

# Introduction to the Annual Work-Programme, AWP 2026

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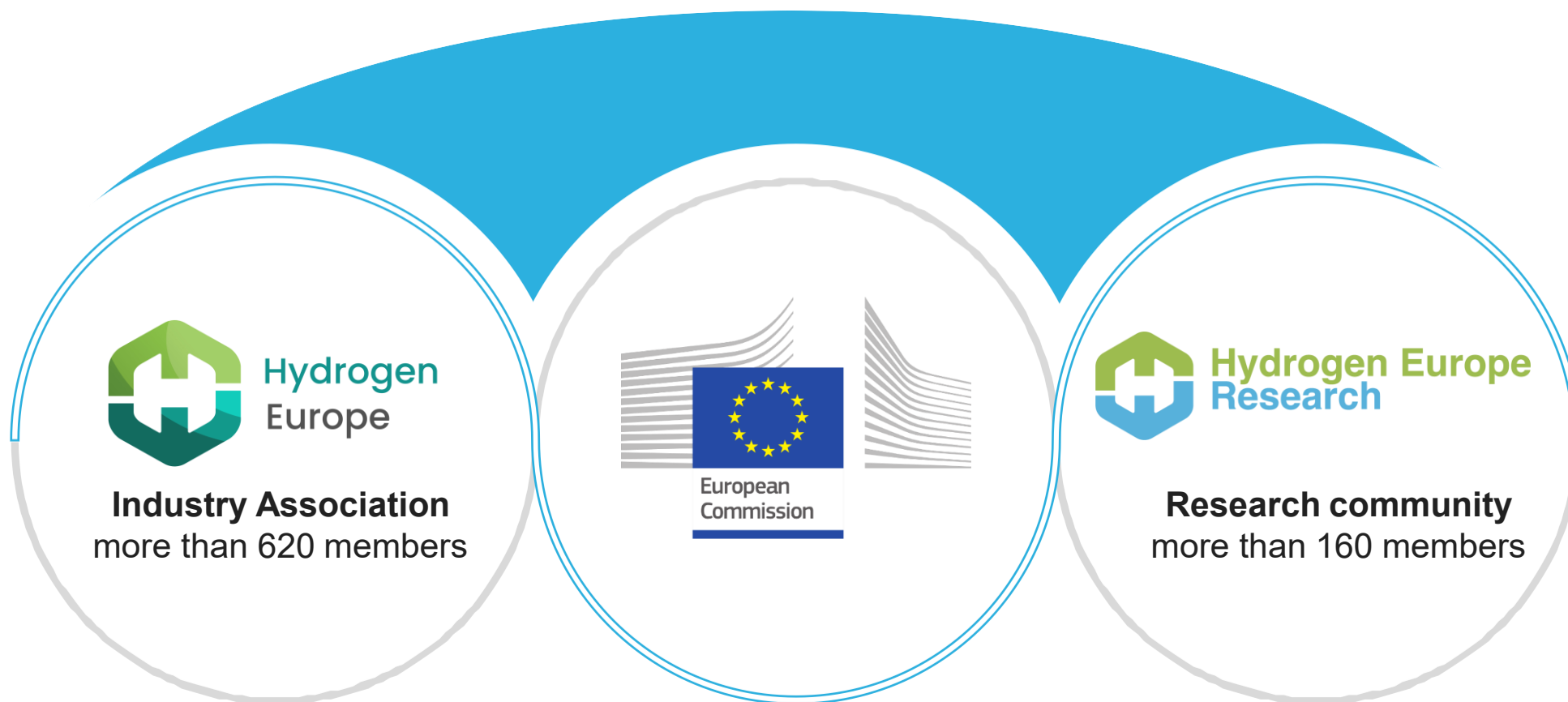
Head of Unit

Operations and Communication



# Clean Hydrogen Joint Undertaking

EU Institutional Public-Private Partnership (IPPP)



**1 billion EURO from Horizon Europe\*** to implement R&I activities and facilitate the transition to a greener EU society through the development of hydrogen technologies

**\* additional 200 million EURO for Hydrogen valleys (under RePowerEU)**


# Objectives




## General



Support the implementation of the Commission's **Hydrogen Strategy**



Stimulate **research and innovation on clean hydrogen** production, distribution, storage and end use applications




Strengthen the **competitiveness of the EU clean hydrogen value chain**




Contribute to the EU ambitious **2030 and 2050 climate ambition**


## Specific




Improve the **cost-effectiveness, efficiency, reliability**, quantity and quality of clean hydrogen solutions across **entire value chain**



