\)](#)
- [University of Bergen](#)
- [Pomorskie Regional EU Office](#)
- [Slovenian Business and Research Association](#)
- [Boğaziçi University](#)
- [Alliance 4-Universities](#)
- [Galician Enterprise-University Foundation \(FEUGA\)](#)
- [University of Extremadura](#)
- [University Rey Juan Carlos – University of Alcalá](#)
- [Lärosäten Syd \(Universities in South Sweden\)](#)
- [North Sweden European Office](#)
- [Stockholm Trio](#)
- [Uppsala University](#)
- [Bristol & Bath Brussels Office](#)
- [Coventry University](#)
- [University of Kent](#)
- [Welsh Higher Education Brussels](#)
- [West Midlands Europe Hub](#)
- [University of Münster](#)
- [Eötvös Loránd University \(ELTE\)](#)
- [Free University of Bozen-Bolzano](#)
- [Politecnico di Torino](#)
- [Tour4EU](#)
- [University of Bari Aldo Moro](#)
- [Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore](#)
- [University Suor Orsola Benincasa](#)
- [University of Turin](#)

Organisation of numerous high-level events



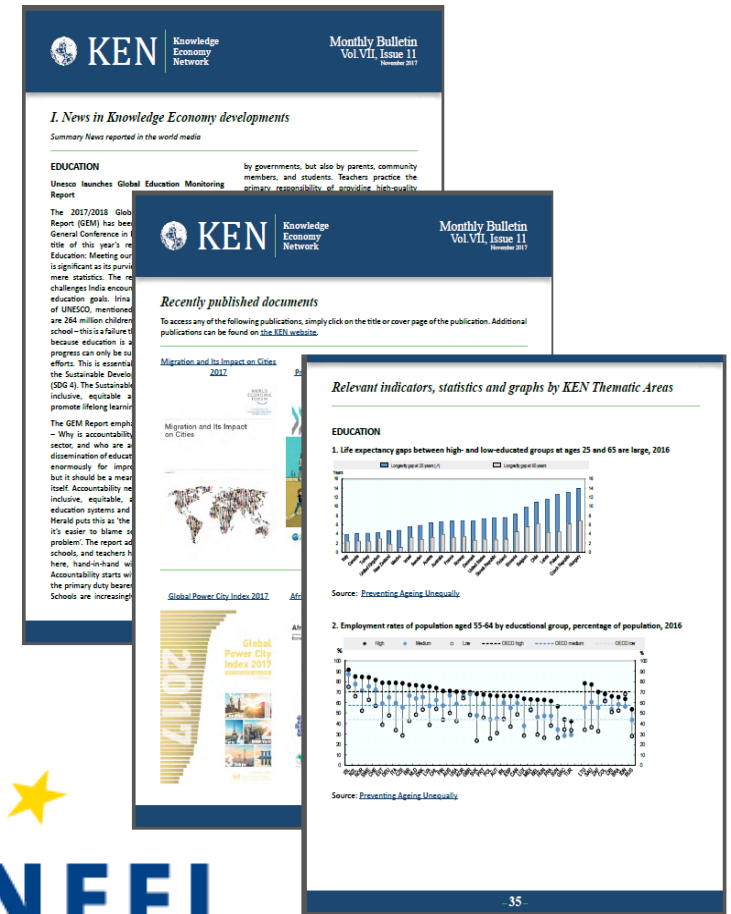
SBRA itself involved in various **EU Projects**: including **CIMULACT & HIGHER**



- **CIMULACT: Citizen and Multi-Actor Consultation on Horizon 2020**
- **HIGHER: Better Policy Instruments for High Innovation Projects in the European Regions**
- **Previous EU Projects include: WBC-INCO.NET, BIOENERGIS, E-BUSINESS FOR CRAFT, BIS-RTD, REGIONS4RESEARCH, TASBOR, Great IST, SYCP, etc.**

SBRA acts in Brussels as the Secretariat of global KEN and European development banks' association NEFI

- **KEN** - Knowledge Economy Network (aisbl, completely separate from SBRA). Established in 2011, successor of EREF (European Regional Economic Forum).
- 51 members from 14 countries (completely different members compared to SBRA) – i.e. the Mexican National Council of Science and Technology
- Organized conferences and workshops in Europe, but also in South Africa, Canada, Turkey.
- Information services in form of weekly briefs and monthly bulletin (not just coordination of network, but also provide content)
- **NEFI** – Network of European Financial Institutions for Small and Medium Sized Enterprises. Established in 1999.
- 21 financial institutions, follows information of financial, political and legal developments and measures adopted by the European Institutions in the fields of European economic and financial policies – with focus on SMEs' access to finance



