SINGAPORE-HORIZON EUROPE (SG-HE) COMPLEMENTARY FUND

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

S/N	Question	Response
Participating in Horizon Europe		
1	What is Horizon Europe?	**Horizon Europe** is the European Union (EU)'s key funding programme for research and innovation, with a budget of €93.5 billion for the period 2021 to 2027. For more information, please refer to this link.
2	Can Singapore entities participate in Horizon Europe Pillar II?	Yes, Singapore entities can participate in grant calls under Horizon Europe Pillar II. • Singapore entities can join consortia formed by EU applicants to jointly submit proposals to grant calls, typically as partners that need to be self-funded/funded by other sources. • As partners, they cannot initiate or coordinate projects, but can implement specific tasks. They will not be eligible to receive EU funding, unless explicitly allowed by the grant.
3	What is the minimum number of entities required to form a consortium to apply to a Horizon Europe Pillar II grant?	Applicants for Horizon Europe Pillar II grants must form a consortium, which minimally includes: • At least three independent legal entities from three different countries. • At least one legal entity must be from an EU Member State. • The remaining two legal entities may be from either EU Member States, or Associated Countries. Singapore is a Third Country to Horizon Europe. Entities from Third Countries may join the consortium, once it has met the minimum requirements listed above.
4	Where can Singapore entities find Horizon Europe grant call opportunities?	Information on forthcoming, currently open, and closed grant calls can be found on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal.
5	Do Singapore entities need to ensure their organisation has registered for a Participant Identification Code (PIC), to participate as partners in Horizon	Singapore entities participating in Horizon Europe (Pillar II) proposals should ensure their organisation has registered for a Participant Identification Code (PIC), at the following link. This would allow the Project Coordinator of the consortium to formally list Singapore entities as partners

	Europe (Pillar II) proposals?	in the proposal (with tasks, person-months, etc), when it is submitted to the Horizon Europe (Pillar II) grant call.
6	Do Singapore entities need to ensure their organisation has a registered Legal Entity Appointed Representative (LEAR) to participate as partners in Horizon Europe (Pillar II) proposals?	In most cases, Singapore entities do not need to register for a Legal Entity Appointed Representative (LEAR) for their organisation. This is because Singapore entities would not directly receive Horizon Europe funds as a beneficiary, and would not be signatories to the Grant Agreement signed by the consortium upon receiving the Horizon Europe project award.
Singapore-Horizon Europe (SG-HE) Complementary Fund		
7	What is the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	It is a unilateral funding arrangement by Singapore that is administered by NRF. It will support research or activities conducted in Singapore, by eligible Singapore entities that participate in Horizon Europe Pillar II projects in priority areas for Singapore.
8	Is the SG-HE Complementary Fund recognised by Horizon Europe?	Yes, the SG-HE Complementary Fund is recognised by Horizon Europe as a source of funding that supports the participation of Singapore entities in Horizon Europe Pillar II projects.
9	Do Singapore entities need to apply for the SG-HE Complementary Fund to participate in Horizon Europe Pillar II?	It is <u>optional</u> for Singapore entities to apply for the SG-HE Complementary Fund to participate in Horizon Europe Pillar II, and they may participate while being self-funded or funded by other sources.
10	What is the scope of coverage of the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	The SG-HE Complementary Fund will support participation in Horizon Europe Pillar II grant calls launched in 2026/2027. Its scope of coverage will include the following Thematic Clusters, Missions, and Actions (Grant Calls). <u>Thematic Clusters:</u> Thematic Cluster 1: Health Thematic Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society* Thematic Cluster 4: Digital Industry and Space Thematic Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility Thematic Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment *Only for projects that meet national strategic priorities in RIE. Participants should check with NRF before submitting proposals.

