



Concept and consortium formation

How to read a call text

- Edyta Woźniak

IR0000032 – ITINERIS, Italian Integrated Environmental Research Infrastructures System
(D.D. n. 130/2022 - CUP B53C22002150006) Funded by EU - Next Generation EU PNRR-
Mission 4 “Education and Research” - Component 2: “From research to business” - Investment
3.1: “Fund for the realisation of an integrated system of research and innovation infrastructures”



Strategic plan gives direction to the work programme

Horizon Europe
legislative
package

Strategic Plan

Work programme

Calls for proposals

Example of a work programme

Cluster 6

*Food, Bioeconomy, Natural
Resources, Agriculture and
Environmen*

Destination

*Biodiversity and ecosystem
services*

Section

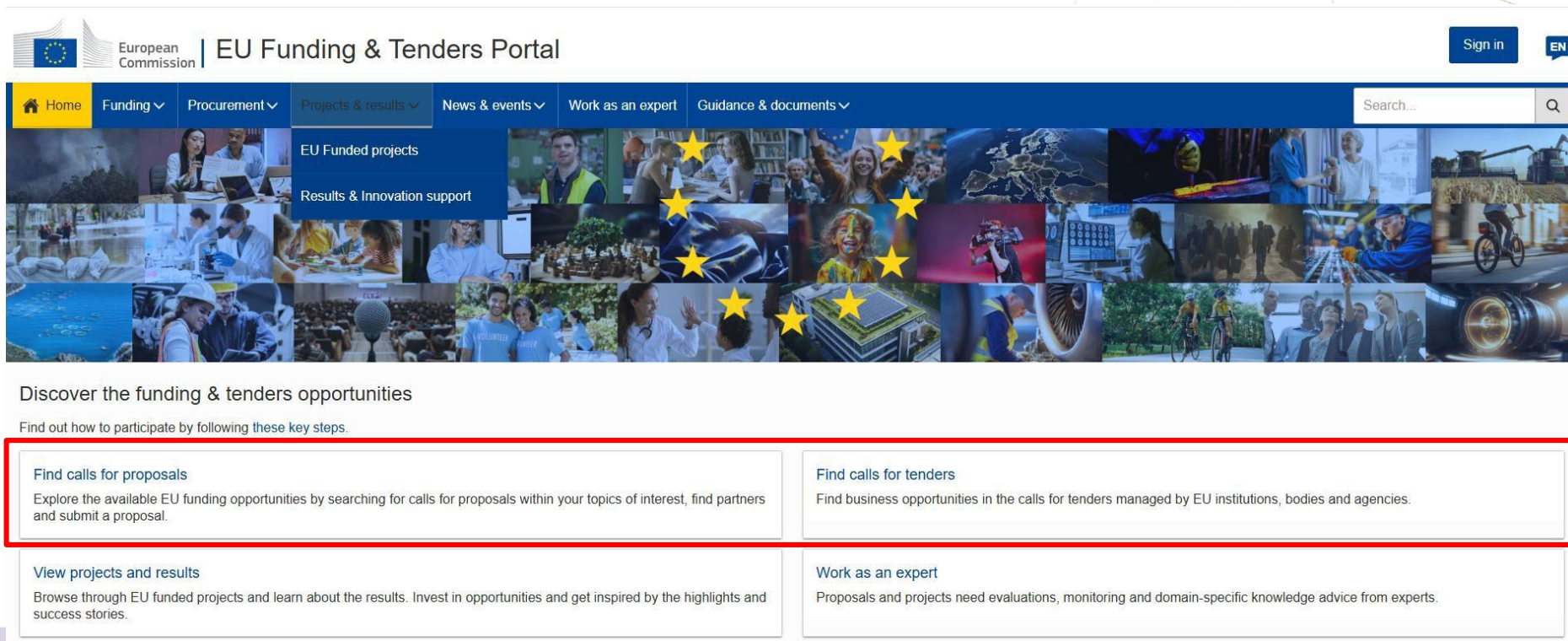
*Consolidating biodiversity
knowledge for nature and
society*

Topics

*HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-
BIODIV-01*

Participant Portal

- General Repository of Horizon Europe (and others)
- the interface between the Commission and the project throughout the project preparation and implementation process



The screenshot shows the homepage of the EU Funding & Tenders Portal. At the top left is the European Commission logo. The main navigation bar includes links for Home, Funding, Procurement, Projects & results, News & events, Work as an expert, and Guidance & documents. A search bar is located on the right. Below the navigation bar is a large banner with various images and the text "EU Funded projects" and "Results & Innovation support". Underneath the banner, the text reads "Discover the funding & tenders opportunities" and "Find out how to participate by following these key steps." A red box highlights two key steps: "Find calls for proposals" and "Find calls for tenders".

