ICEX

INVEST IN SPAIN

INCENTIVES AND GRANTS GUIDE

HORIZON EUROPE PROGRAMME

OCTOBER 2022

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This guide presents the main funding programme of the European Union (EU) for research and innovation.

Section I presents the general features of this framework programme covering the period 2021-2027, the successor to the Horizon 2020 programme, with its main objectives and pillars of action on which it is based.

Section II of the document contains the main tips and resources on how to participate and obtain funding through this programme, as well as information on how to find the most interesting grants and incentives for each project.

SECTION I

Horizon Europe 2021-2027

PRESENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME

Horizon Europe is the EU's flagship research and innovation programme, part of the EU's long-term Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), with a budget of **EUR 95.5 billion** (consisting mainly of EUR 75.9 billion from the MFF and EUR 5 billion from Next Generation Europe) to be spent over a seven-year period (2021-2027).

The Horizon Europe Programme, like its predecessor Horizon 2020, will function as the key instrument for carrying out the EU's Research, Development and Innovation (R&D&I) policies. The overall objective of the programme is to achieve scientific, technological, economic and societal impact from the EU's R&D&I investments, thereby strengthening its scientific and technological foundations and boosting the competitiveness of all Member States. Horizon Europe will be the Framework Programme with the largest budget to date, having the potential to generate significant economic, social and scientific benefits.

OBJECTIVES

- To strengthen the EU's scientific and technological foundations and the European Research Area (ERA).
- To boost Europe's innovation capacity, competitiveness and employment.
- To deliver on citizens' priorities, upholding European values and its socio-economic model.

The structure of Horizon Europe is composed of three pillars and these pillars are in turn supported by a horizontal programme: To **widen participation and strengthen the European Research Area**, dedicated to assisting EU Member States in their efforts to develop their potential and especially to those States with lower performance in Research & Innovation to improve their participation in Horizon Europe. In addition, the Programme includes a cross-cutting section that channels certain support measures to Member States to enable them to leverage their research and innovation efforts to the fullest extent, with the aim of helping to consolidate the ERA.

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- **PILLAR 1 - Excellent Science**: it aims to establish and strengthen the EU's scientific leadership and competitiveness internationally for the development of high-quality skills and the broadening of knowledge. It supports frontier research projects driven by the best researchers through the European Research Council (ERC), funds fellowships for experienced researchers, doctoral training networks and exchanges through the Marie Sklodowska-Curie (MSCA) programme actions, and invests in world-class research infrastructures, to improve and position access globally.

  A total of **EUR 25.8 billion** will be allocated to this pillar. Funding will be divided between the European Innovation Council (EIC) with **€16.6 billion**, those actions under the Marie Sklodowska-Curie programme with **€6.8 billion** and Research Infrastructures with **€2.4 billion.**

- **PILLAR 2 - Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness**: it focuses on boosting research in areas such as digital technologies, energy, mobility, food and natural resources. It also includes setting up certain research missions and partnerships, e.g. for carbon-free cities. **EUR 52.7 billion** will be earmarked for this.

  Pillar 2 supports research related to societal challenges and strengthens technological and industrial capacities through clusters and partnerships, for joint work on Research & Innovation. It sets ambitious targets for EU missions. It also includes the Joint Research Centre, which supports the EU and national policy makers with independent scientific evidence and technical support.

  Clusters account for 96% of the funds available under the second pillar, these being:

  - Health.
  - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society.
  - Civil security for Society.
  - Digital, Industry and Space.
  - Climate, Energy and Mobility.
  - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.

- **PILLAR 3 - Innovative Europe**: focused on promoting innovation through the creation of a European Innovation Council, which will offer a unique opportunity to innovators with high potential.

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This pillar aims to make Europe a leader in innovation and a creator of market and growth through the **European Innovation Council**. It also contributes to developing the overall innovation landscape in the EU through the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT),** which promotes the integration of the knowledge triangle of education, research and innovation. It also emphasises higher education and entrepreneurship through **Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs).**

EUR 13.5 billion will be allocated to this pillar, of which **EUR 10.5 billion** will go to the **European Innovation Council** to support disruptive innovations with market-creating potential; **EUR 500 million** of this budget will be earmarked for **European Innovation Ecosystems.** The European Commission's proposal is for the **European Institute of Innovation and Technology** to receive **EUR 3 billion** to continue its activities.

