

Partner search

Organisation: Express Innovation Agency Zrt. (XIA), International Division	
Reference of Call/topic of interest	Developing and validating monitoring systems of environmental sustainability and circularity: collection of best practices and benchmarks (HORIZON-JU-CBE-2022-S-01)
Description	<p>The predecessor of the Agency was founded in 2017 focusing on scientific and technical research and development. The Company was extended with new divisions and renamed in 2021.</p> <p>The Express Innovation Agency is an innovation service subsidiary of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office, supporting the Hungarian innovation ecosystem. The Agency actively supports the innovation ecosystem from youth education to the gateway to the international market.</p> <p>With new talent management programs, innovation promotion, trainings and mentoring, we also reach out to the youngest generation, helping growing businesses with valorisation, mentoring and incubation support. The Agency encourages start-ups to reach the next level with international contacts and preparation for European funds. Our goal is to help the entire innovation ecosystem, regardless of the discipline, from planting the core of innovation to market utilization, thus becoming an information and active support hub.</p> <p>The International Division of the Agency provides services primarily in the promotion of international research and development calls and consulting services related to applications to HE calls. Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility) and cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment) are among our priority areas. One of the main tasks of the division is to support Horizon's participation in European missions and partnerships. The International Division is also responsible for supporting communication, coordination and promotion activities related to the Horizon Europe program, in particular to encourage the application activity of domestic participants and to increase the number of successful applications. To this end, the Division also organizes personal consultations and information events for a wider range of participants.</p>
Type of organization	non-profit, governmental, private agency
keywords on our specialisation	participation support and mentoring, proposal and project co-ordination, personal consultation, information events
Experience	
<p>The International Department (willing to participate as a partner in this call) was set up in 10/2021. We are participating as partners in the following HE projects.</p> <p>DUT - Driving Urban Transition Partnership (HORIZON-CL5-2021-D2-01-16) DUT is a European partnership in Horizon Europe of more than 60 partners from 27 countries, led by the Austrian FFG. It involves national and regional policy makers, funders and urban-related policy agencies to invest in urban R&I and strengthen a European innovation eco-system for urban transitions. The Express Innovation Agency (XIA) taking place in the project as an affiliated entity of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary (NKFIH). We are involved in the implementation of WP2 (Strategic development of DUT and the transition pathways) and WP8 (Partnering and international cooperation), coordinating the three Transition Pathways of DUT: Positive Energy Districts (PED), the 15-Minute City (15mC) and Circular Urban Economies (CUE).</p> <p>CETP - Clean Energy Transition Partnership (HORIZON-CL5-2021-D3-01-04)</p>	

The CETP is a European partnership in Horizon Europe of 50 national and regional RTDI programme owners and managers from 30 countries, led by the Austrian BMK. The Express Innovation Agency (XIA) taking place in the project as an affiliated entity of the National Research, Development and Innovation Office of Hungary (NKFIH). XIA is involved in the implementation of WP1 (Strategic and technical partnership management), WP2 (Transnational joint calls – Call Management), WP3 (Thematic management – Transition Initiatives), WP4 (Communication and dissemination), WP5 (Knowledge management) and WP6 (Maximising Exploitation and Impact). The Agency's main task is to support the thematic management of the seven Transition Initiatives: Optimised integrated European net-zero emissions Energy System (TRI 1), Enhanced zero emission Power Technologies (TRI 2), Enabling Climate Neutrality with Storage Technologies, Renewable Fuels and CCU/CCS (TRI 3), Efficient zero emission Heating and Cooling Solutions (TRI 4), Integrated Regional Energy Systems (TRI 5), Integrated Industrial Energy Systems (TRI 6), Integration in the built Environment (TRI 7).

NATIOONS (CSA, [HORIZON-MISS-2021-SOIL-02-07](#))

NATIOONS will assist the Soil Mission of HE during most of its first "induction and pilot" phase (2021 – 2025), acting as a messenger conveying the awareness-raising messages to national and regional stakeholders, providing access to capacity building materials and information, spurring the discussions on the best LL setups to address regional soil needs, and fostering early matchmaking for cross-regional LL clusters. Eventually, the smooth execution of the project will be reflected in successful open calls receiving high-quality applications, funding the first two waves of LL networks, which can lead the way for the systemic change boosted by the Mission.

On the one hand, the project is counting on top experts on soil science, the Soil Deal R&I Mission, and co-participatory place-based innovation approaches under Living Labs. On the other hand, NATIOONS is granting adequate national outreach in all EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries (44 in total) through its 14 partners, its 6 Advisory Board members, and all their networks (i.e., BIOEAST, European Network of Living Labs, Soil Health National Hubs, ERIAFF, etc.). XIA will be active in national outreach activities in Hungary, Croatia and Slovenia organizing events and supporting potential applicants.

DALIA (IA, [HORIZON-MISS-2021-OCEAN-02-02](#))

DALIA (Danube Region Water Lighthouse Action), led by the [General Directorate of Water Management](#) of Hungary, is comprised of 22 expert organizations – including universities, authorities, SMEs and NGOs – from 8 different EU and Associated countries, It accumulates an outstanding set of knowledge, covering not only the basin geographically but all different fields of expertise necessary to deal with the multidisciplinary issues from the source of the Danube to the Black Sea. The project results will be integrated into Danube Mission Hub for better decision making to improve DRB restoration of fresh and transitional water ecosystems. Besides, the project will contribute directly to the establishment of EU and UN initiatives, related to the further execution on the Water Framework Directive.

Besides, our colleges have the following former experience in EU funded projects.

