

## DECISION OF THE GOVERNING BOARD

**approving the ranked lists of innovation actions selected for funding and the list of rejected proposals under the Europe's Rail JU call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-01**

**N°11/2022**

THE GOVERNING BOARD OF THE EUROPE'S RAIL JOINT UNDERTAKING, (hereafter referred to as "EU-RAIL")

Having regard to Council Regulation (EU) N° 2021/2085 of 19 November 2021 establishing the Joint Undertakings under Horizon Europe<sup>1</sup>, and in particular Article 17(2) (u) thereof;

Whereas:

- (1) On 1 March 2022, the Governing Board of the Europe's Rail (Decision N°03/2022) adopted the amended Europe's Rail Work Programme and Budget 2022-2024 ("WP 2022-2024"). This WP 2022-2024 was the basis for the launch of the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-01, which was published on the Horizon Europe Funding and Tenders Portal on 10 March 2022 with a deadline of 23 June 2022 17:00:00 Brussels time.
- (2) The call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-01 comprised a total of 6 topics open to entities eligible under the general rules of Horizon Europe Work Programme. Each of those topics had its own dedicated budget line. Hence, projects do not compete against each other for the same budget insofar as they come under different topics.
- (3) In return to its 2022-01 Call for Proposals, the Europe's Rail received 7 proposals for a total estimated value of € 390 million and a funding request of € 239.6 million.
- (4) The proposals were verified for their compliance with the admissibility requirements and eligibility conditions of the call. During the verification, it was concluded that all proposals were admissible. As a result, 7 proposals were declared admissible. During the first-line eligibility check, it was concluded that all proposals were eligible. As a result, 7 proposals were declared admissible and eligible by the Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking.
- (5) The proposals submitted were evaluated by an evaluation committee composed of independent experts, as set out in Horizon Europe Work Programme (General Annexes -

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<sup>1</sup> OJ L 427, 30.11.2021, p. 17–119.



Annex F) and in accordance with the evaluation rules set out in the WP 2022-2024 (Annex VIII). On the basis of this evaluation, amongst the 7 proposals considered eligible, the experts established a ranking list per topic (Annex 1), providing a recommended priority order of proposals having equalled or passed all the award criteria thresholds (i.e.: “excellence”, “impact” and “quality and efficiency of the implementation”), as well as a list of proposals not retained for funding (Annex 2) since they did not meet the overall thresholds and/or one or more of the individual thresholds.

- (6) In accordance with the procedures laid down in the Guide on the procedures from proposal submission to managing grants under Horizon Europe (Online Manual), one independent observer was appointed by the Europe's Rail to observe and offer independent advice on the conduct and fairness of all phases of the evaluation process, on how evaluators apply award criteria and on how to improve processes. The report of the independent observer (Annex 3) finds that the evaluation was impartial, fair, conducted in full compliance with all Horizon Europe rules and that each proposal received adequate and equal treatment, according to the pre-defined evaluation rules.
- (7) The Governing Board took note and acknowledged the Report of the Executive Director on the outcome of the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-01, which includes the Call Evaluation Report with its annexes, as well as the individual evaluation summary reports which will be attached to the individual notification letters to be sent to the applicants. Nevertheless, Annexes 8, 10, 11 and 12 of the report were not disclosed to the private Founding Members of the Governing Board due to the risk of Conflict of Interest.
- (8) As proposed by the Executive Director in his report, the Grant Preparation Phase will be essential to ensure the alignment and consistency of the proposed research and innovation activities and coordination and support actions. To this effect, the Executive Director in his capacity as authorising officer should make use of the possibilities offered by Article 200(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046.

HAS DECIDED AS FOLLOWS:

#### *Article 1*

The ranked lists pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-01 including the lists of actions selected for funding (Annex 1), as well as the list of proposals that do not meet the applicable thresholds for funding (Annex 2), are approved.

#### *Article 2*

The Executive Director shall inform the applicants of the results of the evaluation and shall communicate simultaneously to each of them the relevant individual evaluation summary



report, as an attachment to the notification letter. For the actions selected for funding, the notification letter sent by the Executive Director shall invite applicants to start the grant preparation.

### *Article 3*

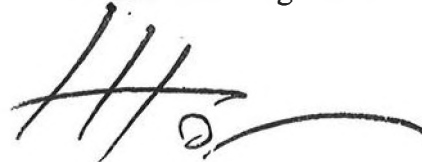
With a view to promoting the alignment and consistency of the proposed research and innovation activities, the Executive Director is invited to consider the application of Article 200(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) 2018/1046, and report to the Governing Board as he deems appropriate.

### *Article 4*

This Decision shall enter into force on the day following that of its adoption.

Done at Brussels, on 3 August 2022.

For the Governing Board



Henrik HOLOLEI  
*The Chairperson*

- Annex 1: Ranked lists pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-01 including the lists of innovation actions selected for funding.
- Annex 2: List of below threshold proposals pertaining to the call for proposals HORIZON-ER-JU-2022-01
- Annex 3: Independent Observer's Report.