

GENDER AS A GLOBAL CHALLENGE AND A KEY DRIVER FOR 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 within the 2 first 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 challenges** (the Sustainable Development Goals - *SDGs*).

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.

Therefore, it will fund research and innovation activities to be implemented in and across **five clusters** aimed at integrating main challenges and opportunities to 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.

Why is gender so relevant to Horizon Europe Pillar II?

1) First of all, since **UN SDG #5** is to **"Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls"**, and Horizon Europe 2nd Pillar is focused on SDGs, this is the crucial place to address gender equality explicitly, and make visible the main specific challenges 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.

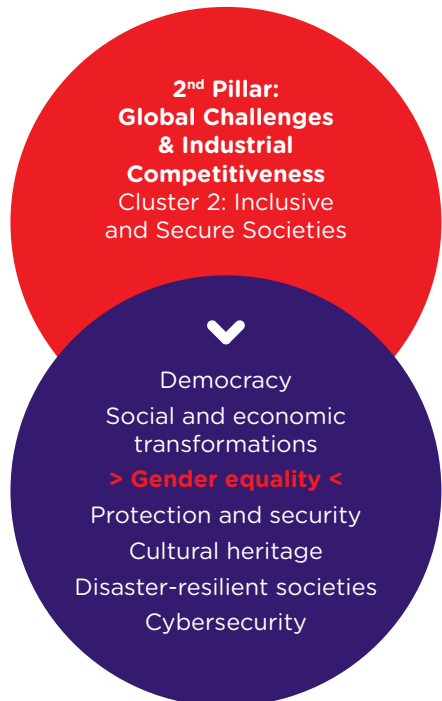
2) It is also crucial **to guarantee proper integration of sex/gender analysis in R&I content as a cross-cutting issue** because it is a key driver for scientific quality, impact and innovation potential of R&I activities to be implemented **in and across all the clusters and intervention areas of Pillar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

General recommendations for Pillar II

- Since each Cluster of Pillar II contributes towards several SDGs, but there is no

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 itself and also contributes to achieve 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. All of them are gender relevant because necessarily have to deal with human activities and involve human beings, directly or indirectly as beneficiaries, users, etc. For instance, how climate policies can affect groups of women and men differently.



Recommendations for Gender in Cluster 1 Health

- The Cluster “Health” should explicitly address the challenge of taking into account the **particular characteristics, needs and social conditions of diverse populations groups, including sex and gender groups**, when improving and protecting 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** for the broad lines of research in all Intervention Areas in this Cluster. For instance, sources, treatment 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); and the use of gender representative samples when piloting innovative treatments or studies that review treatment guidelines under gender considerations 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 the **European democratic values implies necessarily to address gender equality** 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 a sectorial policy of the European Union and a global challenge (SDG5) that requires specific gender studies research. This

will allow to bring strategic research and innovation broad lines that put the focus on EU gender equality policies (for instance providing gender knowledge-based evidence about the impact of these policies) and innovative approaches to address main targets to attain SDG5 (for instance, to address all forms of gender-based violence and discrimination against women and girls, and to find better strategies for the empowerment of women and girls in all spheres of cultural, social and economic life, including the recognition and value of care work).

- To address explicitly **sex and/or gender as cross-cutting issues** for the broad lines of research in the remaining intervention areas of 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 for our societies; gender differences in labour markets, poverty and working conditions; digitalization, use of IT and digital citizenship; mobility and migration; and other societal challenges.

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 the SDG #5 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.

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