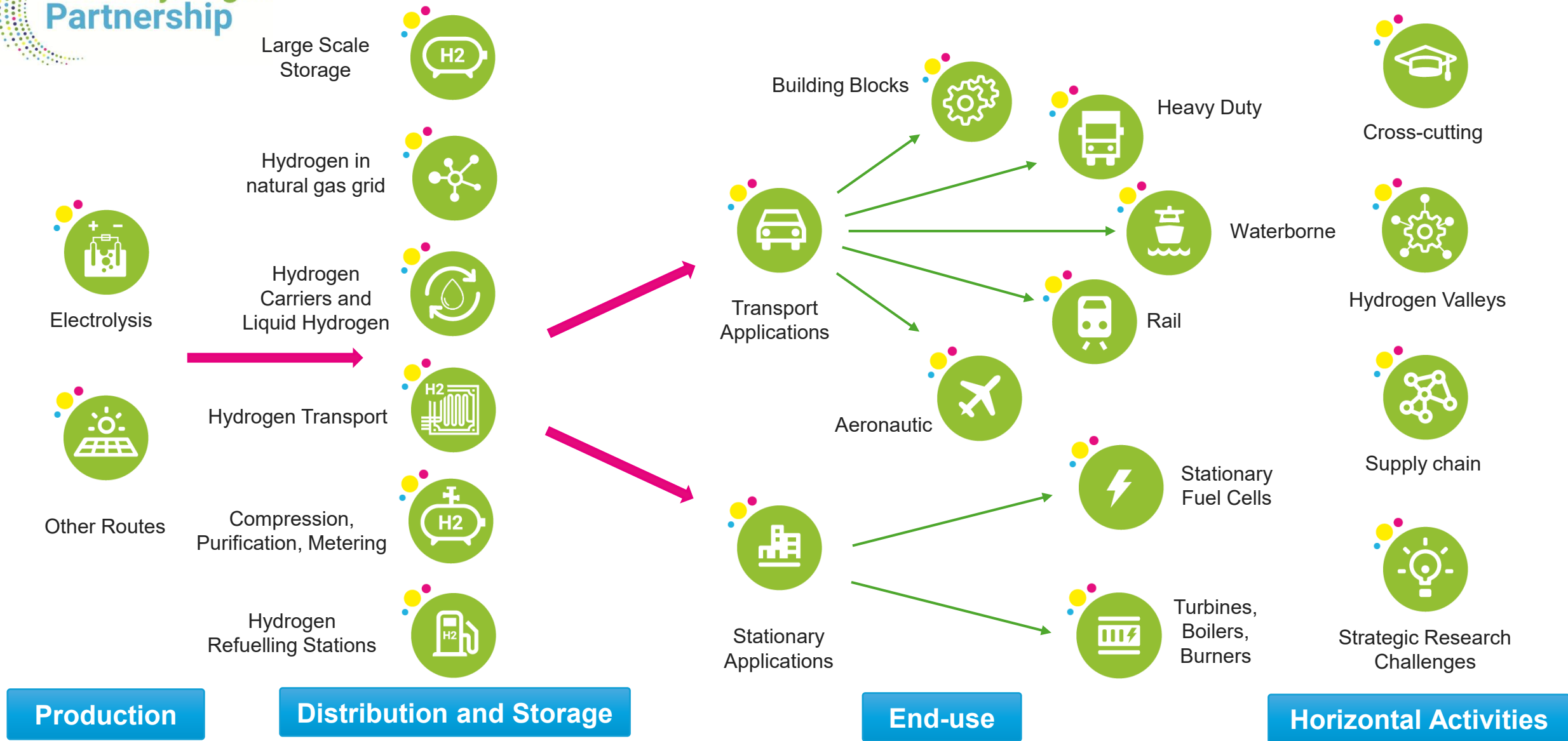
Strengthen the **knowledge/capacity of scientific and industrial actors** along the Union's hydrogen value chain while supporting the **uptake of skills**



Demonstrations of clean hydrogen solutions with a view to **local, regional and Union-wide deployment**, aiming to involve stakeholders in all Member States and across **entire value chain**



Increase **public and private awareness, acceptance** and uptake of clean hydrogen solutions