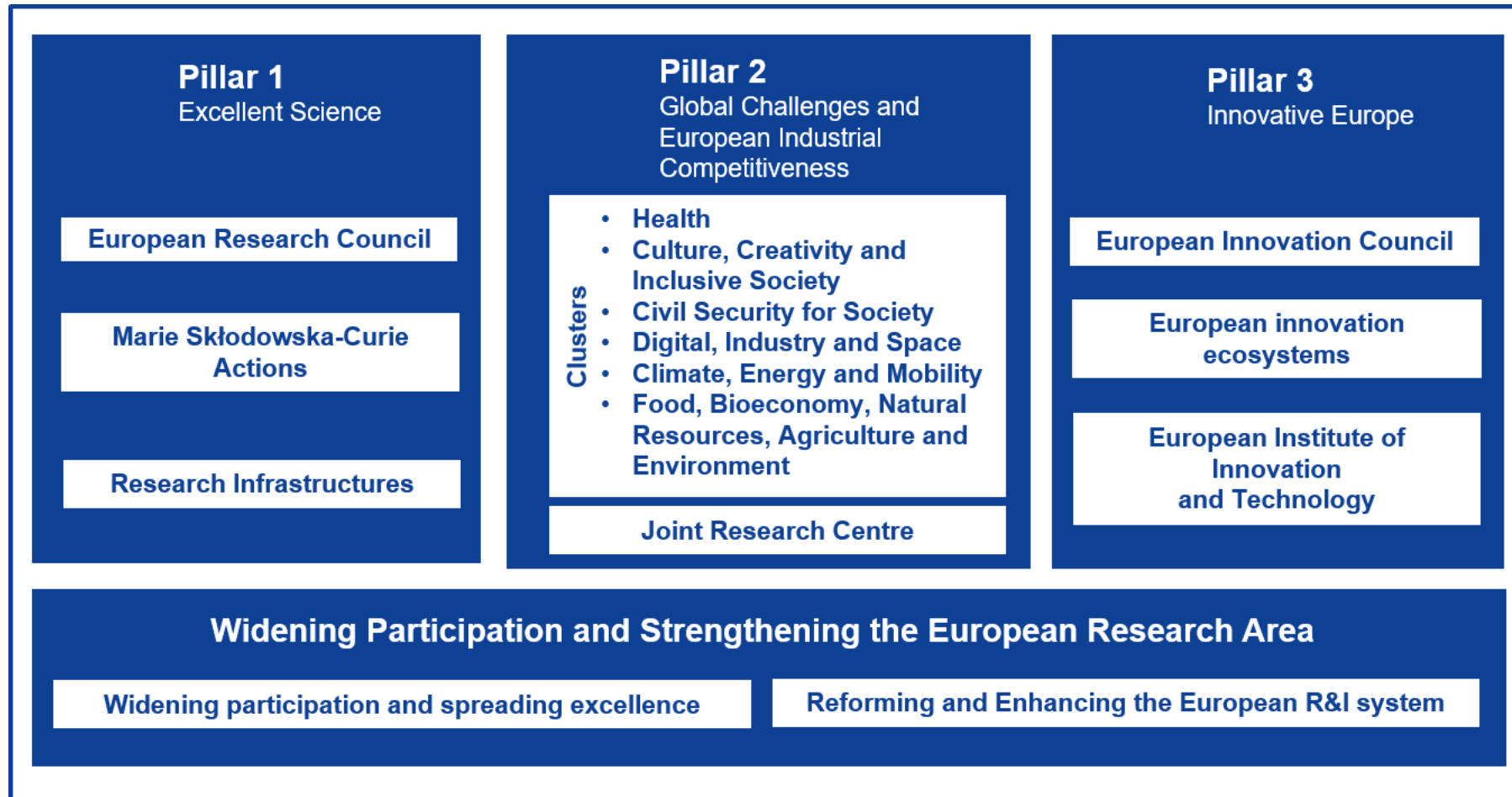
Why is it important to be present in Brussels

- 80% of all national legislation is decided in Brussels
- Horizon Europe is centralised funding worth 95,5 bn EUR for the period 2021-2027
- For the EU Twins (Green Deal and Digitalisation) really a lot of money available
- About 12.000 different representations in Brussels with more than 50.000 employees

Getting the EU funding for R&I activities is a gradual process that requires:

- Early access to working programmes and information on calls for proposals
- Constant communication with EU institutions
- Regular promotion of R&I activities on EU level
- Networking and matchmaking activities for building project proposals
- Membership and constant presence in different R&I partnership that co-decide EU funding programmes and research policies
- Personal contacts and cooperation with other representatives
- Having someone in Brussels helping you with all of these activities above

