GENDER ᴀꜱ ᴀ **GLOBAL CHALLENGE** ᴀɴᴅ ᴀ **KEY DRIVER** ꜰᴏʀ **INNOVATION**

Horizon Europe
PILLAR II: *Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness*
Cluster 1 *Health* and Cluster 2 *Inclusive and Secure Societies*

The European Commission has launched a proposal for the next EU Research & Innovation Framework Programme (2021-2027), "Horizon Europe". The present 2ⁿᵈ Briefing Paper is a call to action towards a proper integration and visibility of gender issues in Pillar II *Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness* **(as a whole and in the first two clusters, 1** *Health* **and 2** *Inclusive and Secure Societies***).**

What is Horizon Europe Pillar II on *Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness* about?

Pillar II focuses on the **2ⁿᵈ specific goal of Horizon Europe**: *to strengthen the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing* **Union policies, and** *support the uptake of* **innovative solutions in industry and society to address global challenge***s* (the Sustainable Development Goals – **SDGs**). Therefore, it will fund research and innovation activities to be implemented *in* and *across* **five** *clusters* aimed at integrating main challenges to and opportunities for EU and global policy and competitiveness: 1) *Health*; 2) *Inclusive and secure societies*; 3**)** *Digital and industry*; 4) *Climate, energy and mobility*; and 5) *Food and natural resources*. Additionally, **each cluster is organised in several** *intervention areas*, designed to incentivise cross-disciplinary, cross-sectoral, cross-policy and international collaboration by means of calls, missions and partnerships.

2ⁿᵈ Pillar: Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness

Cluster 2: Inclusive and Secure Societies

Democracy

Social and economic transformations

- Gender equality -

Protection and security

Cultural heritage

Disaster-resilient societies

Cybersecurity

Why is gender highly relevant to Horizon Europe Pillar II?

1) First of all, since **UN SDG5** is to *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls*, and Horizon Europe Pillar II focuses on SDGs, this is the crucial place to address gender equality explicitly and make visible the main specific challenges to and opportunities for advancing gender equality in the EU and worldwide across different life domains. This will stimulate R&I activities aimed at fostering innovative solutions to EU and global challenges in an evidence-based and gender-sensitive manner. The logical solution is to explicitly include **gender equality as a specific Area of Intervention** in Cluster 2 on *Inclusive and Secure Societies*.

2) It is also crucial **to guarantee proper integration of sex/gender analysis in R&I content as a cross-cutting issue** because it is a key driver for scientific quality, impact and innovation potential of R&I activities to be implemented *in* and *across* **all the Clusters and Intervention Areas of Pillar II**.

Gender Equality, as SDG5, requires a specific intervention area; in addition, the integration of sex/gender analysis as a cross-cutting issue across all the clusters and intervention areas in Pillar II of Horizon Europe is a key driver for better EU science and higher innovation potential

General recommendations for Pillar II

▪ Since each Cluster of Pillar II contributes towards several SDGs, but there is not one that mentions **SDG5** *Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls***,** SDG5 should be explicitly recognized in Horizon Europe as a key and strategic challenge in and of itself which also contributes to achieving other SDGs and EU sectorial policies.

▪ **Sex/gender analysis and reporting results by sex and gender** should be required in every Cluster and Area of Intervention as a cross-cutting issue of Pillar II in order to produce non-biased and more inclusive knowledge, impact and innovation. Gender is relevant in all the clusters because they deal with human activities and involve human beings, directly or indirectly as beneficiaries, users, etc. For instance, climate policies, digitalization or migration affect groups of women and men differently.

Recommendations for Gender in Cluster 1 *Health*

▪ Cluster *Health* should explicitly address the **particular characteristics, needs and social conditions of diverse populations, including sex and gender analysis,** in order to improve and better protect the health of citizens, as well as when making public health systems more equitable, efficient and innovative.

▪ To address explicitly **gender and/or sex as relevant variables** in the broad lines of research in all Areas of Intervention in this Cluster. For instance: sources, treatments and consequences of poor mental health on women and men; sex and gender differences in the health needs of adolescents (including sexual and reproductive health needs); gender representative samples when piloting innovative treatments; gender approaches in the review of treatment guidelines aimed at boosting more inclusive and safe methods.

Recommendations for Gender in Cluster 2 *Inclusive and Secure Societies*

▪ Horizon Europe needs to explicitly recognize that strengthening **European democratic values entails addressing gender equality** as one of Europe's policy objectives and the important role that European women play in the economic transformations that will contribute to inclusion and growth.

▪ **Gender equality needs to be considered as a specific Area of Intervention** in this Cluster because it is an EU sectorial policy and a key global challenge (SDG5) which requires specific gender research. R&I broad lines will focus on **supporting EU gender equality policies** (for instance, gender knowledge-based evidence on the impact of these policies), **and the uptake of innovative solutions to attain main targets of SDG5** (by addressing all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls, as well as the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of life, including the recognition and value of care work).

▪ To address explicitly **sex and/or gender as cross-cutting issues** for the R&I broad lines in the remaining Areas of Intervention in this Cluster. For instance, the links between women's and men's roles and disaster-resilient societies; the role of women and gender diversity in social and economic transformations; the impact of gender-based violence on security of European societies; gender differences in labour markets, poverty and working conditions, digital citizenship, mobility and migration; etc.

Conclusions

Addressing gender in Pillar II, both as a specific Area of Intervention and as a cross-cutting issue, will help to support better EU and global policies for attaining SDG5 and the remaining UN SDGs. It will also help to boost EU's innovation, competitiveness, security and inclusiveness. Consequently, it is highly recommended that Horizon Europe Pillar II add gender equality as a specific Area of Intervention in Cluster 2 *Inclusive and Secure Societies* and explicitly integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue in and across all the Clusters and Areas of Intervention of Pillar II.

GENDER ACTION

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