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Broadening participation in and strengthening the European Research Area by further supporting EU Member States in their efforts to maximise their national research and innovation potential, fostering closer collaborations and excellence.

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SECTION II

How to participate

To achieve its ambitious scientific, social and economic objectives, and to maximise the impact of the financial investment, the programme must attract the best researchers and the most innovative companies. In a highly competitive environment, this requires easy access, fair and transparent selection processes and agile grant management. To this end, the Commission has cut unnecessary bureaucracy, implementing simplifications over the previous Programme (Horizon 2020), to make participating in EU research and innovation easier than ever.

Tens of thousands of applicants, from individual scientists and SMEs to large companies and international organisations, have received funding for their projects under the previous and current Framework Programmes. Fully electronic and paperless grant management was a novelty introduced with the launch of Horizon 2020 in 2014, which has considerably simplified and streamlined the process of participation and implementation. The new Horizon Europe will continue in this direction, offering:

- A stable legal framework with simplified rules and procedures.
- Information, dissemination and exploitation of data for value creation.
- Digital administration.
- Fair, transparent and objective evaluation of proposals.
- Communication, guidance and support for participants.

WHO CAN BENEFIT FROM HORIZON EUROPE FUNDS?

Any type of organisation or legal entity that wants to develop an R&D&I project can apply for Horizon Europe funding -whether they are companies, universities, research centres, associations, public administrations, or any other type of entity-, as long as it has the operational and financial capacity to carry out the tasks it proposes, and when the contents of the proposed project comply with the conditions, lines and priorities established in the work programme or calls for proposals.

In most calls for proposals, the application must be submitted as a team of at least 3 partner organisations from 3 different EU or associated countries. At least one of the 3 partners must be from an EU country. In addition to these 3 partners, organisations from other countries can join your consortium. There are some exceptions for individual participations, such as in the case of mobility and training actions, and coordination and support actions.

Please consult the Horizon Europe Programme Guide, published by the Spanish organisations CDTI (Centre for Industrial Technological Development) and FECYT (Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology) for detailed information on the programme. In the European Commission's portal to inform and manage the calls of this programme, Funding and Tender Opportunities (available only in English), you will also find more details or exceptions to be taken into account in the topics of the calls (see explanation on *topics* below).

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WHAT ARE THE FUNDING RATES FOR HORIZON EUROPE PROJECTS?

To simplify the management of Horizon Europe projects, there is a single funding rate per project, with the exception of non-profit organisations participating in innovation projects.

These are the single funding rates (which cover direct costs and 25% of indirect costs) according to the type of project:

- Research projects: 100% for all types of participants.
- Innovation projects: 100% funding rate for non-profit organisations - 70% for all other types of participants.
- Coordination actions: 100% for all types of participants.

To participate and apply for funding for any research and innovation project, it is necessary to submit a proposal to a call for proposals. The calls for proposals, as well as all associated documents indicating deadlines and instructions to submit proposals, are published on the Funding and Tender Opportunities portal, through which you can also access the electronic system for submitting proposals.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS

1. Find a suitable call for proposals

The European Commission and its funding bodies publish calls for proposals on the Funding and Tender Opportunities portal.

- You can start your search at the homepage by entering different keywords that best characterise your field of interest, and then refine the results with the help of other filters.
- Another way to start your search is to select one of the EU funding programmes listed on the homepage and then navigate through the quick links to the calls for proposals of a specific programme.
- The calls are divided into *topics*, implemented by different types of actions. Each topic will refer to the type of project that can be submitted. Therefore, the types of projects to be submitted will be specific to each topic and call. Select a topic to read more about the identified opportunity: documents related to the topic, guidelines and other instructions are available on a thematic page.
- The site offers a search for calls for proposals and calls for tenders from the European institutions.