Structure of the Horizon Europe



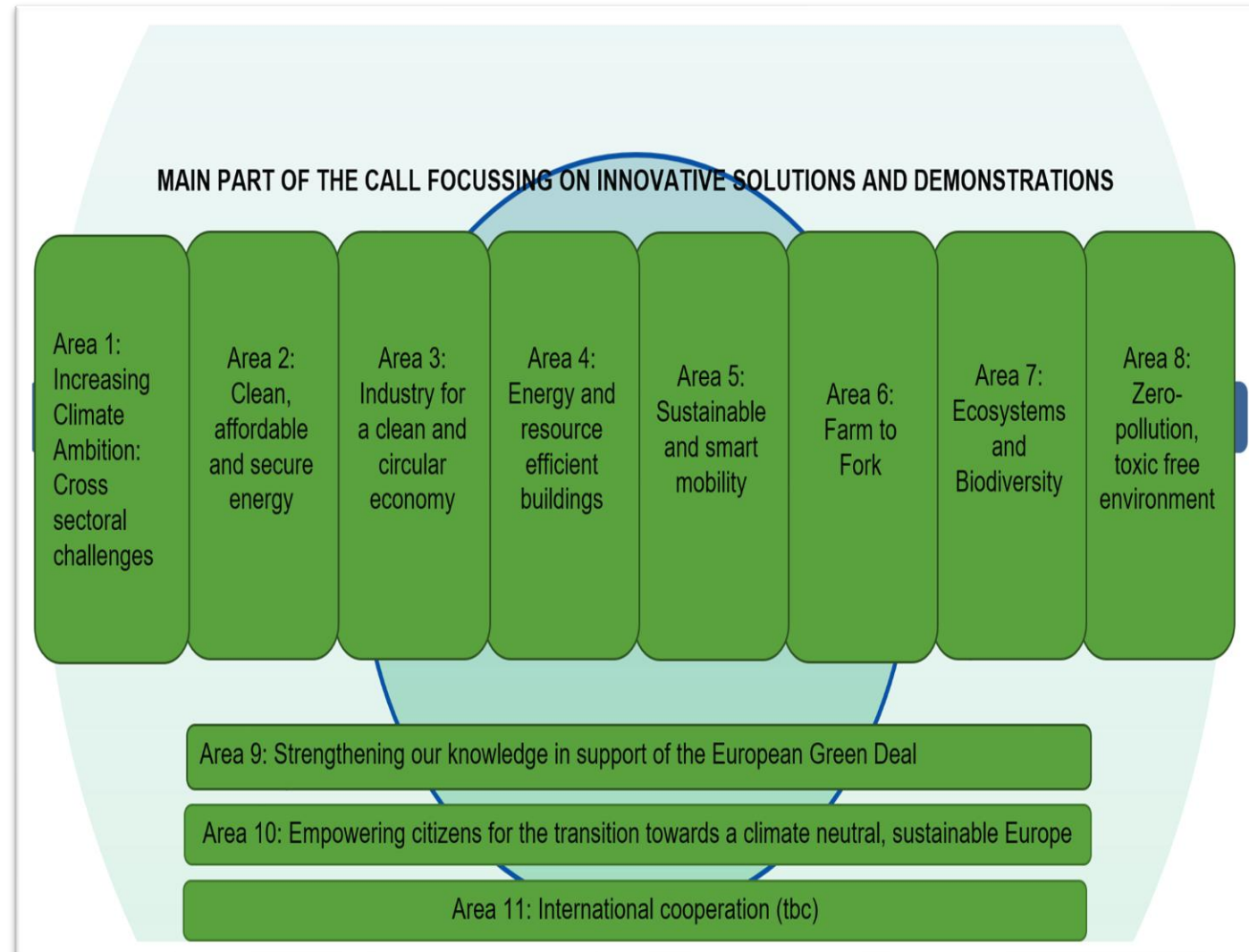
Working Papers

- Cluster 1: Health
- Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society
- Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society
- Cluster 4: Digital, Industry & Space
- Cluster 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility
- Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment
- Missions
- European Innovation Council
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
- Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area
- Research Infrastructures European
- Innovation Ecosystems
- European Research Council

From policy to calls for proposals



Green Deal Call Thematic and Horizontal Areas & Timeline



**Adaptation to climate
change, including societal
transformation**



EU Missions

As an integral part of Horizon Europe, a set of **EU Missions** aim to deliver solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing Europe. The **mission on Ocean and Waters** and the **mission on Soils** are **two of the 5 official mission areas** defined by the Commission **highly related to Cluster 6**.

The goal of the **Mission on Ocean** is to **restore our ocean and waters by 2030**

Man-made changes are putting our ocean and waters at serious risk leading to pollution, biodiversity loss and extreme weather events such as floods, droughts and heatwaves.