European Commission | EU Funding & Tenders Portal

Sign in EN

Home Funding Procurement Projects & results News & events Work as an expert Guidance & documents

Search...

EU Funded projects
Results & Innovation support

Discover the funding & tenders opportunities

Find out how to participate by following these key steps.

Find calls for proposals
Explore the available EU funding opportunities by searching for calls for proposals within your topics of interest, find partners and submit a proposal.

Find calls for tenders
Find business opportunities in the calls for tenders managed by EU institutions, bodies and agencies.

View projects and results
Browse through EU funded projects and learn about the results. Invest in opportunities and get inspired by the highlights and success stories.

Work as an expert
Proposals and projects need evaluations, monitoring and domain-specific knowledge advice from experts.

Searching for calls - filters

All filters

[Hide](#) >

TYPE OF GRANTS CALLS

- Direct calls for proposals (issued by the EU) 41
- EU External Actions
- Calls for funding in cascade (issued by funded projects)

PROGRAMMING PERIOD

2021 - 2027 41 ×

PROGRAMME

Horizon Europe (HORIZON) 41 ×

PROGRAMME PART

- > Excellent Science
- ▼ Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness
 - Health
 - Culture, creativity and inclusive society
 - Civil Security for Society
 - Digital, Industry and Space
 - Climate, Energy and Mobility**
 - Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and En...**
- > Innovative Europe
- > Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research...

MISSION

Select...

DESTINATION

Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (11) ×

CALL

Filter...

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01 9

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-two-stage 2

SUBMISSION STATUS

- Forthcoming
- Open for submission 11
- Closed

OPENING DATE

dd / mm / yyyy - dd / mm / yyyy 

DEADLINE DATE

dd / mm / yyyy - dd / mm / yyyy 

Searching for calls - results

Programme Horizon Europe (HORIZON) 

[Large-scale in situ biodiversity observations for better understanding of biodiversity state, drivers of its decline and impacts of policies](#)

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-04 | Call for proposal

Opening date: 06 May 2025 | Deadline date: 17 September 2025 | Single-stage

 Open For Submission

Programme: **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)** | Type of action: **HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions**

[Strengthening pathways to alternative socio-economic models for continuous improvement of biodiversity](#)

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-08 | Call for proposal

Opening date: 06 May 2025 | Deadline date: 17 September 2025 | Single-stage


 Open For Submission

Programme: **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)** | Type of action: **HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions**

[Integrated and coordinated approaches for coral reefs and associated ecosystems \(mangroves and seagrass beds\) conservation, restoration, and climate mitigation and adaptation](#)

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-07 | Call for proposal

Opening date: 06 May 2025 | Deadline date: 17 September 2025 | Single-stage

 Open For Submission

Programme: **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)** | Type of action: **HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions**

[Understanding the perceptions of and improving communication on the biodiversity crisis and nature restoration benefits to sustain citizen engagement and democratic governance](#)

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-09 | Call for proposal

Opening date: 06 May 2025 | Deadline date: 17 September 2025 | Single-stage

 Open For Submission

Programme: **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)** | Type of action: **HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions**

[Strengthening taxonomic approaches for biodiversity](#)

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-03 | Call for proposal

Opening date: 06 May 2025 | Deadline date: 17 September 2025 | Single-stage

 Open For Submission

Programme: **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)** | Type of action: **HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions**

[Strengthening the capacity of citizen science in biodiversity observation](#)

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-02 | Call for proposal

Opening date: 06 May 2025 | Deadline date: 17 September 2025 | Single-stage

 Open For Submission

Programme: **Horizon Europe (HORIZON)** | Type of action: **HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions**

Call description



Assessing and modelling ecosystems' dynamic processes to guide restoration activities and to improve models used for climate

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-05

Topic Call for proposal

Internal navigation

General information
Topic description
Topic updates
Destination
Conditions and documents
Budget overview
Partner search announcements
Start submission
Topic Q&As
Get support
Call information
Call updates

General information		
Programme HORIZON		
Call Cluster 6 Call 01 - single stage (HORIZON-CL6-2025-01)		
Type of action HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Type of MGA HORIZON Lump Sum Grant [HORIZON-AG-LS]	Open For Submission
Deadline model single-stage	Opening date 06 May 2025	Deadline date 17 September 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

Topic description
Expected Outcome: Successful proposals will contribute to the impacts of this destination (which requires Member States to promote nature-based solutions).

