

THE ECONOMIC MODEL ENVISIONED BY HORIZON EUROPE

A gender perspective to natural resources and industry

HORIZON EUROPE

PILLAR II *Global Challenges & Industrial Competitiveness*

Cluster 3 *Digital and Industry*; 4 *Climate, Energy and Mobility*; and 5 *Food and Natural Resources*

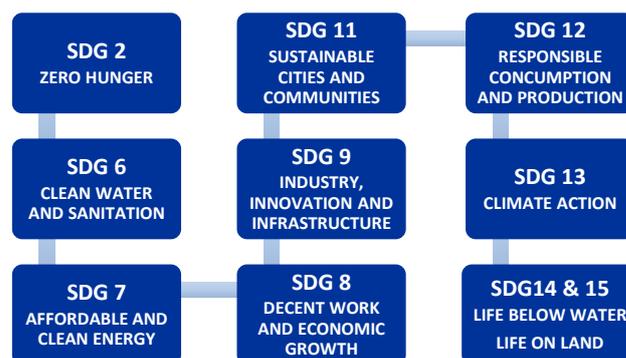
The European Commission has launched a proposal for the next EU Research & Innovation Programme (2021-2027), called “Horizon Europe”. This 3rd Briefing Paper is a call to action towards the integration of the gender dimension in Clusters 3, 4 and 5 of Pillar II as well as towards the design of gender equality goals in the use and distribution of resources. See the previous Briefing Paper no. 2 which focused on Clusters 1 and 2 of this Pillar.

UN SDGs and the economic model of Horizon Europe

Clusters 3 *Digital and Industry*, 4 *Climate, Energy and Mobility*, and 5 *Food and Natural Resources* of Pillar II in Horizon Europe are crucial because they envision an economic model for the future Europe, as can be seen in the Areas of Intervention:

- **3 Digital and Industry:** manufacturing technologies; key digital technologies; artificial intelligence and robotics; next generation internet; advanced computing and big data; circular industries; low-carbon and clean industries; space...
- **4 Climate, Energy and Mobility:** climate science and solutions; energy systems and grids; buildings and industrial facilities in energy transition; communities and cities; clean transport...
 - **5 Food and Natural Resources:** environmental observation; biodiversity and natural capital; agriculture, forestry and rural areas; sea and oceans; food systems...

The Areas of Intervention included in these Clusters 3, 4 and 5 together refer explicitly to ten UN Sustainable Development Goals related to the economic and environmental rights of citizens:



However, none of these areas mentions so far the gender dimension of these SDGs to bring into consideration the different baselines in the socio-economic situation of women and men as well as gender drivers and gender impacts of the innovative solutions for those SDGs.

Natural resources and industry from a gender perspective

Decisions on the use of natural resources, the design of cities and industries, as well as the planning of economies transition towards more sustainable energy and consumption models are not gender-neutral. Instead, they **should be done in a gender-responsive way**.

For instance, addressing agriculture and food systems without a gender perspective means to leave the gender division of labour and women’s unpaid labour out from the discussion.

Moreover, it is important **to stress the potential role of women in technological, digital, social, cultural and territorial governance innovations**. In other words, women's participation in decision-making should be ensured in fundamental sectors such as agriculture, fish harvesting, energy, digitization and infrastructure provision.

To remember

In the previous Briefing Paper no. 2 June 2018:

Gender Equality is recommended to be considered both as a specific Area of Intervention in Cluster 2 and as a cross-cutting issue for all Clusters and Areas of Intervention in Pillar II of Horizon Europe

Recommendations for Gender in Cluster 3 Digital and Industry

To ensure that **gender dimension is integrated in all the stages of the R&I cycle** for the EU digital and industrial development. For instance this will require:

- To integrate the **sex/gender analysis in data management** and **data applications**.
- Since nanotechnologies, advanced materials, manufacturing technologies, etc., are moving towards greater involvement of target groups **in formulating problems and solutions, the different needs of women and men groups need to be reflected** in the process.
- To **avoid the reproduction of gender bias** and gender stereotypes in the design of **robotics, artificial intelligence and ICT** technologies.

Recommendations for Gender in Cluster 4 Climate, Energy and Mobility

To **ensure that crucial gender issues addressing the SDGs** related to climate, energy and mobility **are explicitly mentioned** in the specific programme. For instance:

- To develop **Climate Science and Solutions** as an Area of Intervention from a gender perspective means to consider the gendered aspects of climate change drivers, impacts, mitigation solutions and adaptation patterns, including the effects of disasters in cities.
- The difference between women's and men's **energy needs, choices and consumption** must be taken into consideration when designing energy plans.
- To explicitly recognize that **mobility and transport solutions** for communities and cities have to respond to the complexity of women's and men's needs.

Recommendations for Gender in Cluster 5 Food and Natural Resources

- To include the **empowerment of women in agriculture** as a broad line within the Area of Intervention on agriculture, forestry and rural areas
- To **highlight gender factors involved as cross-cutting issues for better solutions** in the food and natural resources SDGs. For instance:

The different conditions facing **women and men in rural areas**, the impact of evolving gender roles on activities in the primary sector, **sex/gender analysis on the effects of pesticides, antibiotics** and antimicrobial resistance, the **nutrition status of women and men** when developing sustainable and healthy diets, etc.

Conclusion:

Clusters 3, 4 and 5 of Pillar II envision an economic model for Horizon Europe. The gender dimension needs to be considered when deciding on the use and distribution of resources as well as in the design of communities and cities of the future and the necessary technologies for this.

References

- European Commission (2018) [Proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination](#). [And Annexes to it]
- H2020 Advisory Group Gender (2016) "[For a better integration of the gender dimension in the Horizon 2020 Work Programme 2018-2020](#)" (December 2016)
- WISET & PORTIA (2016) [The Role of Gender-based Innovations for the UN Sustainable Development Goals Toward 2030: Better Science and Technology for All](#)



Horizon 2020 Project
info@genderaction.eu