# Other Activities

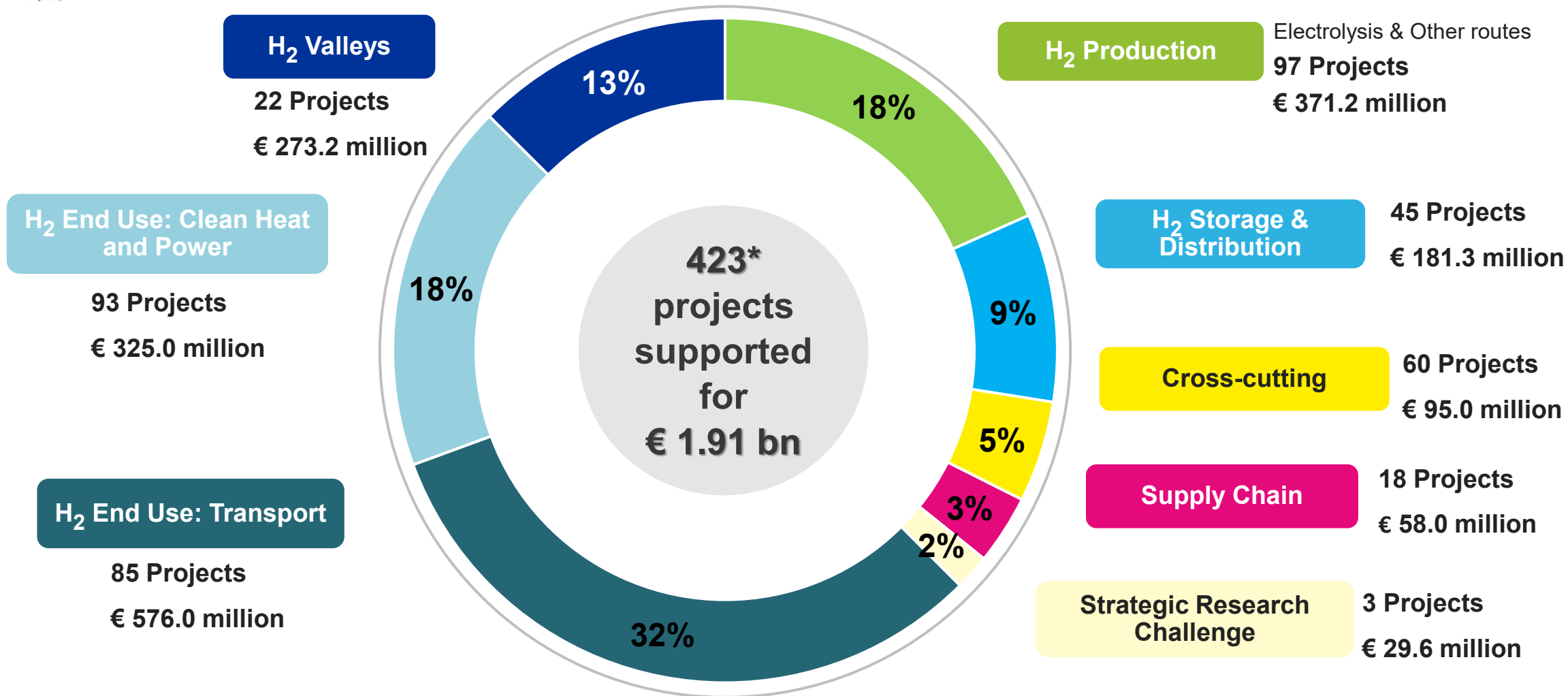
Additional activities are necessary to fulfil the Clean Hydrogen JU objectives



- Developing synergies with other partnerships and programmes
- Regulations, Codes and Standards
- European Hydrogen Safety
- European Hydrogen Sustainability and Circularity
- Knowledge management
- Competitiveness, SMEs
- International Cooperation
- Communication activities