Topic destination
Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (25) Under destination "Biodiversity and ecosystem services", R&I in 2025 provides scientific support to the development and implementation of EU environmental legislation and of European Green Deal initiatives, in line with the new Commission priority "Sustaining our quality of life: food security, water and nature".
This destination is based on the vision developed in the EU biodiversity strategy for 2030 and supports its implementation, pursuing the orientations of the Work Programmes 2021-2022 and 2023-2024, and notably focuses on the EU Nature Restoration Regulation and other new European... Show more

Topic conditions and documents
General conditions 1. Admissibility Conditions: Proposal page limit and layout described in Annex A and Annex E of the Horizon Europe Work Programme General Annexes.... Show more

Budget overview									
Topic ↑	Budget (EUR) - Year : 2027 ↓↑	Budget (EUR) - Year : 2026 ↓↑	Budget (EUR) - Year : 2025 ↓↑	Stages ↓↑	Opening date ↓↑	Deadline ↓↑	Contributions ↓↑	Indicative number of grants ↓↑	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-01 - HORIZON-COFUND HORIZON Programme Cofund Actions	20 000 000	20 000 000	20 000 000	single-stage	2025-05-06	2025-09-17	around 60000000	1	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-02 - HORIZON-CSA HORIZON Coordination and Support Actions			4 000 000	single-stage	2025-05-06	2025-09-17	around 4000000	1	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-03 - HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions			24 000 000	single-stage	2025-05-06	2025-09-17	around 12000000	2	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-04 - HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions			22 000 000	single-stage	2025-05-06	2025-09-17	around 11000000	2	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-05 - HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions			18 000 000	single-stage	2025-05-06	2025-09-17	around 6000000	3	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-06 - HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions			16 000 000	single-stage	2025-05-06	2025-09-17	5000000 to 6000000	2	

Training current RI research staff: "How to write a successful proposal"

How to read the Horizon Europe call text?

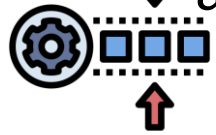
to read the topic carefully

look for the **following elements** in the text

- **verbs** in the "Scope" section indicate which actions are expected in the project
 - "set-up", "develop", "validate" - support the clear and strategic definition of the project's objectives
 - "reduce" or "increase,, - recall quantitative measurers (indicators for the current situation and values, and at the end of the project and afterwards)
 - "shall", "should", "could", "is recommended", "is encouraged" outline the EC's expectations
- **indications on the degree of alignment with the call** in sections "Expected outcome"



↓ and "Scope,, , such as



- "all the following expected outcomes", "most of the following research activities", "some", "all" and "most" - show the extent to which your project must align with the call's requirements

• **examples, inclusions, and exclusions**



- "may include, but are not limited to" - introduce examples of what is expected
- "should not address..." or "are excluded from the topic" point out topics that are not relevant to the call and should not be incorporated into the project

How to read the Horizon Europe call text?

 look for the **following elements** in the text



- **indications on target groups** in the „Expected outcome” section - identify the target audiences who are expected to benefit from the project results; strengthen the design of your dissemination and exploitation strategy



- **legislative or scientific context** – by consulting external sources, including policy papers and background information, you can better understand current efforts ([CORDIS](#)), key policy goals, and the strategic positioning of your project.



 • **suggestions on collaborations and synergies**


- "The involvement of is encouraged" or "synergies should be sought with....,"- determine the appropriate types of organizations to engage as project partners and highlight the key synergies to develop throughout the collaboration

Strategies to approach the preparation of a project



 **Highlight key elements and keywords** within the call or project text to ensure a focused **understanding of requirements and priorities**




 **Break down the topic into individual sentences**, analyzing each separately to **fully understand its implications** and ensure comprehensive alignment with the project goals.



 **Develop tables or competence maps** to clearly outline partner roles, **required expertise**, and task distribution across the consortium.



 **Share and discuss** the analysis of the call text with project partners to foster a **common understanding** and coordinate a coherent response

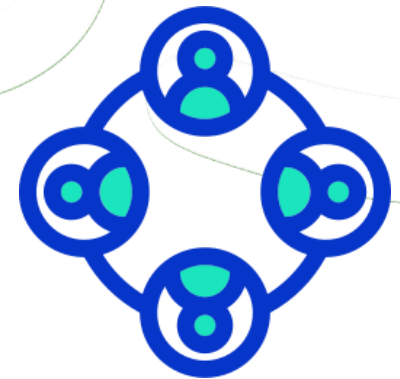
How to build a good consortium

Consortium basics

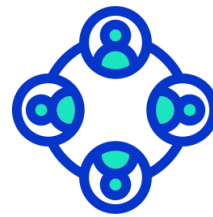
- **IA & RIA: min. 3 independent legal entities**
 - at least 1 established in a MS;
 - at least 2 other independent legal entities, each
 - established in at least 3 different MS or AC

The appropriate number will depend on

- the project's specific requirements
- expected outcomes and impacts
- proposed activities
- the available budget



Qualities of a good consortium



Complementarity

- Avoid redundance
- Each partner a unique role



Strong leadership

- Experience & network
- Skills (admin, financial, topic...)