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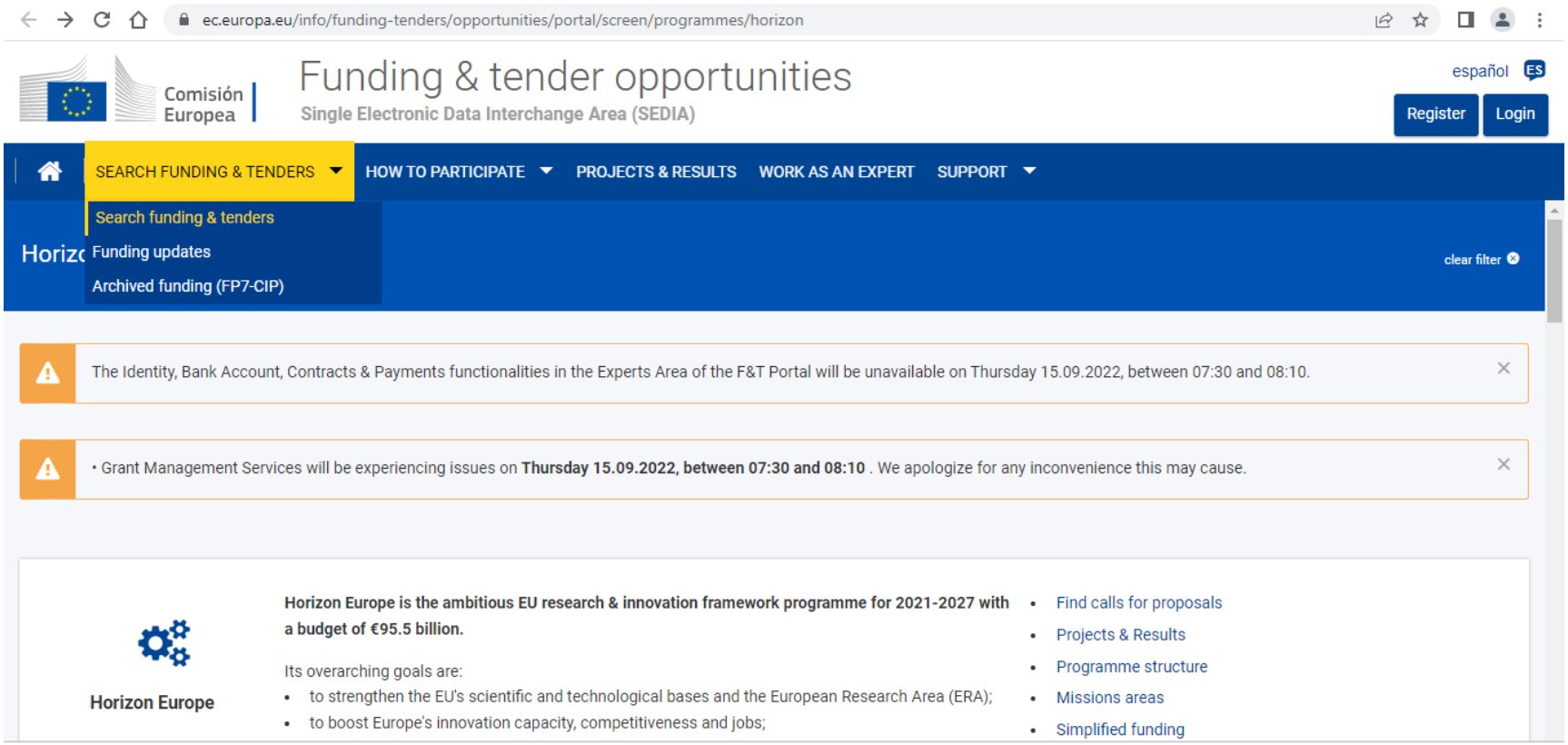