BÁRCZI, Miklós: Participation in EU funded territorial cohesion transnational projects: INTERREG EUROPE, URBACT III as well in cross-border (CBC) programmes. (Austria/Slovenia/Croatia-Hungary). Participation in the EU Urban Agenda partnership-scheme (planning of actions: culture and cultural heritage in European cities).

BERLINGER, Balázs: Partner in co-operative national and international research projects. Organisation of international scientific conferences (e.g., www.eohnano.com). Experience in the evaluation of scientific research proposals at the international level (e.g., evaluator and evaluation panel member of the Latvian Council of Science in 2021.).

GÁBOR, Zita – more than 15 years financial and project management experience in implementing EU funded projects (HE, JUST, AMIF, Erasmus+ and calls of operative programmes handled in Hungary).

NIKODÉMUS, Antal: More than 10 years of project planning and managing experience, Participation as a Hungarian leader in the Cluster4Coop V4 Project, 2012-2014; As a head of R&D department in the responsible Ministry, leading coordination in the planning of the Economic Development and Innovation Operational Programme (GINOP) 2014-2020; and 2010-2014, and 2018-2019 Hungarian delegate of the ERAC (R&D advisory board of the Commission and Council and COMPCRO (belonging to Competitiveness Council as the preparation body of decision making).

Project idea

Description of the project idea	<p>In Hungary there are already existing well-functioning programmes, most of them co-ordinated by the National Research, Development and Innovation Office to support the career development of PhD students and postdocs.</p> <p>One of them is the Co-operative Doctoral Fellowship Programme which aim is to strengthen the relationship between academic research and the industry (and other areas of the non-academic sector). The New National Excellence Programme supports young talents already from high school diploma until becoming a young researcher after a postdoc period.</p> <p>At the forefront of the concept of the Postdoctoral Programme in Innovation is the launch of an innovation-oriented application system that can be positioned at the postdoctoral and premium postdoctoral level. Based on the construction of the university innovation ecosystem, it could play a central role in attracting young researchers and talents, and in accelerating the brain circulation at the ERA level.</p> <p>The Hungarian practices in early career development of researchers could be either the basis of the common academic researcher's career structure to be created in the project or one practice that the project could consider. The Hungarian experiences could contribute to all the expected outcomes.</p>
keywords of our involvement possibilities	<p>dissemination, communication</p> <p>knowledge transfer</p> <p>adaptable</p>

Expertise and contribution offered

Contribution offered	<p>The Agency would co-ordinate the Hungarian project activities which would also include the quality control of these activities. Our expertise is based on the following facts.</p> <p>The head of our department Dr. Nóra RODEK is among the founders of the new initiative, the Circular Economy Technology Platform (KGTP) Hungary. It was established on March 11, 2022, which will act in the future as a professional, consultation and advocacy forum for local organizations involved in this field. KGTP's mission is to speed up the transition to a circular economy in accordance with the European Green Deal and Hungary's national strategies, thereby making our country a leader in applied technologies. In order to achieve the above goal, the aim of the KGTP is to connect the economic, academic, civil and administrative actors engaged in circular economic activities and those interested in the transition, and to deepen the cooperation between them. The Platform develops its activities in accordance with the needs of the founding members and with their active participation in the framework of working groups. The working groups cover subject areas relevant to the circular economy, in which academic, public administration and business partners participate as well. This huge network covers 12 subareas of circular economy.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financing of new business models and circular transition 2. Inputs for regulation 3. Knowledge transfer and innovation 4. Attitude formation and behavior change 5. Data and measurement 6. Critical raw materials, secondary raw materials, industrial waste 7. Circular construction industry 8. Circular electronic waste (battery, solar panels) 9. Circular agriculture, food industry, trade 10. Circular water management 11. Circular textile industry 12. Circular settlements (including tourism)
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	<p>The platform has now 151 organization including public bodies like ministries, agencies or local municipalities, universities, companies and professional organizations.</p> <p>This huge network of relevant actors of the given field gives us the opportunity to participate in the following activities of the call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the range of industrial bio-based systems in the scope of CBE within the EU to be analysed in the project. • Disseminate the results of the developed methods to assess and monitor the environmental impacts, the iLUC risks, the circularity and the carbon removal potential of bio-based systems, as well as results from the collection of best available industrial bio-based systems. All results should be publicly available, following the principles of open science (FAIR data) and using of the possibilities offered by the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) to store and give access to research data. • Explore the possibility to collaborate with and/or provide inputs to the European Commission Knowledge Centre on Bioeconomy • Consult stakeholders, making use of existing fora for discussion of stakeholders, including policymakers at EU and national levels. • Develop and disseminate guidelines on the assessment methods and monitoring systems developed in the project and all the outputs from the project to leverage the engagement in deploying the environmental sustainability and circularity criteria of bio-based systems. Targeted stakeholders of dissemination may include policymakers, bio-based industries, bio-based feedstock producers and providers, researchers and innovators, consumers, civil society. <p>Dr. Nóra Rodek has also developed a so called Corporate Social Responsibility Excellence and Management Assessment Tool (CSR EMAT) that assess the environmental and social sustainability of companies. This tool could be adapted and used in this project as well in the following activity proposed by the call:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluate existing and/or develop new methods to assess environmental impacts of the selected industrial bio-based systems and their products on climate change
Role offered	project partner and/or work package leader
Expertise needed	
Description of the expertise needed	looking for a coordinator leading an international consortium
Expected contribution	project co-ordination
Contact details	
Organisation	<i>Express Innovation Agency</i>
Contact person	Zita GÁBOR
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