Shared vision

- Agreement on overall goals of the project



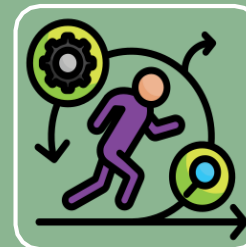
Balance

- Geographical
- Profiles / types of partners
- Gender



Trust

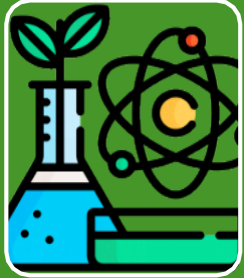
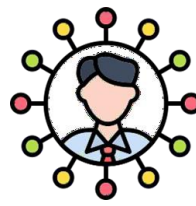
- Quality of relationships
- Fostering quality of actions



Agility

- Need for flexibility in case of change

Qualities of a good coordinator



Good understanding of the science and/or technology

- Relevant domain expertise to contribute meaningfully to the technical or scientific objectives



Excellent administrative & financial skills

- Demonstrate strong capabilities in managing
 - budgets
 - reporting
 - administrative procedures



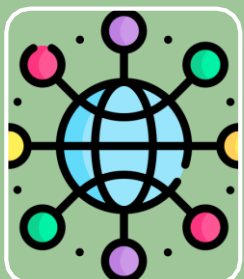
Experienced in EU projects

- Prior participation in EU-funded projects (e.g., Horizon Europe) ensures familiarity with procedures and expectations



Appropriate resources available

- Necessary infrastructure
- Staff
- Tools



Strong network

- Broad and active network helps to build a consortium
- Enhances the project's visibility, dissemination, and potential for future collaboration



Clear vision

- Have a strategic interest in the project, aligned goals, and a well-defined contribution

Profile of a Good Project Partner



Relevant Expertise

- Brings domain-specific knowledge (scientific, technical, policy, or sectoral)
- Capable of delivering high-quality inputs in their area of responsibility



Clear and Unique Role

- Fills a specific gap or niche in the project—avoiding redundancy
- Has a clearly defined work package or task where they lead or add unique value



Strong Project Management Capacity

- Demonstrates solid administrative and financial competence
- Can meet deadlines, manage resources efficiently, and provide accurate reporting



Track Record in Similar Projects

- Experienced in international or EU-funded projects, familiar with required procedures, documentation, and reporting

Profile of a Good Project Partner



Available Resources

- Has access to the human, technical, and institutional capacity required to fulfil their role
- Can allocate dedicated staff for the duration of the project



Commitment and Motivation

- Shows strong engagement and alignment with the project's objectives
- Is proactive, responsive, and solution-oriented in communication and collaboration



Strong Network and Dissemination Reach

- Well-connected in relevant sectors or regions
- Can amplify project results through dissemination, exploitation, or policy influence



Cultural and Collaborative Fit

- Values transparency, communication, and teamwork
- Is flexible and open to feedback and shared decision-making

Steps to build your consortium



Define Your Project Concept Clearly

- Clarify the objectives, expected impacts, and core activities of the project
- Align your idea with the scope and priorities of the relevant call

Identify Required Expertise and Roles

- List the types of competencies needed (technical, academic, policy, outreach, etc.).
- Map potential roles: coordinator, technical lead, pilot site, evaluator, dissemination partner, etc.

Select Strategic Partners – develop CORE group

- Look for partners with strong track records, clear roles, and unique contributions.
- Ensure a good balance of geography, sectors, and organisation types.

