

**EUROPE'S
BUDGET**
THE POWER
OF TOGETHER

Horizon Europe 2028 - 2034

ESNI-NERM 2026 Conference

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28/04/2026



The legal package

- **Regulation** establishing Horizon Europe including the rules for participation and dissemination (as required by the Treaty)
- **Specific programme** to implement 'Horizon Europe' (as required by the Treaty)
- **Impact assessment** (European Competitiveness Fund, ECF)
- Complemented by the **Regulation for the ECF**, including **Specific Programme for Defence**
- ... and by the **Performance Framework** for the Union programmes and activities

Legislative proposals

- **Title I – The Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**
 - Chapter I - General Provisions
 - Chapter II - Excellent Science
 - Chapter III - Competitiveness and Society
 - Chapter IV - Innovation
 - Chapter V - European Research Area
- **Title II - Rules for participation and dissemination**
 - Chapter I - General provisions
 - Chapter II - Grants
 - Chapter III - European Innovation Council
- **Legislative Financial and Digital Statement**

**EP and COUNCIL
REGULATION (preceded
by an EXPLANATORY
MEMORANDUM)**

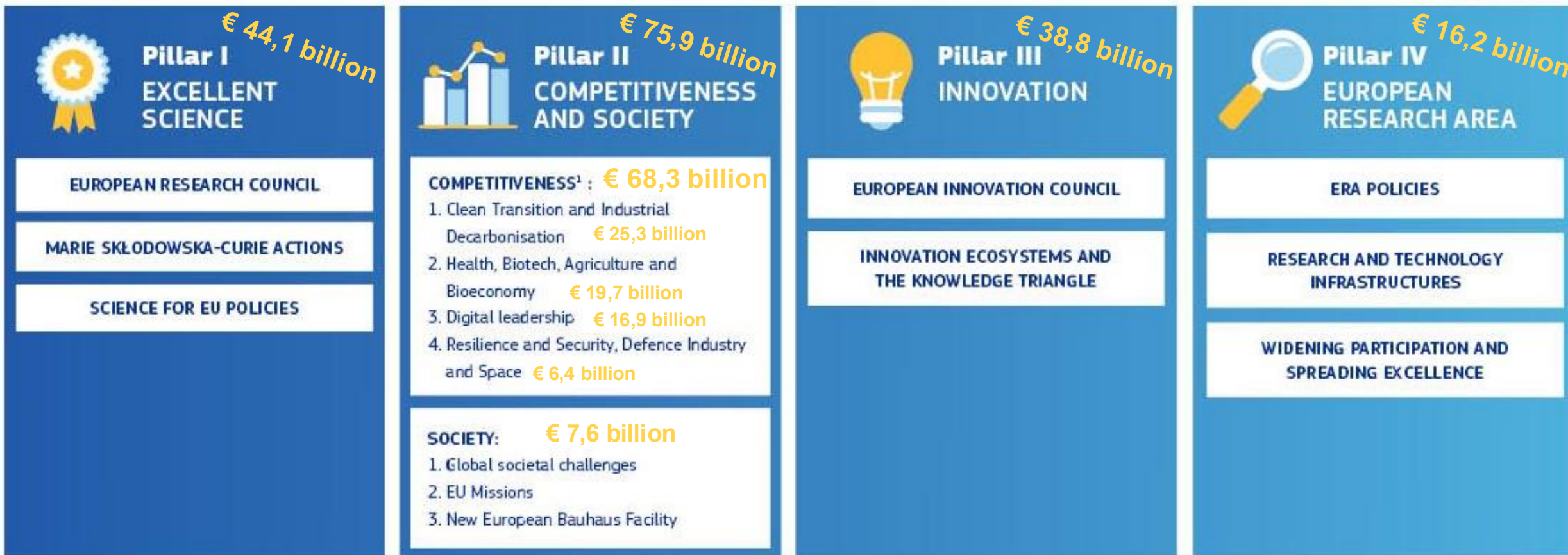


- Chapter I - General Provisions
- Chapter II - Excellent Science
- Chapter III - Competitiveness and Society
- Chapter IV – Innovation
- Chapter V - European Research Area
- Chapter VI - Transitional and final provisions