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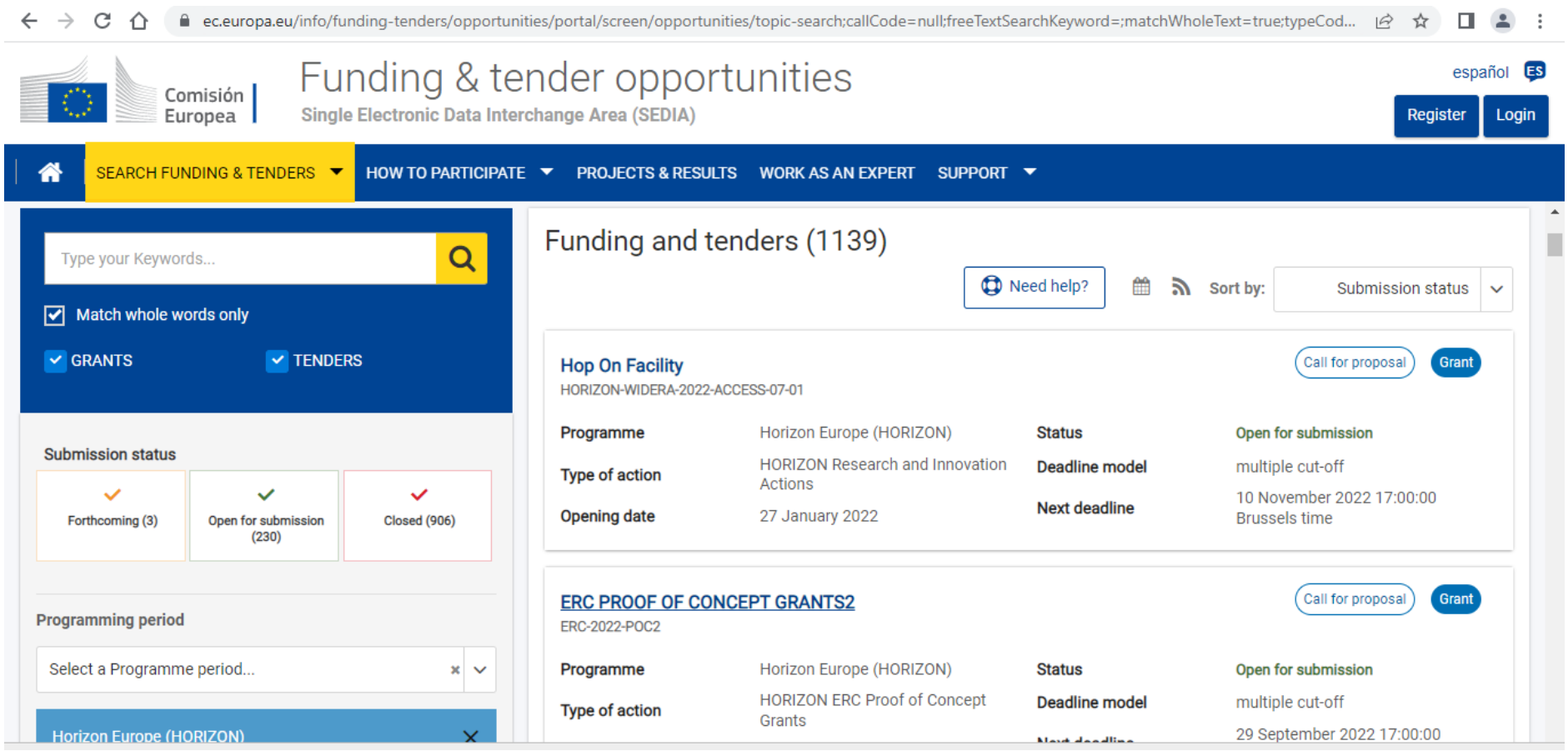

