

ENACT Partner

European Union



Title

Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe

Summary

Horizon 2020 was the European Union's primary funding program for research and innovation from 2014 to 2020, with a budget of nearly €80 billion. A significant focus was on NbS, with an aim to harness the power of natural processes to address environmental challenges such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and urban resilience. The program encouraged interdisciplinary collaboration among businesses, academia, and research institutions to develop innovative solutions that support sustainable development.

Following Horizon 2020, the program transitioned to Horizon Europe, which runs from 2021 to 2027. Horizon Europe continues to prioritize nature-based solutions, aiming to enhance ecological sustainability while promoting economic growth and improving quality of life across Europe.

Alignment with 2024 Discussion Paper

Horizon Europe exhibits the possibilities and impact of enhanced funding for NbS. The program allocates substantial resources to projects that explore and implement NbS, recognizing their potential to address critical challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and urbanization.

Key aspects of this alignment include:

1. **Dedicated Funding:** Horizon Europe includes specific calls for projects focused on NbS, ensuring that they receive adequate financial support.
2. **Interdisciplinary Research:** By fostering collaboration among various sectors—such as ecology, urban planning, and engineering—Horizon Europe encourages innovative approaches that integrate NbS into broader environmental and social frameworks.
3. **Policy Integration:** The program aims to align NbS initiatives with EU policies, such as the European Green Deal, promoting coherence between funding, research, and policy objectives.
4. **Partnerships and Networks:** Horizon Europe supports the formation of partnerships and networks that connect stakeholders across Europe, facilitating knowledge sharing and best practices in implementing NbS.
5. **Impact Assessment:** Emphasizing the evaluation of ecological and socio-economic impacts of NbS projects, Horizon Europe encourages outcomes that demonstrate the effectiveness and benefits of these solutions.

Responsible Units/Departments

The administration of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe was primarily handled by the European Commission, specifically through the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD). Within this directorate, several units focused on different aspects of the programs, including funding, project management, and policy development.

Additional Resources

[Horizon 2020](#), [Horizon Europe](#), [Funding Portfolio](#)