**COUNCIL DECISION
(preceded by an
EXPLANATORY
MEMORANDUM)**



The structure of the new Horizon Europe



¹ Consistent with activities under the European Competitiveness Fund

€ 175 billion over the period 2028-2034



Novelties

**Further
Simplification**

**European
Partnerships**

EIC

**Research and
Technology
Infrastructures**

Widening

**Dual-use
research**



Simplification for applicants

Streamlined **reporting** obligations

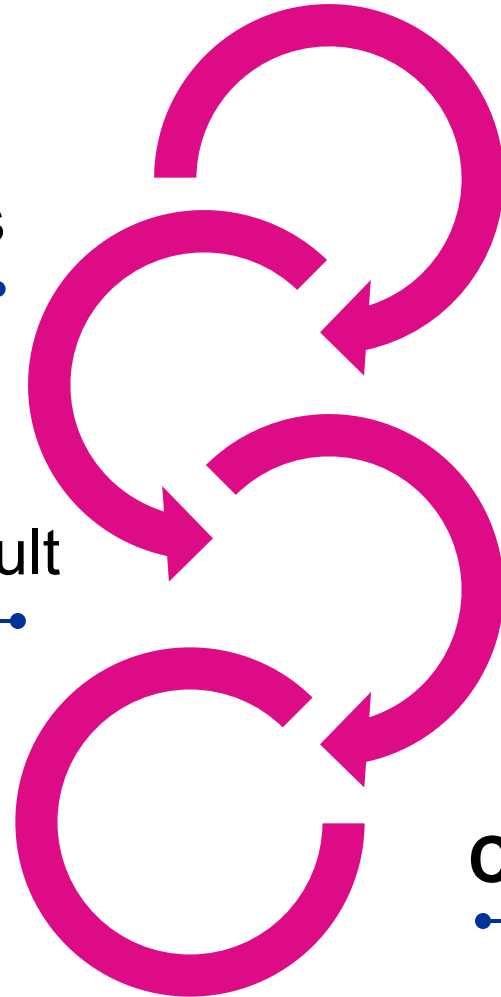
Use of **lump sum** grants by default

Streamlining **the types of action**

Faster procedures

Less prescriptive programming

Consortium approach maintained



Simplification – Forms of funding & Types of Actions

Use of Simplified Cost Options ('SCOs') by default, building on experience drawn upon previous Horizon programmes (see Article 10(4))

- In particular, **lump sum funding**
- Other SCOs, such as flat-rate for indirect costs and unit costs for personnel
- **Key objectives:** Encourage broader participation, especially from newcomers and smaller entities, Reduce errors in costs reporting & maintain sound financial management and control

Streamlining the types of action (no more RIA/IA distinction) (see Article 27)

- One single funding rate approach kept as principle (up to 100%, except for for-profit entities other than SMEs, up to 70%)
- **Key objectives:** Continuity, further simplification, increasing leverage effect



Novelties – Eligibility conditions & TTG

Key principles maintained with following novelties:

For **collaborative actions**, and except when the work programme otherwise provides, to be eligible for participation in grant actions legal entities shall form a consortium as follows (see Article 21(3)):

- at least **two legal entities** established in different Member States; and
- at least one other legal entity established in another Member State or an associated country

Faster implementation of Horizon Europe with a maximum Time To Grant (TTG) of **7 months** (previously 8) (see Article 26)