		Missions: Adaptation to Climate Change, Cancer, Healthy Oceans, Seas, Coastal and Inland Waters, Climate-neutral and Smart Cities, Soil Health and Food Actions (Grant Calls): Research and Innovation Actions (RIA) Innovation Actions (IA) Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)
11	Can the SG-HE Complementary Fund support participation in Thematic Cluster 2 grant calls?	No, projects under Thematic Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society are not within the scope of the SG-HE Complementary Fund.
12	Can the SG-HE Complementary Fund support participation in projects with humanities and social sciences elements?	Yes, the SG-HE Complementary Fund can support participation in projects under supportable Thematic Clusters that are interdisciplinary in nature with humanities and social sciences elements. However, the main focus of these projects should be on STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics).
13	Can the SG-HE Complementary Fund support participation in Horizon Europe Pillar II grant calls launched before 2026?	No, the SG-HE Complementary Fund will not support participation in Horizon Europe Pillar II grant calls launched before 2026.
14	Is it advisable for Singapore entities to apply to the SG-HE Complementary Fund before submitting a proposal to a Horizon Europe Pillar II grant call?	Yes, Singapore entities are strongly encouraged to apply to the SG-HE Complementary Fund before submitting a proposal to a Horizon Europe Pillar II grant call. Singapore entities can receive in-principle approval of funding support from NRF, if their SG-HE Complementary Fund application is considered supportable. This in-principal approval can be used as evidence of external funding, to support their participation in Horizon Europe Pillar II proposals.
15	Can Singapore entities still apply to the SG-HE Complementary Fund	Yes, Singapore entities can still apply to the SG-HE Complementary Fund, after their consortium submits a proposal to a Horizon Europe Pillar II grant call.

	after submitting a proposal to a Horizon Europe Pillar II grant call?	NRF will still assess if the Singapore entities can receive an in-principal approval of funding support, and the funding will be conditional upon the consortium's proposal undergoing evaluation and being awarded by Horizon Europe.
16	How will NRF assess whether an SG-HE Complementary Fund Application is supportable?	NRF will check the eligibility of the applicants, and alignment of the proposed research/activities with Singapore's national strategic priorities in RIE, and its contribution to building capabilities in Singapore's RIE ecosystem.
17	What research or activities would align with Singapore's national strategic priorities in RIE?	NRF will make an assessment based on the specific tasks to be implemented by Singapore entities in the proposal to be submitted to Horizon Europe. As a general guide, this refers to research or activities that align and advance the priorities of the four vertical domains of Singapore's RIE2030 plan: • Manufacturing Trade and Connectivity (MTC) • Human Health and Potential (HHP) • Urban Solutions and Sustainability (USS) • Smart Nation and Digital Economy (SNDE) For more details on Singapore's RIE2030 plan, refer to this link.
18	What would contribute to building capabilities in Singapore's RIE ecosystem?	NRF will make an assessment based on the specific tasks to be implemented by Singapore entities in the proposal to be submitted to Horizon Europe. As a general guide, the project should generate benefits to the RIE ecosystem, for example by resulting in new knowledge being acquired by the RIE ecosystem, and/or growth in local ability to build on, scale up, or otherwise modify the resultant capability/system. Relevant outcomes could include Research Scientists & Engineers (RSEs) hired, locals trained, collaboration projects with local companies, that would result in a local manpower pool that can build on, scale up or modify the capability.
19	What documents will Singapore entities need to submit to apply for the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	Singapore entities will need to fill in the SG-HE Complementary Fund application form, supporting documents (such as the CVs of applicants), and submit a draft/copy of the proposal to be submitted to the Horizon Europe Pillar II grant call.

20	What level of detail should be provided in the Horizon Europe Pillar II proposal, on the specific contributions of Singapore entities?	The proposal to be submitted to the Horizon Europe Pillar II grant call should include necessary details on the specific tasks to be implemented by Singapore entities in the Horizon Europe project. A sufficient level of detail should be provided to allow the European Commission/Horizon Europe to assess the scientific merit of the proposal, and for NRF to assess whether the proposed research/activity is supportable under the SG-HE Complementary Fund.
21	What is the estimated time required for NRF to assess an SG-HE Complementary Fund Application?	NRF will take an estimated 1-2 months from the time of submission of an SG-HE Complementary Fund application, to assess if it is supportable, and to communicate the outcome to the applicants.
22	Will Singapore entities be required to submit a copy or draft of the Stage I/Whitepaper Proposal, or Stage II/Full Proposal when applying to the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	Singapore applicants can submit a copy or draft of the Stage I/Whitepaper Proposal or Stage II/Full Proposal to NRF when applying to the SG-HE Complementary Fund. NRF will provide in-principle approval for funding support, if the proposal is assessed to be supportable by the SG-HE Complementary Fund. Singapore applicants are to update NRF should there be substantive changes to the scope of the proposed research/activities for the Singapore entities in subsequent changes to the proposal.
23	When will NRF provide the SG-HE Complementary Fund award to successful applicants?	NRF will provide SG-HE Complementary Fund award to successful applicants, conditional upon the evaluation and successful award of the Horizon Europe Pillar II proposal to the consortium. Singapore entities will need to provide the i) Final Version of the Horizon Europe Proposal, ii) Evaluation Summary Report and iii) Signed Consortium Agreement to NRF. NRF reserves the right to not provide funding support under the SG-HE Complementary Fund for the proposed research/activities in the Final Version of the Horizon Europe Proposal (or part thereof), if these are assessed to be non-supportable under the SG-HE Complementary Fund.
24	Will a Host Institution need to be identified as the primary institution to receive the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	One Singapore-based entity is to be identified as the host institution. The Host Institution is the primary institution addressed in the Letter of Award which will receive the grant funding, and will be responsible for the management of awarded projects, including the collation