Develop innovative idea

- Draft the scope, main objectives, outline of the project

Search for Complementary Partners

- Use partner search platforms (e.g. CORDIS, EU Funding & Tenders Portal).
- Leverage your professional network, past project contacts, and international

How to build your network and give visibility to your organization

- 🌐 Explore networks of colleagues and partners
- 🌐 Attend events: matchmaking / networking events, seminars, sectoral events
- 🌐 Use the pitching sessions offered during some events
- 🌐 Social Media: LinkedIn
- 🌐 Participate in networking projects (e.g. COST actions www.cost.eu/cost-actions)
- 🌐 Build on existing partnerships, but do not rely on them

Tools



EC

- Info days and networking events/platforms
- Funding & Tenders Portal
- CORDIS
- Hop On facility



NCP – National Contact Point

- Local NCP
- NCP networks as CARE4BIO



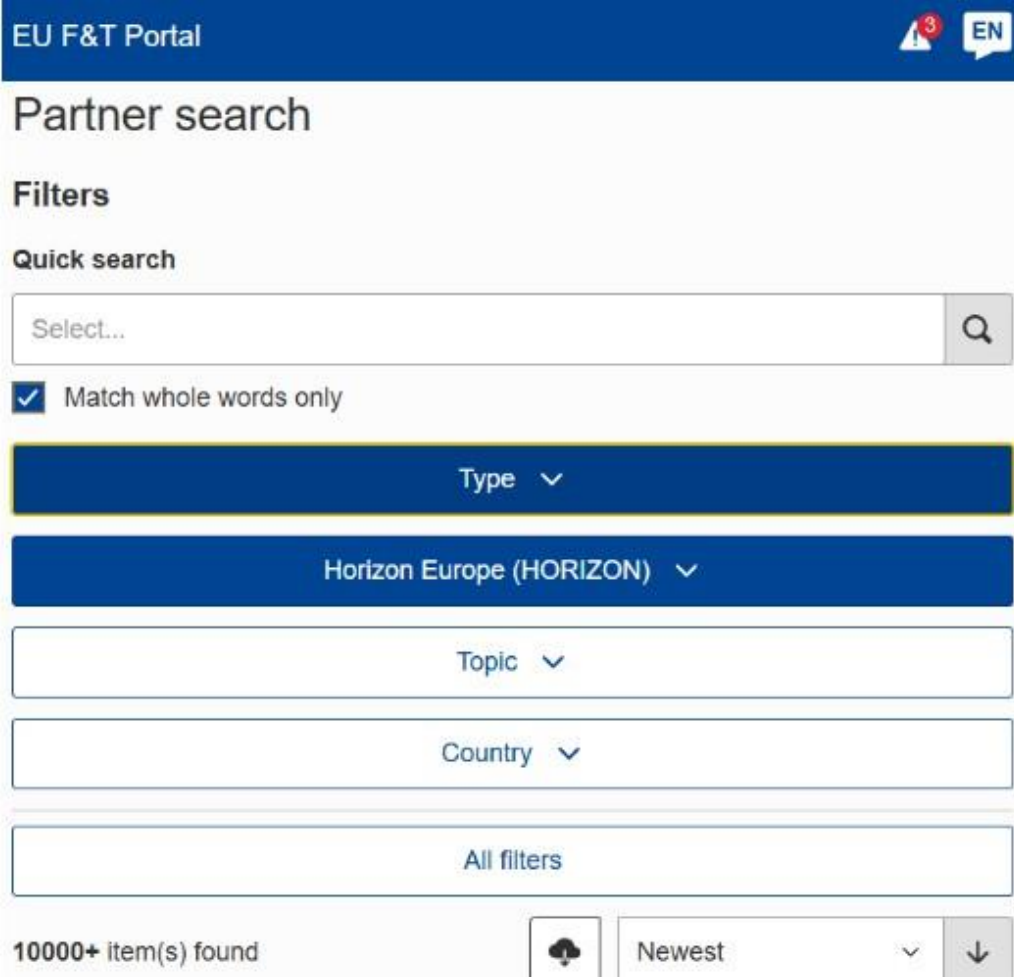
EEN – Enterprise Europe Network

- **Funding & Tenders Portal**

Use / create EU Login Account

Partner Search tool > select by:

- Type (Organisations / persons)
- Programme
- Topic
- Country
- Narrower filters possible:
 - City
 - Organisation type
 - Professional profile



The screenshot shows the 'EU F&T Portal' interface for 'Partner search'. It features a search bar with a 'Select...' placeholder and a search icon. Below the search bar, there is a checked checkbox for 'Match whole words only'. The filter section includes several dropdown menus: 'Type', 'Horizon Europe (HORIZON)', 'Topic', and 'Country'. At the bottom of the filter section, there is a button labeled 'All filters'. The results section shows '10000+ item(s) found' and a sorting dropdown set to 'Newest'.

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/partner-search>



THANKS!

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dall'Unione europea
NextGenerationEU



Ministero
dell'Università
e della Ricerca



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