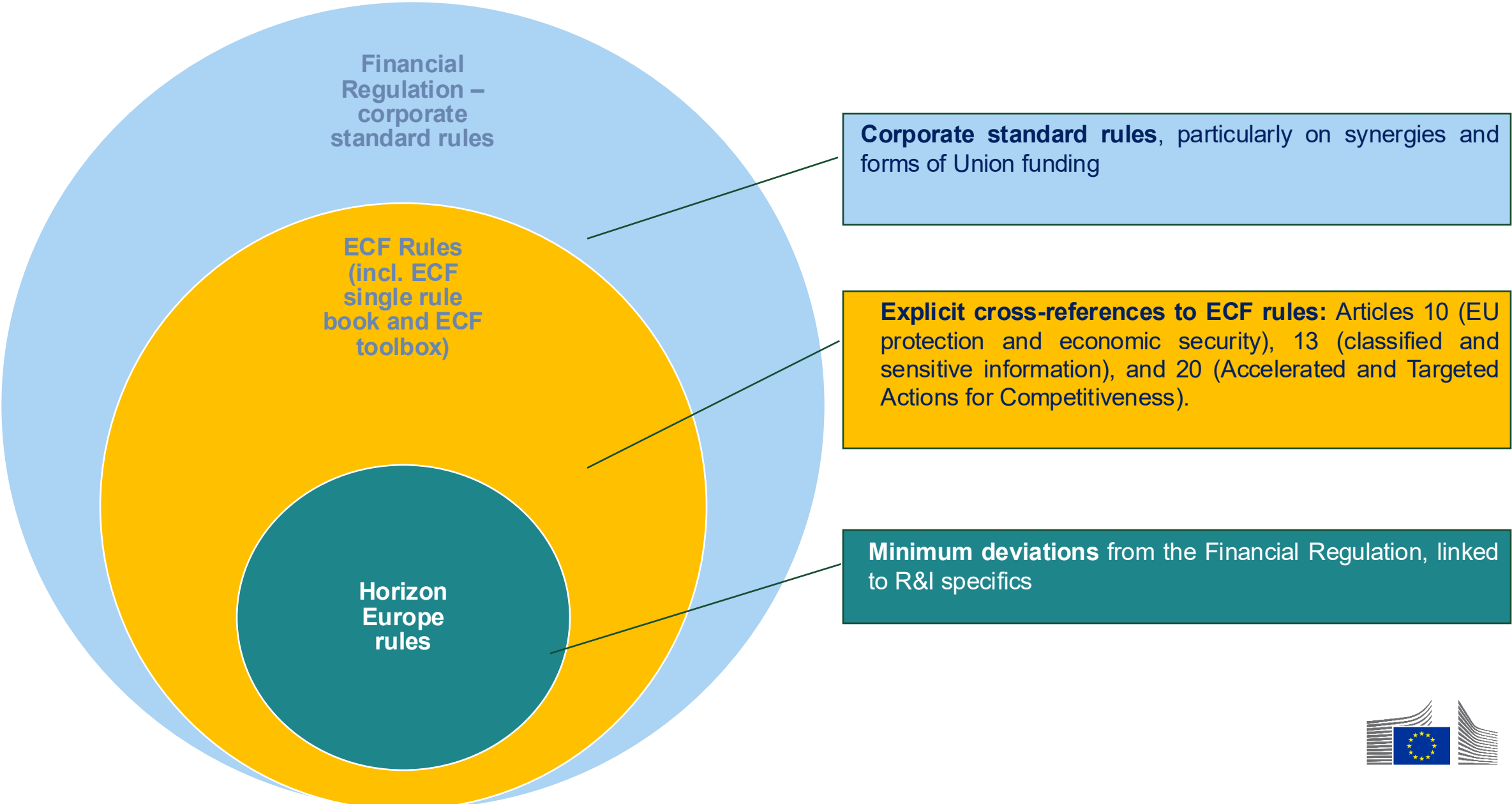


Links with the European Competitiveness Fund

- **Four policy windows defined in the ECF Regulation:**
- ‘Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation’
- ‘Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy’
- ‘Digital Leadership’
- ‘Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space’