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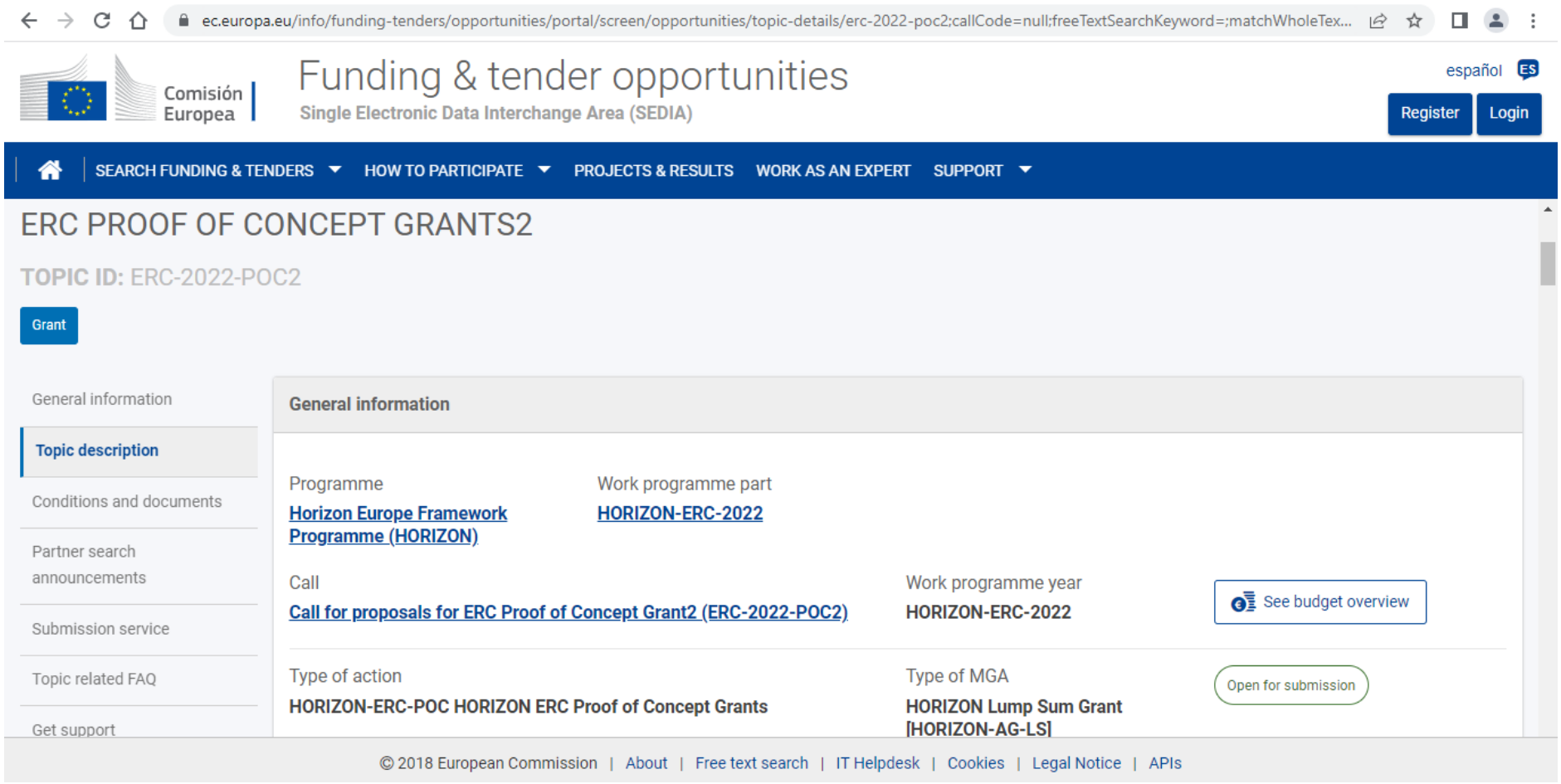

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2. Seek project partners (optional)

Read the terms and conditions of the topic to assess the partnership/consortium requirements and other eligibility aspects of the call. You can use this portal to search for potential partners for your project among already registered users or post your advertisement to search for partners. To post your partner search request or offer, select a topic on the Search funding and tenders page (drop-down menu on the top left: Search funding and tenders). You will find more help HERE. Use the partner search offered on this site to select an organisation based on your profile or previous involvement.

3. Create an EU Login account

Each user must have an EU Login account in order to log in to the Portal. If you already have such an account, you can use it for any interaction on the website, from submission of proposals to reporting. If you do not have an account yet, you must create one by clicking on the REGISTER button. Otherwise, you will only have access to the public services on the site (e.g. searching for funding opportunities, reading guidance, etc.).

