

EC Survey on Horizon Europe Co-design 2021-2024

Deadline: 8 September 2019

GENDERACTION WP5 Opinion on where gender is (not) in the online public consultation for Horizon Europe co-design 2021-2024 and where it should be

Some of the following comments have already been put forward in the **GENDERACTION policy briefs on Horizon Europe**. These and other arguments are provided here to highlight where gender is (not) considered and where it should be raised in the EC **Orientations towards the first Strategic Plan implementing the research and innovation framework programme Horizon Europe** and in the related **online public consultation for Horizon Europe co-design 2021-2024**, following the survey structure.

GENDERACTION WP5 comments are provided for each open-ended question of the survey in sections B, C and D where there is a maximum of 500, 300 and 5000 characters (respectively) per response.

Section B

Q4. Please provide here your comments on where Horizon Europe should play its greatest role in terms of global challenges, SDGs, and EU policy priorities. [500 characters maximum]

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Although gender equality is included in the EC “Orientations” document as a SDG and a policy priority, it is not considered as a global challenge.

Additionally within the section on *Supporting R&I policy priorities, specific issues and coordination of relevant activities through Horizon Europe* it is highlighted that *The impact and added value of European R&I investments will also depend on our capacity to leverage a number of cross-cutting factors when implementing Horizon Europe, ranging from core EU values to legal and operational provisions* [where Gender is considered 1 out of 5]:

- ***Inclusion of gender perspectives will enable better quality and higher societal relevance of research and innovation activities;***

And moreover, in the same section Gender is also considered as 1 out of 7 ***Cross-cutting R&I policy priorities and specific issues:***

Gender equality is a core policy objective for all European Union activities and a crucial factor in the achievement of sustainable development and inclusive economic growth.

Activities will aim at eliminating gender inequalities throughout R&I systems and the gender dimension will be adequately integrated in R&I content across the whole programme. The latter is particularly relevant for global challenges, including in areas such as health care, artificial intelligence and robotics in which there is a growing worldwide recognition that gender differences, in terms of needs, behaviours and attitudes, play an important role in research design/content, and hence determine the societal relevance and quality of research outcomes.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Gender inequalities persist despite gender equality being a core fundamental European value. Gender is both an end in itself and a cross-cutting issue for other policy priorities, SDGs and global challenges. Therefore, it is recommended that Horizon Europe include gender equality as a global challenge too.

Section C

Q6. [on “Protective Europe”] Please provide here your comments or suggestions on the above (if any) [300 characters maximum]

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in the *Protective Europe* policy priority.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Protective Europe needs to consider the impact on gender-based violence as well as women’s and girls’ specific vulnerabilities in migrant and refugee flows when addressing the improvement of the management of EU external borders and maritime security.

Q8. [on “Competitive Europe”] Please provide here your comments or suggestions on the above (if any) [300 characters maximum]

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in the *Competitive Europe* policy priority.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

The relevance of the gender dimension needs to be highlighted as a key inclusiveness factor for more appealing and creative jobs in Europe and for the developing of digital technologies and uptake of new technologies, as well as a market-making factor equally addressing the needs of all populations.

Q10. [on “Fair Europe”] Please provide here your comments or suggestions on the above (if any) [300 characters maximum]

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

In the section on future policy priorities for the EU, only 1 out of 5 –*Fair Europe*– refers to gender:

3) *Fair Europe*

Policy objectives:

- *The promotion of social cohesion and inclusiveness and the health and well-being of its people are central aims of the European Union’s policies and programmes.*
- *These aims are also reflected in SDGs: 1 – No Poverty; 3 – Good Health and Well-being; 4 – Quality Education; 5 – **Gender Equality**; 6 – Clean Water and Sanitation, 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth; 10 – Reduced Inequalities; 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities, and 16 – Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.*

Investments concerning culture, creativity and inclusive society (Cluster 2) – 1 out of 7 expected impacts is:

*Reversing socio-economic and **gender inequalities** via strategies of inclusion, non-discrimination, social protection and social investment*

Therefore, although Fair Europe relates to clusters 1 and 2, gender inequalities are only mentioned for cluster 2.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

It is of utmost importance for the gender dimension also being integrated into the health impact of innovative, technologies, digital solutions and services as well as in healthy ways of living and working environments with a view to overcoming the negligence of women's health needs in the past.