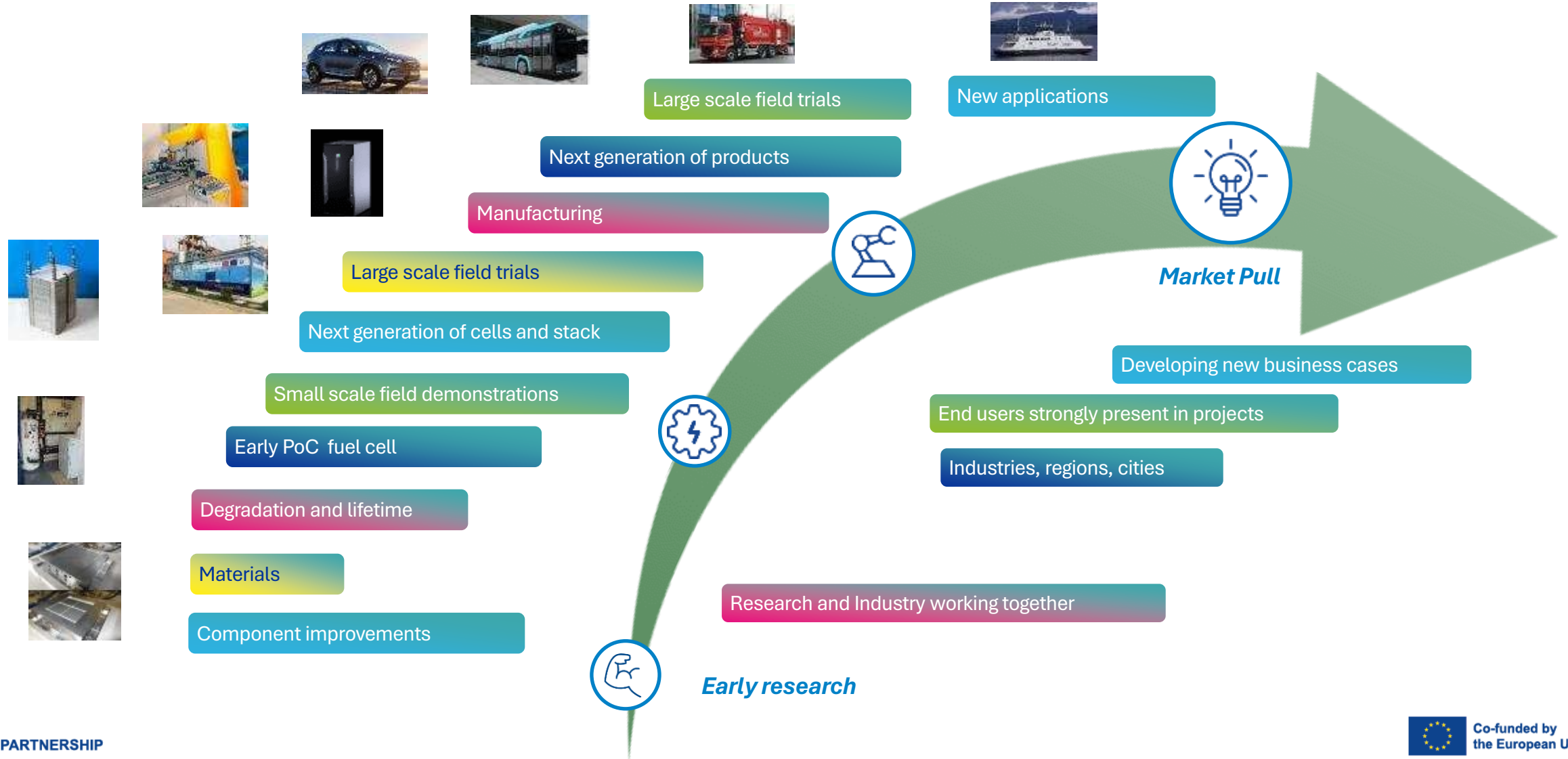
# Clean Hydrogen JU Programme (cumulative)