4. Register an organisation

The Register of Participants is the Commission's online tool for registering and managing the details of organisations participating in EU programmes. If you wish to participate in a project proposal, your organisation must be registered and have a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). This unique identifier of your organisation will be used as a reference by the Commission in any interaction. Check if your organisation is already registered or register it.

5. Submit your grant proposal - How to access the submission system?

Select your topic and go to the Submission Service section of the page. Make sure you select the correct action type before you start writing the proposal. The link to the submission system is available if the call status is "open". You need to log in with your EU Login account.

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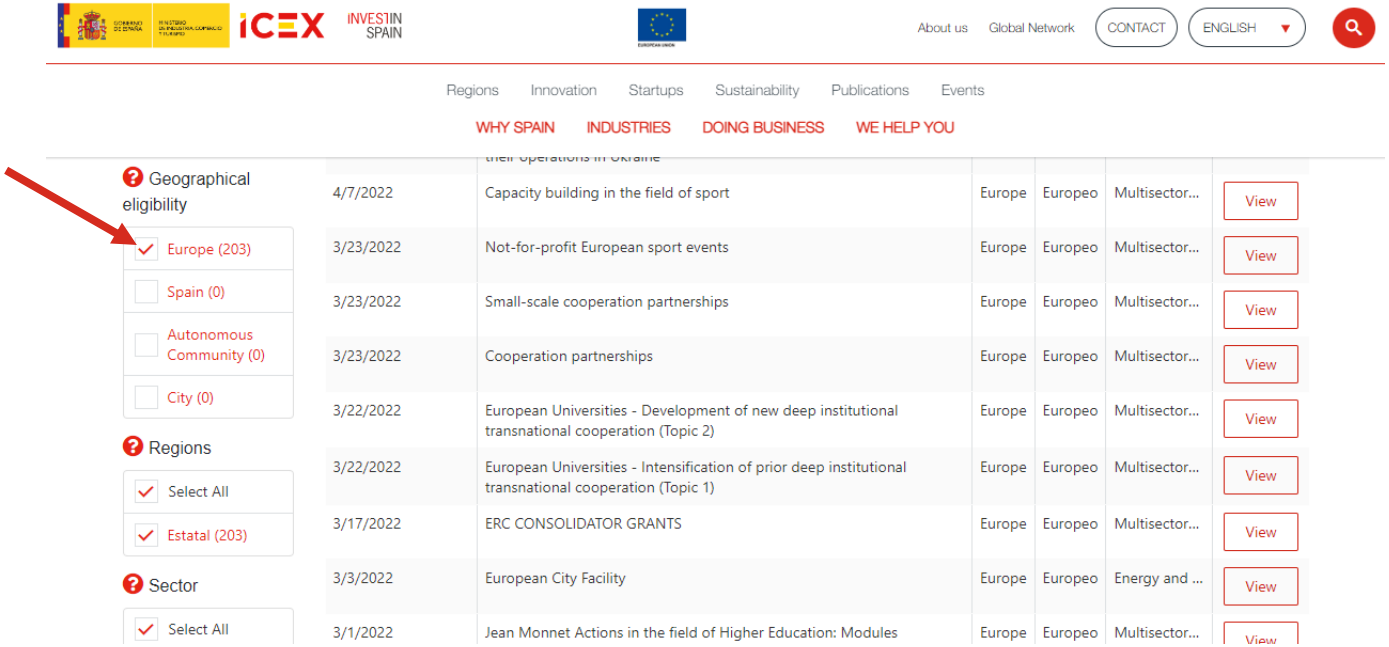
To perform a specific search, through the ICEX-Invest in Spain Incentives and Aids Search Engine you can access the calls of the Horizon Europe Programme open at the time of the search.

EXAMPLE OF CALL FOR PROPOSALS IN THE ICEX-INVEST IN SPAIN INCENTIVES AND AIDS SEARCH ENGINE

Access the search engine and use the filters to select the existing European calls.



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From there, by clicking on the VIEW button in each of the results, you will have access to the information with the main characteristics of the call, as well as direct access to the portal to start the application process if you are interested.