Q12. [on “Sustainable Europe”] Please provide here your comments on the above (if any) [300 characters maximum]

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in the *Sustainable Europe* policy priority.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

The gender dimension needs to be considered when deciding on the use and distribution of resources as well as in the design of communities, cities and rural areas of the future and the necessary technologies for this.

Q13. Please provide here your suggestions for relevant Horizon Europe impacts to contribute to an “Influential Europe”. [300 characters maximum]

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in the *Influential Europe* policy priority.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

To increase the influence of Europe and to reach the SDGs, gender needs to be mainstreamed in the STI international cooperation model of Horizon Europe. This will advance EU R&I capacities as well as the attainment of political, social, economic and human rights commitments.

Section D

** Please provide here further general input regarding the targeted impacts from Horizon Europe [5000 characters maximum for the selected impact/s]*

Health (cluster 1):

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Annex I- Cluster 1- Health

1. Global Challenges and Their Drivers (only 1 out of 6 health-related challenges refers to gender):

Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society:

*Income, education levels, social and **gender aspects** also have an impact on health risks and how disease can be prevented.*

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Gender aspects are relevant to and hence must be addressed in all the six health-related challenges, not only in “Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society”.

Culture, creativity and inclusive society (cluster 2):

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Annex II – Cluster 2 – Culture, creativity and inclusive society

3. Targeted impacts: Activities [*inter alia*] will help reverse social, economic, cultural and political inequalities and their causes **and promote gender equality**

4. Key R&I Orientations: The Cluster [*inter alia*] will elucidate the societal – including political, ethical, cultural, **gender** and economic – effects of technological advancements and the impact of drivers of change

4.1. Democracy and governance: *The aim is to develop innovations, policies and institutions that expand political participation, social dialogue, civic engagement and **gender equality***

4.2. Cultural heritage: Including [*inter alia*] to promote policies and projects leading to **ensuring gender equality in the cultural heritage sector**

4.3. Social and economic transformations*: **Gender equality in all social, political, economic and cultural domains shall be covered. Addressing intersections between gender and other social categories, such as disability, sexual orientation and ethnicity, will also be a focus**

(*) **Social transformations and inequalities** identified as an area for **future partnerships**.

It is also highlighted that R&I activities within this Cluster have the potential to support all the already identified areas for possible **missions**.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Women need to be considered beyond the role of victims of gender inequalities. This means understanding and supporting the important role women play in the social and economic transformations and enhancing democracy. The new Horizon Europe broad line on “advanced strategies and innovative methods for gender equality in all social, economic and cultural domains, and to deal with gender biases and gender-based violence” needs to ensure regular annual calls with enough funding for an appropriate number of projects. Acknowledging that the Orientations document puts a focus on intersections between gender and other social categories, this needs to be considered in the other broad lines. Further, since R&I activities in cluster 2 have the potential to support all the already identified areas for possible missions, the gender dimension has to be explicitly included in each mission area text. A future mission area on gender equality will be crucial for the 2nd period of Horizon Europe to integrate R&I activities of different parts of the Framework Programme addressing SDG 5. Similarly, as social transformations and inequalities have been identified as an area for future partnerships, gender transformations and inequalities will require specific attention within this partnership area.

Civil security for society (cluster 3):

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Annex III- Cluster 3- Civil security for society

4. Key R&I Orientations: Account [*inter alia*] will be taken of **the gender dimension**, notably as part of R&I relating to the human and societal context of security and of disaster resilience and response.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

The document does not mention gender when referring to security, vulnerability, etc. as impacts of a Protective Europe. However, the European Parliament legislative resolution of 17 April 2019 on the Specific Programme implementing Horizon Europe addressed tackling of crimes based on gender, sexual orientation or racial discrimination within cluster 3, and these must be included among the targeted impacts of security in public spaces and cybersecurity. Finally, women's and girls' specific vulnerabilities in migrant and refugee flows must be considered when addressing the improvement of the management of EU external borders and maritime security.