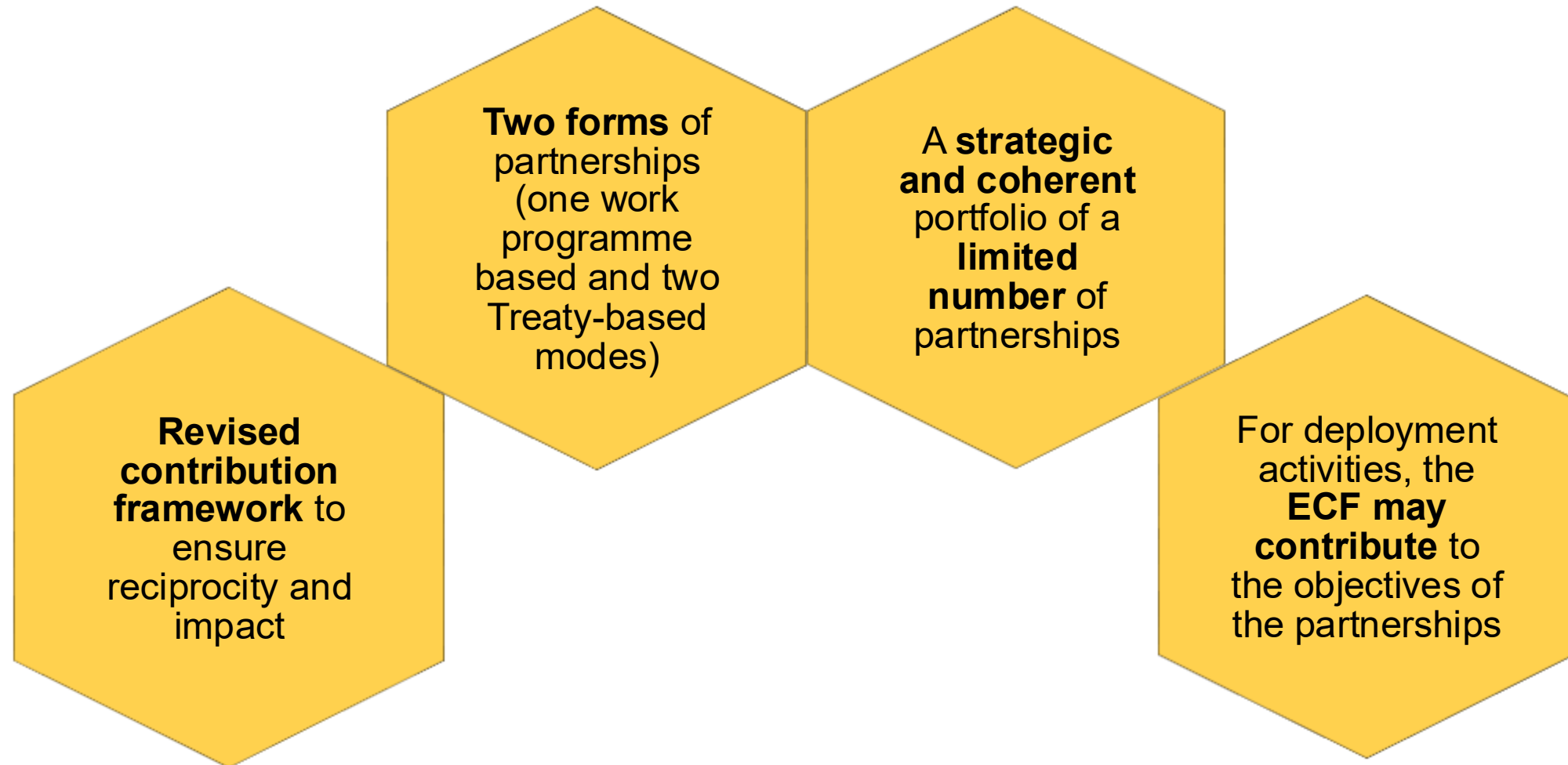
- **Work programmes, ECF Regulation:** ‘The work programmes under this Regulation shall integrate in a **specific dedicated part collaborative research and innovation activities and their dedicated budget.**’
- Work programmes under ECF will be covered by the **ECF comitology** (ECF Regulation).
- **Budget** for collaborative research is under the ‘Competitiveness’ **part of Horizon Europe.**

Horizon Europe – Rules based on Single Rulebook



European Partnerships

European Partnerships will remain a key instrument of the programme and will work in synergy with the ECF.



European Innovation Council

- The European Innovation Council (EIC) has already developed into the biggest European deep tech venture capital fund.
- The EIC will support innovative start-ups SMEs, with a focus on promoting disruptive innovation and entrepreneurship.
- To further improve its integrated model, the EIC will include:

more “**ARPA**” elements,
supporting high risk
projects assessed by
Programme Managers.

a “**DARPA**” approach
supporting defence and
dual use startups.



Research and Technology Infrastructures

Research Infrastructures

- Construction, development and integration of research infrastructures of European Union interest
- Developing, consolidating and streamlining the Union landscape of research infrastructures
- Reinforcing transnational access
- Making research infrastructures more resilient and sustainable
- Reinforcing European research infrastructure policy and international cooperation

Technology Infrastructures

- Improving the visibility and uptake of technology infrastructure services;
- Access programme for SMEs, start-ups and scale-ups across the Union
- Collaboration and networking among the infrastructures, training and upskilling of their staff
- Reinforcing the European technology infrastructure policy.