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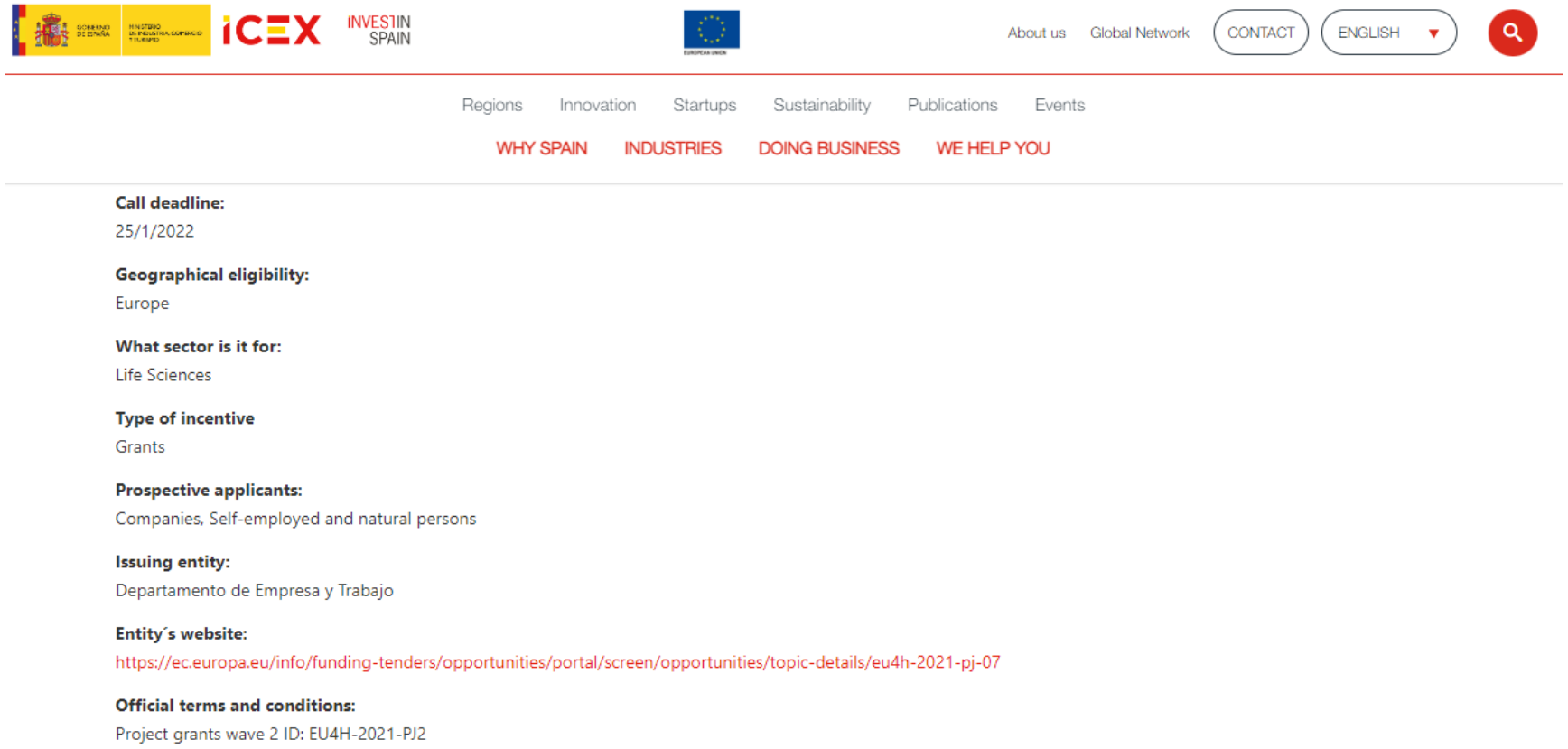
The information provided in the search engine includes a brief description of the aid, deadline to apply, eligible geographical areas, which industry it is aimed at, what type of aid it is, eligible entities, funding organization, and direct access to the application web page set up by the funding entity.



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