Digital, industry and space (cluster 4):

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Cluster 4 – Digital, industry and space

3. EU policy objectives (1 out of 3 refers to gender):

iii) A major contribution to inclusiveness: *From the outset we must involve and empower workers, consumers and firms to make sure that they have access to, and take up, these technologies (**reflecting gender and other diversity issues** where appropriate).*

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

It is established that digitalization will affect women and men differently and hence gender aspects must be addressed. Equally, artificial intelligence and robotics, big data and machine learning have been shown to reproduce gender biases and gender aspects must be considered. The different needs of women and men groups need also to be reflected in the processes of involving target groups for developing other technologies.

Climate, energy and mobility (cluster 5):

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in **Cluster 5 – Climate, energy and mobility**.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Cluster 5 fails to mention gender aspects although clearly, consideration must be given to the gendered aspects of climate change drivers, impacts, mitigation solutions and adaptation patterns; the difference between women's and men's energy needs, choices and consumption patterns when designing energy plans; the complexities of women's and men's needs regarding mobility and transport solutions for communities and cities.

Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment (cluster 6):

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in **Cluster 6 – Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment.**

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Cluster 6 fails to mention gender aspects. Explicit attention must be paid to the empowerment of women in agriculture as well as the different conditions facing women and men in rural areas and the impact of evolving gender roles on activities in the primary sector. Consideration must be given to the nutrition status of women and men when developing sustainable and healthy diets and sex/gender analysis must be performed on the effects of pesticides, antibiotics and antimicrobial resistance.

Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA:

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in Relevant activities in the part *Widening Participation* but it is mentioned in *Strengthening the ERA* :

4. Supporting R&I policy priorities, specific issues and coordination of relevant activities through Horizon Europe

Shared objectives and coordination of relevant activities throughout Horizon Europe

- **Relevant activities in the part Widening Participation and Strengthening the ERA:**

The part on ***Strengthening the ERA*** will support a new phase in the development of the ERA and synergies with the European Higher Education Area, which may include

a stronger focus on supporting the challenges identified in Pillar II, including missions and partnerships, to ensure that the strategic investments made there deliver maximum impact.

Impacts of the *Strengthening the ERA part* will include better alignment of national reforms and increased programme level collaboration across Member States and Associated Countries. This **will also support other R&I priorities including** Open Science, citizens' science, **gender equality** and other forms of diversity, improving international cooperation, ethics and integrity, and scientific input to other EU policies.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

GENDERACTION policy brief no.11 (<https://1url.cz/9MU36>) argues that in implementing Horizon Europe the Commission should adopt concrete measures to incentivize the widening countries to develop gender equality policies. Gender equality policies and other forms of diversity are considered in the Strengthening the ERA part but it is vital to improve the funding and provisions for structural change projects implementing gender equality plans in RPOs, to achieve a sustainable progress.

Pillar 1 Excellent Science:

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in **Relevant activities in Pillar I – Excellent Science**.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Work-life balance measures, protection against sexual and sexist harassment, integration of the sex/gender analysis into the R&I content and other provisions to incentivize gender equality policies in hosting institutions need to be harmonized across Pillar 1 funding lines. Particularly, research infrastructures need to mainstream gender in their core activities and governance systems.

Pillar 3 Innovative Europe:

Context in the EC Orientations doc:

Gender is NOT mentioned in **Relevant activities in Pillar III – Innovative Europe**.

GENDERACTION WP5 Comments:

Involving more women and sex/gender analysis methods in the process of innovation will facilitate more competitive products that do not take the male consumer as a default model. For further information see the policy brief on Gender and Innovation recently launched by the Standing Working Group on Gender in Research and Innovation (available at <https://1url.cz/tMUj0>).

Finally, the following quantitative questions in the survey which explicitly refer to gender issues are remarkable:

Q2. In your view, what is the role of Horizon Europe research and innovation investments in achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (as identified in the "Orientations" document)?

CHECK BOX, *inter alia*: **Gender equality**

Q5. In your view, to what extent will the following elements contribute to increase the scientific, economic and societal impacts of Horizon Europe investments (as identified in the "Orientations" document)?

CHECK BOX, *inter alia*: **Integration of gender aspects in research and innovation content**

Q9. In your view, how relevant is it for Horizon Europe to deliver on the following impacts for a "Fair Europe"?

CHECK BOX, *inter alia*: **Reversing socio-economic and gender inequalities**



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