\* Projects from Call 2025 (partially) still under preparation

# More than 17 years journey...

From research to delivering solutions in the market



# Call for proposals 2026

Total budget: 105 M€

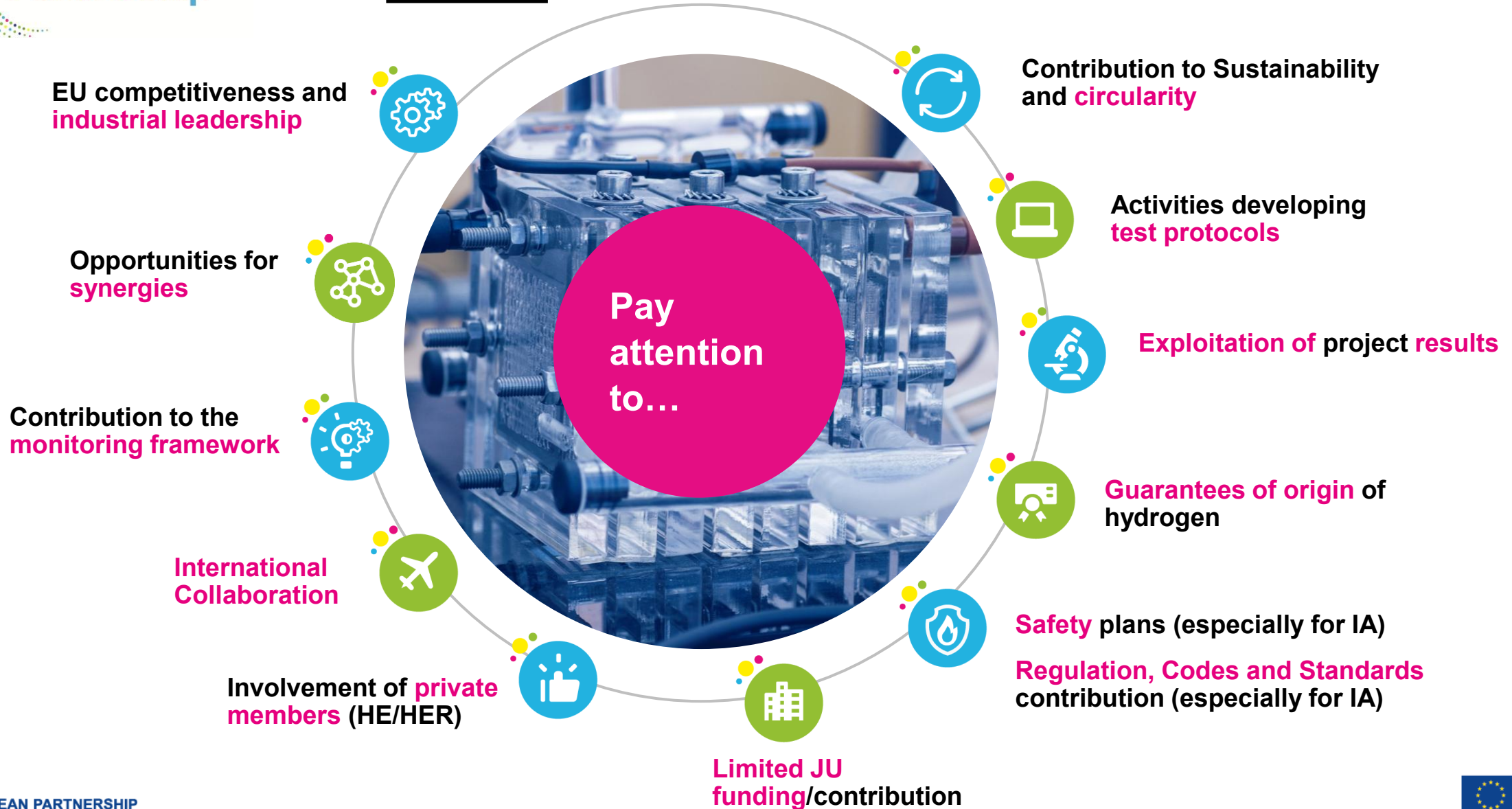
Publication date: 20 January 2026

Deadline: 15 April 2026





## Call conditions and common elements to pay attention to:



# Call conditions and common elements (1)



## Lump Sums

- **Lumps sums** will be used **across all topics in the call 2026**.
- Horizon Europe uses lump sum funding **to reduce administration and financial errors**.
- Lump sums are defined up-front and fixed in the grant agreement. **They are paid upon completion of the activities in work packages.**



## Full capitalised costs for purchases

- For equipment, infrastructure or other assets purchased specifically for the action)
- For Innovation Actions, mostly **large-scale demonstrators or flagship projects specific equipment, infrastructure or other assets purchased specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) can exceptionally be declared as full capitalised costs.**

## Call conditions and common elements (2)



### Maximum EU/JU funding per topic

- **Additional eligibility criterion** to limit the Clean Hydrogen JU requested contribution
- **For actions performed at high TRL level**, including demonstration in real operation environment and with important involvement from industrial stakeholders and/or end users such as public authorities
- **Expected to leverage co-funding as commitment from stakeholders.** e.g. through the private investment or co-funding from regional/local funds



Hydrogen  
Europe



Hydrogen Europe  
Research

### Involvement of private members

- **Additional eligibility criterion** to ensure that one partner in the consortium is a member of either Hydrogen Europe or Hydrogen Europe Research
- For topics targeting actions for **large-scale demonstrations, flagship projects and strategic research actions**, where the industrial and research partners of the JU play a key role in accelerating the commercialization of hydrogen technologies



## Synergies with other European Partnerships and EU programmes

- Synergies with specific projects and activities managed by **other European Partnership and Programmes** have been identified and included across a large number of topics such as EURAMET for metrology, Clean Aviation for the aeronautic sector or ZEWT for maritime.
- For Innovation Actions proposals are also encouraged to provide elaborated exploitation plans including preliminary plans for scalability, commercialisation, and deployment indicating the possible funding sources to be potentially used including the **Innovation Fund**.