		of expenses and disbursement of funds on behalf of participating Singapore entities.
25	What is the mechanism of fund disbursement to awardees of the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	The SG-HE Complementary Fund will provide funding support on a quarterly reimbursement basis to the host institution of successful applicants, which will be responsible for collation of expenses and disbursement of funds on behalf of participating Singapore entities.
26	What are the funding support rates for direct cost and indirect costs for eligible Singapore entities?	Researchers from Publicly-Funded Research Institutions will be eligible for 100% direct cost support, and indirect cost support at 25% of direct costs. Companies will be eligible for 50% direct cost support if they are Small or Medium Enterprises (SMEs) or SME-sized, and 30% direct cost support if they are larger than SMEs. Companies will not be eligible for indirect cost support. Note: SMEs are those with group annual sales turnover not exceeding S$100 million, or a group employment base of no more than 200 employees.
27	What budgetary items can be supported by the fund?	The SG-HE Complementary Fund can provide budgetary support for items proposed by applicants, which include Employment of Manpower (EOM), Equipment (EQP), Other Operating Expenses (OOE), Overseas Travel (OT), Research Scholarships (RS).
28	Does the SG-HE Complementary Fund provide support for indirect costs?	Researchers from Publicly-Funded Research Institutions will be eligible to receive indirect cost support at 25% of direct costs. Companies will not be eligible to receive indirect cost support.
29	Do all budget categories attract indirect costs for the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	Only Employment of Manpower (EOM), Equipment (EQP), Other Operating Expenses (OOE), and Overseas Travel (OT) attract indirect costs. Research Scholarships (RS) will not attract indirect costs.
30	Can Singapore entities submit multiple SG-HE Complementary Fund Applications?	Yes, if the applications are for substantially different Horizon Europe proposals, and there are no overlaps in the scope of the work to be funded.
31	Does all the funding from the SG-HE Complementary Fund	The SG-HE Complementary Fund is intended to support research and activities conducted by Singapore-based applicants within Singapore.

	have to be spent within Singapore?	Applicants may propose budget items under Overseas travel, e.g. attending overseas conferences or to access equipment/facilities overseas with justifications provided, excluding the conduct of R&D activity.
32	Can international members of the consortium receive funding for some elements of the research?	Applicants may propose OOE budget lines for Visiting Professors / Experts, which can cover honorarium, travel and accommodation expenses. Visiting Professors / Experts should be clearly identified in the proposed budget, with justifications for visits provided.
33	How important is industry participation for the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	It is not mandatory to include industry partner(s) when applying to the SG-HE Complementary Fund. Applicants should take note of the eligibility and expected outcomes of the Horizon Europe grant, which could provide guidance on partners which would be important to involve in the consortium/Horizon Europe proposal. Applicants should refer to the Work Programmes for 2026-2027, for respective Thematic Clusters published on the EU Funding and Tenders Portal at this link, which provides details for each grant call.
34	Is consultation with any stakeholder agencies in Singapore required prior to applying to the SG-HE Complementary Fund?	This is not a mandatory requirement for the SG-HE Complementary Fund.
35	Can the SG-HE Complementary Fund support: a) Salaries of Lead and Team PIs? b) Hiring of Project/Programme Manager?	a) No, the SG-HE Complementary Fund cannot support salaries of Lead and Team PIs. b) Yes, if the Programme Manager's role is related to the Research, and not purely administrative.