

## Portuguese Stakeholder event: Missions in Horizon Europe – Climate, Soil and Cities

Report on the first reflections & preliminary contributions from the Portuguese community towards the mission's codesign





## Background

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2020, the Portuguese National Innovation Agency (ANI) and the Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT) held an online stakeholders' event on the European Commission's Missions Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation, Soil Health & Food and Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. The event was organized on a Plenary session (that is summarized in this report) and on three thematic sessions each one focused on the abovementioned Mission Areas. The Portuguese ambassadors to these missions (Mission board members) are trying to articulate between them to bring to this dynamic the whole of the Portuguese society to achieve a collective co-design, for the Missions and beyond. This would be a good opportunity to devise a very operational and very concrete way of transforming the country in the process. It would be very useful for Portugal and for each of its regions to be able to think what their Mission is or what their capacity is to design a resilience strategy in the coming years. The missions are positively contaminating public policies and the framing of those policies within the European framework, as for example the Green Deal. Missions are active agents of the Green Deal. The missions' ambassadors wish to work together with society to better design, for example, the investments that the country and regions can make based on the Green Deal.

This event was organized in an one hour and a half online information session held through Zoom and joined together **234 participants** from several Portuguese entities (companies, researchers, higher education institutions, associations and other interface entities), with the objective of presenting the Horizon Europe Missions' main goals and expected developments and collect feedback from the Portuguese community.

This report summarizes the discussion held between Ms Margarida Ribeiro, from Unit A4 – Missions & Partnerships of DG Research & Innovation of the European Commission, and Portuguese stakeholders attending the online session. The main discussion topics are presented below.

## Main discussion topics

- THEMATICS Space is a clear ambition for Portugal until 2030, however it does not seem to be
  included in any of the Missions presented, being such important sector with clear synergies would be
  important to consider it more clearly.
- R&I ACTIVITIES What kind of consortium might the formed, what will be the geographic scope of
  the Missions and what will be the maximum budget allocated to each Mission were topics of concern
  for Portuguese stakeholders. Although the implementation phase of Missions is subject of on-going
  discussion some concerns such as the need to include non-EU partners in Mission activities were raised
  and discussed. In general participants showed interest and curiosity to understand how the
  competitive activities will fulfil the Mission goals.

#### SYNERGIES

There is a need for a greater understanding on how Missions will relate between themselves and how will they relate with the Clusters of Horizon Europe's Pilar II. The dynamic between Missions, Clusters and Partnerships is considered of great importance by the European Commission and efforts are being made to map and link common areas of interest. For instance, partnerships can be testbeds for the goals of a certain Mission and the work of Mission Board Members has been presented at Clusters discussions, so that there is a link between the Missions' broader goals and the Clusters more specific calls topics. However, this is still being defined and negotiated with the Member States. Regarding inter-Mission relations, the Chairs of all 5 Missions are taking this into consideration, so there is no duplication of efforts and resources, but the Missions' calls





topics are not expected to be strict. On the contrary, they are expected to be bottomup challenges with a broader scope, so that different consortiums can apply with different solutions.

- Portuguese stakeholders find it beneficial if Portugal were to create unique national dynamics between Missions and Clusters of Horizon Europe, by developing national / regional strategies that would identify common national / regional challenges. This connection is considered important and that is why PERIN Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network, a network recently created to support the Portuguese participation in the next Framework Program, and GNAD Horizon Europe's National discussion Support Group, an initiative of ANI in order to disseminate information, increase engagement and collect feedback from the Portuguese community on the next Framework Program, were created. The main objective is to consolidate a national vision on the most relevant areas for Portugal.
- It is still not clear if the next September Green Deal call will already have a Mission approach or in what way some of its topics relate with the Missions. There is, in fact, a link between the Green Deal call and the Missions, as the first can be considered an embryo of the latter, providing continuity of objectives and topics until 2021. However, the Green Deal call has its own framework (still in the scope of Horizon 2020) and dynamics and not all its 11 areas relate with the goals of the Horizon Europe's Missions, which mean that only a few calls will reference Missions' goals.

#### Final remarks

The online information session was widely praised by participants and the majority considered it of great importance for learning more about the Horizon Europe Missions 'Adaptation to Climate Change, including Societal Transformation', 'Soil Health & Food' and 'Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities' and what could be expected for Portugal.