## Combination of funding with other EU, Member States and regional programmes for flagship projects (such as Hydrogen valleys)

- Applicants may consider **additional synergies with other Programmes** (e.g. European Structural and Investment Funds, Recovery and Resilience Facility, Just Transition Fund, Connecting Europe Facility, Innovation Fund, Modernisation Fund, LIFE, etc.) and/or clustering with other projects within Horizon Europe or funded under other EU (e.g CEF-T), national or regional programmes, or having loans through the EIB or other promotional or commercial banks;
- **STEP seals** (label) will be awarded to Hydrogen Valleys proposals exceeding all of the evaluation thresholds set out in this work programme to the call



# Projects contribution to EU competitiveness and industrial leadership



## What is required?

**All topics** included in the **Call for proposals 2026** are **expected to contribute to EU competitiveness and EU industrial leadership by supporting a European value chain** for hydrogen and fuel cell systems components, cells and stacks as well as hydrogen related infrastructure.



## In practice

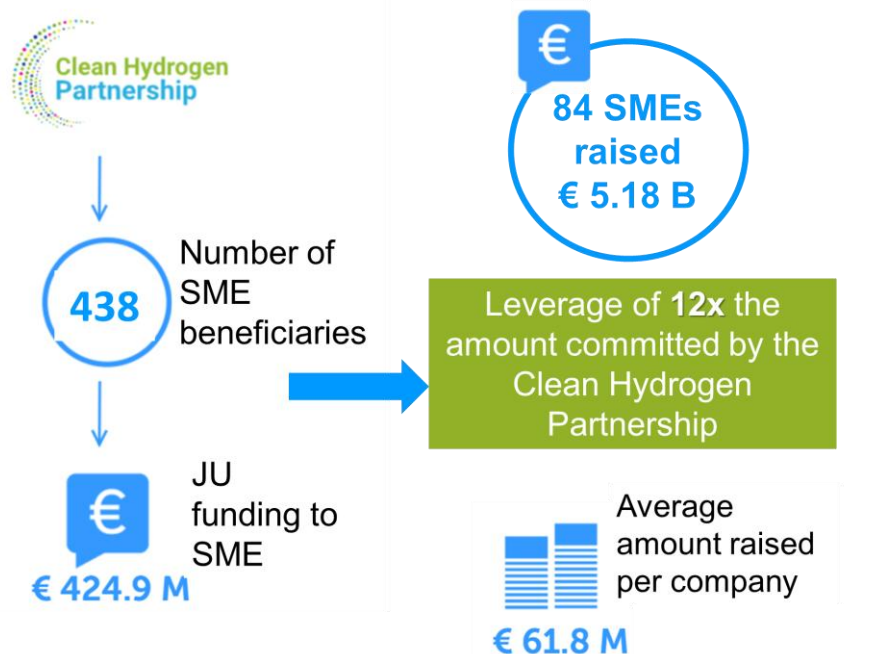
**Proposals**, and specially for all Innovation Actions topics are **expected to demonstrate the contribution to EU competitiveness and industrial leadership of the activities to be funded** including but not limited to the origin of the equipment and components as well infrastructure purchased and built during the project.

These aspects will be **evaluated and monitored during the project implementation.**



## Additional activities to support the H2 ecosystem e.g. competitiveness, start-ups support etc

### Impact of the Clean Hydrogen Partnership support in SMEs



### European Clean Hydrogen Start-Up Hub

- Tender to set-up and run a European Clean Hydrogen Start-Up Hub aiming at accelerating and **accompanying the “translation” of research into investable start-ups, building the basis for scaling startups by connecting investment to hydrogen innovation** with corporates as key enablers, and building and consolidating European Hydrogen Innovation Corridors.
- The initiative shall **contribute to the European Commission’s planned Scale Up and Start Up strategy.**

**Indicative budget:** 10 MEUR, Q1/Q2, open procedure

# Get support

Please read carefully all provisions below before the preparation of your application



## Lump Sums Guidance

- Guidance: ["Lump sums - what do I need to know?"](#)
- [Comprehensive information on lump sum funding in Horizon Europe](#)



## FAQ

- Specific [FAQ document](#) for call HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2-2026
- Question not already covered there? Submit it here: [Call 2026 - Question](#)



## National Info Days:

22/01 - Hungary  
28/01 - France  
09/02 - Spain