Widening – two categories of countries

Transition countries



Cyprus



Malta



Estonia



Portugal



Greece



Slovenia

Widening countries



Bulgaria



Lithuania



Croatia



Poland



Czechia



Romania



Hungary



Slovakia

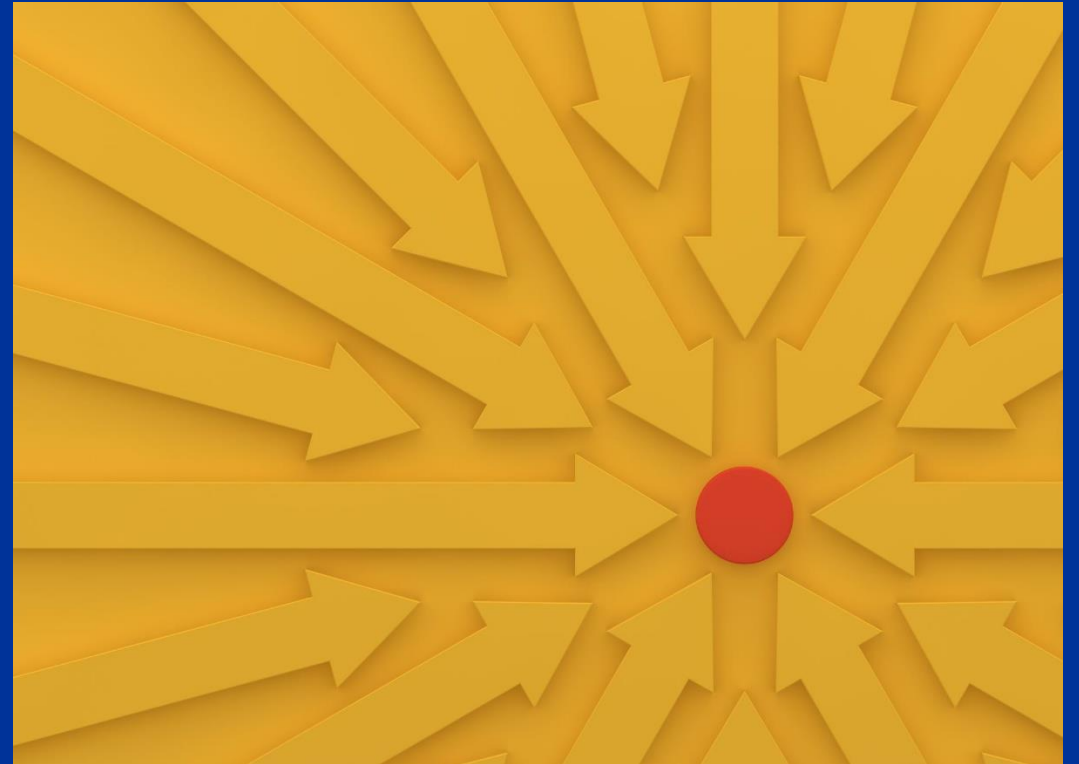


Latvia

- **Classification** based on innovation performance (EIS) in the last three years; and participation success under HE
- **Measures:**
 - a) Widening: capacity building and networking measures
 - b) Transition: networking, knowledge valorisation, countering brain drain and dedicated National Contact Points (NCP) support.

Dual Use Research

- Like the ECF, Horizon Europe may support dual-use actions.
- Defence activities, both in the area of research and deployment, will be covered under a specific programme for defence.
- Moreover, the European Innovation Council can also support defence applications.



International Cooperation - Association

Approach to 3rd country association similar to Horizon Europe.

Main novelties:

- Association may be “full or partial” and consistent with the objectives of Horizon Europe
- Scope of association to consider not only benefit but also risk to the Union
- Association also extended to European Micro-States



What is maintained:

- Association open to EEA/EFTA Countries; Acceding, candidate and potential candidate countries; ENP countries; other third countries – conditional to specific rules of Horizon Europe
- Reciprocity
- Automatic Correction Mechanism
- **For defence activities under EIC** – eligibility for funding limited to entities from ECF Associated Countries to defence activities

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Thank you