Therefore, the **3 Mission** objectives are:

1. Protect and restore marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity in line with EU biodiversity strategy.
2. Prevent and eliminate pollution of our ocean, seas and waters in line with the EU action plan towards zero pollution.
3. Make the blue economy carbon neutral and circular in line with the European Climate law.

Soil Mission

Soil is taken for granted but they are **a scarce, non-renewable and threatened resource**. 60-70% of the EU soils are unhealthy. The **Soil Mission** aims to **lead the transition towards healthy soils** by:

- funding an ambitious research and innovation programme with a strong social science component
- putting in place an effective network of 100 living labs and lighthouses to co-create knowledge, test solutions and demonstrate their value in real-life conditions
- developing a harmonised framework for soil monitoring in Europe
- raising people's awareness on the vital importance of soils

Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Clean Environment for a Healthy Life

- The cluster aims at reducing environmental degradation, halting and reversing the decline of biodiversity on land, inland waters and sea and better managing natural resources through transformative changes of the economy and society in both urban and rural areas.
- It aims to ensure food and nutrition security for all within planetary boundaries through knowledge, innovation and digitalisation in agriculture, fisheries, aquaculture and food systems and steer and accelerate the transition to a low carbon, resource efficient circular economy and sustainable bioeconomy, including forestry.
- Research and innovation activities under cluster 6 will **contribute to the objectives** of:
 - the European Green Deal related to the Biodiversity Strategy to 2030,
 - the Farm to Fork strategy,
 - the European Climate Pact and initiatives under sustainable industry and eliminating pollution,
 - as well as the long-term vision for rural areas, and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Key objectives are translated in **seven destinations** and impacts:

1. Valuing and restoring **BIODIVERSITY** and ecosystem services
2. **FARM2FORK**: Creating fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
3. Unlocking the full potential of the **CIRCULAR** economy and **BIO**economy sectors
4. Realizing a cleaner environment and **ZERO POLLUTION**:
5. Assessing the impact of **CLIMATE** change on land, oceans and water
6. Developing resilient, inclusive, healthy and green **COMMUNITIES** (rural, coastal and urban)
7. Establishing innovative **GOVERNANCE**, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal



Funding areas / opportunities of Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services: This call closed on 22 February 2024
- Fair, healthy and environmentally friendly food systems from primary production to consumption: This call closed on 24 September 2024
- Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors: This call closed on 22 February 2024
- Clean environment and zero pollution: This call closed on 22 February 2024
- Land, oceans and water for climate action: This call closed on 24 September 2024
- Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities: This call closed on 22 February 2024
- Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal: This call closed on 25 June 2024
- EU Mission: A Soil Deal for Europe: This call closed on 8 October 2024

Aditonal/relevant calls still open

[Open Call for Financial Support to Third Parties as a mechanism to increase the number of Rural-Urban Enablers available to end-users](#)

RURBANIVE | Cascade funding

Opening date: **13 January 2025** | Deadline date: **31 March 2025** | Single-stage

[Integrating environmental, economic and social perspectives in assessing the performance of agroecology. Value-chain and policy implications.](#)

AGROECOLOGY | Cascade funding

Opening date: **02 December 2024** | Deadline date: **17 February 2025** | Single-stage

[Call for applications: FRONTIERS Science Journalism Residency Program \(round 3\)](#)

FRONTIERS | Cascade funding

Opening date: **04 February 2025** | Next deadline: **06 May 2025** | Multiple Cut-off

[Simultaneous ionomer and iridium recycling](#)

HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2025-05-01 | Call for proposal

Opening date: **30 January 2025** | Deadline date: **23 April 2025** | Single-stage

[Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl substance \(PFAS\) exposure, emissions, and end of life management in the healthcare sector](#)

HORIZON-JU-IHI-2025-10-03-two-stage | Call for proposal

Opening date: **16 January 2025** | Next deadline: **23 April 2025** | Two-stage

[Women TechEU Open Call #3](#)

Women TechEU | Cascade funding

Opening date: **15 January 2025** | Deadline date: **17 March 2025** | Single-stage

[INCiTIS-FOOD Open Call for Local Innovation Hubs \(LIH\)](#)

INCiTIS-FOOD | Cascade funding

Opening date: **23 December 2024** | Deadline date: **20 March 2025** | Single-stage

[Transforming Food Systems - reshaping food system interactions, fostering food innovations and empowering sustainable food choices](#)

FutureFoodS | Cascade funding

Opening date: **06 November 2024** | Next deadline: **09 July 2025** | Multiple Cut-off

Upcoming relevant events

- **Mission Ocean and Waters Forum and related events**
3 to 7 March 2025
Brussels, Belgium
- **Central-Northern European Climate Summit**
25 March 2025
Warsaw, Poland

Thank you!

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