

New Horizon Europe project launches to turn inclusive gender equality commitments into action

1 June 2026 | A new Horizon Europe project has launched to help close the gap between Europe's commitments to inclusive gender equality and their implementation in research and innovation policy. GENDERACTIONplus2027 will bring national authorities and research funding organisations together to address shared challenges and translate those commitments into concrete measures and actions.

The project comes at a time of both progress and growing pressure for gender equality in European research and innovation. Policy commitments have strengthened, but progress remains uneven across countries. Implementation capacities vary, and gender mainstreaming across other European Research Area (ERA) priorities remains underdeveloped. In some contexts, gender equality policies are also facing growing political contestation.

Responding to this changing landscape means moving beyond stand-alone gender equality measures. GENDERACTIONplus2027 takes an inclusive and intersectional approach, recognising that gender inequalities intersect with other forms of inequality, including those related to disability, racial or ethnic background, age and other dimensions.

“Across the ERA, there is considerable commitment and expertise to advance inclusive gender equality. But commitments do not implement themselves. They need coordination, shared learning, practical support, evidence, and people willing to keep the agenda moving even when the policy environment becomes more challenging,” says project coordinator Marcela Linková.

GENDERACTIONplus2027 is implemented by eight consortium partners and includes 29 Associated Partners, who make up the initial Community of Practice. This initial network spans 17 EU Member States and three countries associated to Horizon Europe.

The Community of Practice brings together people responsible for gender equality policy in national administrations and research funding organisations. Rather than developing solutions in isolation, members will work together on concrete implementation challenges, exchange approaches that have worked in different national contexts and support one another in putting European commitments into practice.

Over the next two years, this collaboration will feed directly into a set of practical resources for policymakers and research funders:

- guidance for integrating intersectionality into research and innovation policy;
- an approach for monitoring and evaluation of inclusive Gender Equality Plans;
- regular evidence on how inclusive gender equality commitments are being implemented across the ERA;
- support for integrating inclusive gender equality into other ERA priorities;
- an open online toolkit with guidance, training materials and practical resources.

The project will work closely with the ERA Forum Sub-group on Inclusive Gender Equality so that the evidence, tools and guidance it develops can inform directly into European and national policy coordination.

GENDER ACTIONplus 2027

“Our ambition goes beyond producing reports or recommendations. We want the project to leave policymakers and research funders with tools, evidence and relationships that they can continue using after the project ends,” Linková adds.

GENDERACTIONplus2027 builds on two previous European projects, GENDERACTION and GENDERACTIONplus. Coordinated by the Institute of Sociology of the Czech Academy of Sciences, the new project runs from June 2026 to May 2028.

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