



Press briefing European Green Deal call kick-off event on Wednesday 27

October, 13:00-14:00 CEST

On Wednesday 27 October, the European Commission is organising a kick-off event to celebrate the projects selected for funding under the Horizon 2020 European Green Deal call. This €1 billion call, the last one under Horizon 2020, will fund projects that will contribute to the EU's response to the climate crisis and help protect Europe's unique ecosystems and biodiversity.

During the event, five projects in the areas of food in schools, energy, mobility and environment will have the chance to highlight their objectives and expected outcomes, and explain how these will affect the everyday life of Europeans. These projects cover areas such as wildfires, freshwater, green hydrogen, green airports and food for schools.

After the project presentations, Mariya Gabriel, Commissioner for Innovation, Research, Culture, Education and Youth will shed light on the political priorities of this call and explain how it will accelerate the achievement of the European Green Deal objectives.

A Q&A with media will follow which you are invited to join, for registration see the [event page](#)

1. The European Green Deal call

With the European Green Deal Communication¹, the new Commission placed at the centre of its priorities the need to take immediate and drastic actions to fight climate change and to make Europe climate-neutral by 2050.

In this context, the Commission brought together EUR 1 billion under Horizon 2020 and launched in 2020 a dedicated call in support of the European Green Deal, with a view to mobilise the European research and innovation community and contribute to this central priority of the Commission. The Call addressed directly the main priorities of the Green Deal and set a pathway for additional, related research and innovation initiatives in the context of Horizon Europe.

The call was different in structure and approach from other Horizon 2020 calls. Responding to the urgency of the current situation and the ambition of the new Commission, it sought to demonstrate **the key ability of R&I to provide concrete solutions** within a relatively short time frame.

¹ COM (2019)640 final

As a result, the call adopted a clear **'impact focussed' approach** supporting the development of ideas into pilot applications and demonstration projects, innovative products, experiments and approaches able to show their value in practice and be ready for further scale-up. To this end, it gathered a critical mass of resources and efforts around a small number of 'thematic' topics, directly relevant to the European Green Deal objectives, the importance of which can be easily recognised by society at large.

At the same time, transition to sustainability is a process engaging society and aiming at **'leaving nobody behind'**. In addition, therefore to technology development and demonstration, issues of governance, cultural and behavioural aspects and social innovation for new ways to engage civil society and empower consumers to make more sustainable choices were also supported.

Given the ambition of the Commission to establish the EU as a global leader in the transition towards a climate-neutral economy and society, international cooperation aspects are important. In this context, international cooperation aspects were addressed in individual topics, while in parallel, a dedicated topic was created to encourage cooperation with Africa on issues of energy and green transition.

2. The structure of the European Green Deal call

The Call contained 20 topics spread across ten thematic areas. Eight of them reflected the structure of the European Green Deal and were complemented by two horizontal thematic areas on knowledge systems and research infrastructures and citizen engagement, respectively. By the deadline for submissions on 26 January 2021, the European Commission had received 1550 eligible proposals, an unprecedented response from the research community and the private sector. These proposals were evaluated by almost 800 independent external experts with a high level of expertise and knowledge in the areas of the call.

The European Commission selected 73 research and innovation projects for funding under the European Green Deal Call. These projects are to contribute to the EU's response to the climate crisis and help protect Europe's unique ecosystems and biodiversity. The 73 proposals selected involve almost 1800 participants from the research community, the public and private sectors, and civil society organisations. The structure of the Call is presented in more detail below.

Area 1: Increasing climate ambition: cross sectoral challenges

The area has a budget of EUR 173 million and comprises the following topics:

- 1.1. Preventing and fighting extreme wildfires with the integration and demonstration of innovative means
- 1.2. Towards climate-neutral and socially innovative cities
- 1.3. Climate-resilient innovation packages for EU regions

Area 2: Clean, affordable and secure energy

The area has a budget of EUR 186 million and comprises the following topics:

- 2.1. Innovative land-based and offshore renewable energy technologies and their integration into the energy system
- 2.2. Develop and demonstrate a 100 MW electrolyser upscaling the link between renewables and industrial applications
- 2.3. Accelerating the green transition and energy access partnership with Africa

Area 3: Industry for a clean and circular economy

The area has a budget of EUR 140 million and comprises the following topics:

- 3.1. Closing the industrial carbon cycle to combat climate change
- 3.2. Demonstration of systemic solutions for the territorial deployment of the circular economy

Area 4: Energy and resource efficient buildings

The area has a budget of EUR 60 million and comprises the following topic:

- 4.1. Building and renovating in an energy and resource efficient way

Area 5: Sustainable and smart mobility

The area has a budget of EUR 100 million and comprises the following topic:

- 5.1. Green airports and ports as multimodal hubs for sustainable and smart mobility

Area 6: Farm to fork

The area has a budget of EUR 74 million and comprises the following topic:

- 6.1. Testing and demonstrating systemic innovations for sustainable food from farm to fork

Area 7: Biodiversity and ecosystem services

The area has a budget of EUR 80 million and the following topic:

- 7.1. Restoring biodiversity and ecosystem services

Area 8: Zero-pollution, toxic-free environment

The area has a budget of EUR 60 million and comprises the following topics:

- 8.1. Innovative, systemic zero-pollution solutions to protect health, environment and natural resources from persistent and mobile chemicals
- 8.2. Fostering regulatory science to address chemical and pharmaceutical mixtures: from science to evidence-based policies

Area 9: Strengthening our knowledge in support of the EGD

The area has a budget of EUR 65 million and comprises the following topics:

- 9.1. European Research Infrastructures' capacities and services to address European Green Deal challenges

9.2. Developing end-user products and services for all stakeholders and citizens supporting climate adaptation and mitigation

9.3. A transparent and accessible ocean: towards a digital twin of the ocean

Area 10: Empowering citizens for the transition towards a climate-neutral, sustainable Europe

The area has a budget of EUR 45 million and comprises the following topics:

10.1. European capacities for citizen deliberation and participation for the Green Deal

10.2. Behavioural, social and cultural change for the Green Deal

10.3. Enabling citizens to act on climate change and environmental protection through education, citizen science, observation initiatives, and civic involvement

3. Response to the Call

The Horizon 2020 Green Deal Call, which opened on 17 September 2020 and closed on 27 January 2021, confirmed the readiness of the research community to take on the challenges at hand with an impact focussed approach.

1550 proposals submitted

28,000² participants from over 100 countries around the globe

The total amount requested by the 1550 proposals amounted to over 16 billion euros.

Of the 8 thematic areas and 2 horizontal areas, Area 10 “Empowering citizens for the transition towards a climate-neutral, sustainable Europe”, Area 6 “Farm to fork” and Area 2 “Clean, affordable and secure energy” received the biggest share of proposals.

Among EU member states, participants from Spain and Italy showed a particular interest in the Green Deal Call, followed by Germany, France and Greece. Among Associated countries, Turkey, Norway and Switzerland have expressed the highest interest in the Call, which also recorded high participation of African countries, primarily in topic 2.3 “Accelerating the green transition and energy access partnership with Africa”.

Participants submitted proposals of very good quality, demonstrating the strong potential for Research and Innovation in the areas of the European Green Deal.

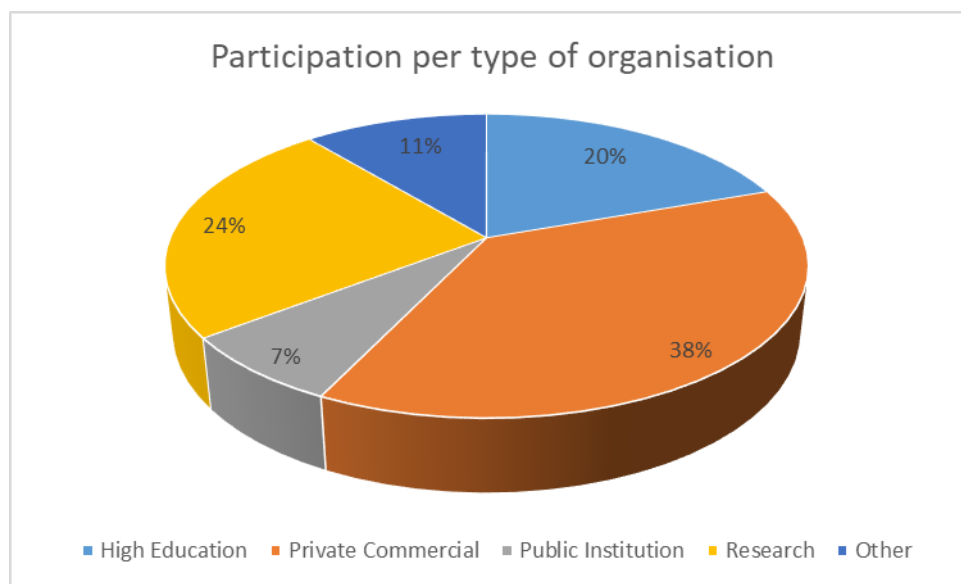
Spain and Italy provide the highest number of participants in the projects selected for funding, followed by Germany, Netherlands, Belgium and France.

Among the EU-13 countries, Poland, Romania and Estonia have the highest number of participants in projects selected for funding.

Among Associated Countries, Norway, Switzerland and Israel field the highest number of participants in successful consortia.

² This figure refers to participations and not unique participants who responded to the Call. (For example, if the same institute participates in 5 different proposals, it is counted 5 times).

Third countries record 18 participants from 13 countries in projects selected for funding, to which 55 participants from African countries should be added.



ANNEX I - Horizon 2020 European Green Deal Call - Funded projects

ANNEX II – FACTSHEET

Background:

[Factsheet: Horizon 2020 European Green Deal call](#)

[Tenders and funding portal](#)

[Research and innovation for the European Green Deal](#)

[Press release, 17 September 2020](#)

[Press release, 3 June 2021](#)