



## CCSA Briefing Note

# Horizon Europe Work Programme for 2026-27

(17 December 2025)

---

On December 11, the European Commission [released](#) its funding plan for Horizon Europe for 2026–2027, committing over €14 billion to research and innovation. Of this total, an estimated **€4.9 billion** is dedicated to climate action overall. The programme introduces significant streamlining, reducing its volume by a third and cutting the number of topics by 35% to focus resources on larger, more impactful projects. Administrative burden will be eased through wider use of lump-sum financing and simplified application templates. Special attention is given to newcomers, with topics designed to be more accessible to small businesses, startups and civil society organisations.

A central innovation is the launch of a dedicated "R&I in Support of the Clean Industrial Deal" horizontal call, backed by an indicative budget of €540 million. This call is structured as Innovation Actions, emphasising near-market deployment. Unlike standard calls confined to specific sectors, this horizontal initiative is designed to cut across multiple research areas to foster integrated, market-ready solutions. The call will focus on two broad, open topics:

- the decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries;
- the development of clean technologies for climate action.

Notably, **CCUS technologies are highlighted as a priority area** with strong growth potential under the decarbonisation topic, particularly for hard-to-abate sectors like cement, steel and chemicals.

The initiative explicitly adopts a bottom-up, industry-led approach, prioritising projects that are technologically feasible and have robust business and market-readiness strategies. A core objective is to build a continuous pipeline of innovations ready for subsequent scaling with support from the EU's Innovation Fund.

The programme also reinforces the "Choose Europe for Science" initiative, adding new funding to make the EU more attractive for research careers through enhanced fellowships, relocation incentives and links to long-term academic positions. It continues to channel substantial investment into EU policy goals: at least 35% of funding is dedicated to climate objectives, with specific allocations for biodiversity and the digital transition. Other priorities include boosting strategic autonomy in critical areas like raw materials and health.