A set of questions was asked to participants in the beginning of the session, to better understand who the audience was and what was their knowledge of the Missions, Horizon Europe and PERIN – Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network. Most participants expressed their interest in learning more about the Missions, although a sufficient knowledge of Horizon Europe and PERIN is still lacking in the Portuguese community.

The Missions were presented as mobilizers of society (engaging experts and ordinary citizens) with societal impact, and Portugal is willing to have a very active participation in these Missions, not only by accomplishing excellent results for the country under the calls that will be launched, but also serving as an inspiration for the rest of Europe and the world. Participants were thus encouraged to sign up for GNAD – Horizon Europe's discussion National Support Group and informed that the Missions call for a greater engagement from the Portuguese community.

Looking at the number of people who registered and participated in this event, it is possible to conclude that:

- The event was followed with interest by Portuguese stakeholders, with over 200 people participating in the Plenary session, and more than 100 people participating in all the breakout sessions.
- There was a relatively high percentage of registrants who actually participated in the session, which is not always the case with online sessions. This reveals a high level of interest for this event.

The main finding of the survey that was shared with participants after the event are:

#### PERIN Portugal in Europe Research and Innovation Network





- Around 55% of those who replied to the survey have already participated in European projects.
- Around 85% of those who replied to the survey intend to submit a proposal for a European project in the near future.
- In a scale of 1 to 5, all of those surveyed rated the speakers' proficiency as either 5 (73%) or 4 (27%).
- Overall, all of those surveyed had a positive opinion about the event's organization and quality
  of the presentations, which indicates that the event was a success.





### **ANNEX I:** Agenda

## Stakeholder Event

# Missions in Horizon Europe – Missions Climate, Soil and Cities

Online discussion and information sessions with the national community

JUNE 16 2020 | 11:00-17:30

VIA ZOOM / COLIBRI

PLEASE FIND THE AGENDA ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES

PERIN
PORTUGAL IN EUROPE RESEARCH
AND INNOVATION NETWORK





11:00 - 12:30 PLENARY SESSION

11:00-11:05 Opening Remarks

11:05-11:10

Welcome

Foundation for Science and Technology (FCT)

11:10-11:15

European Commission's video + Survey on Horizon Europe's Missions

11:15-11:30

Horizon Europe and the Mission's Concept

Directorate-General for Research and Innovation (DG RTD)

11:45-12:20

Q&A

12:20-12:30 Closing Remarks

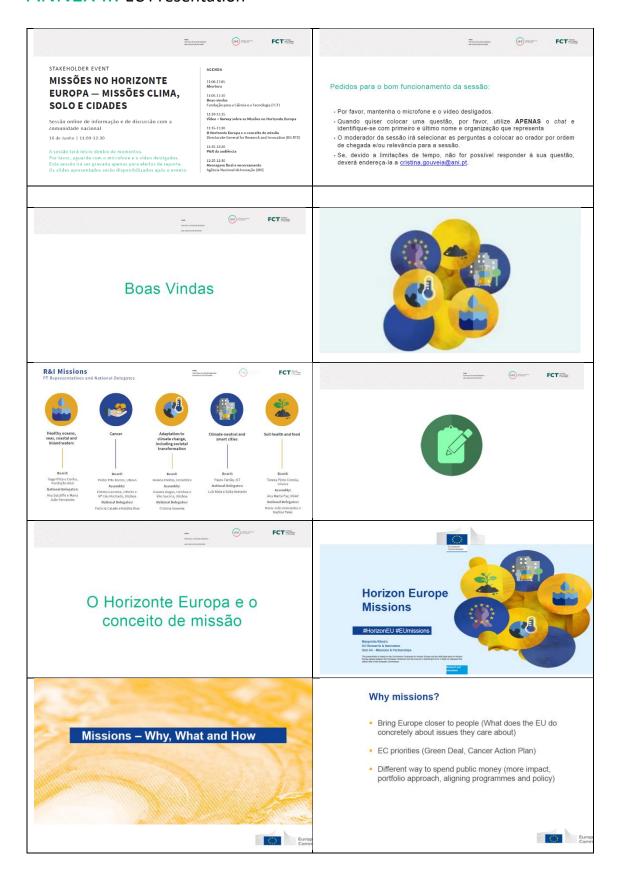
National Innovation Agency (ANI)

**Event website** 



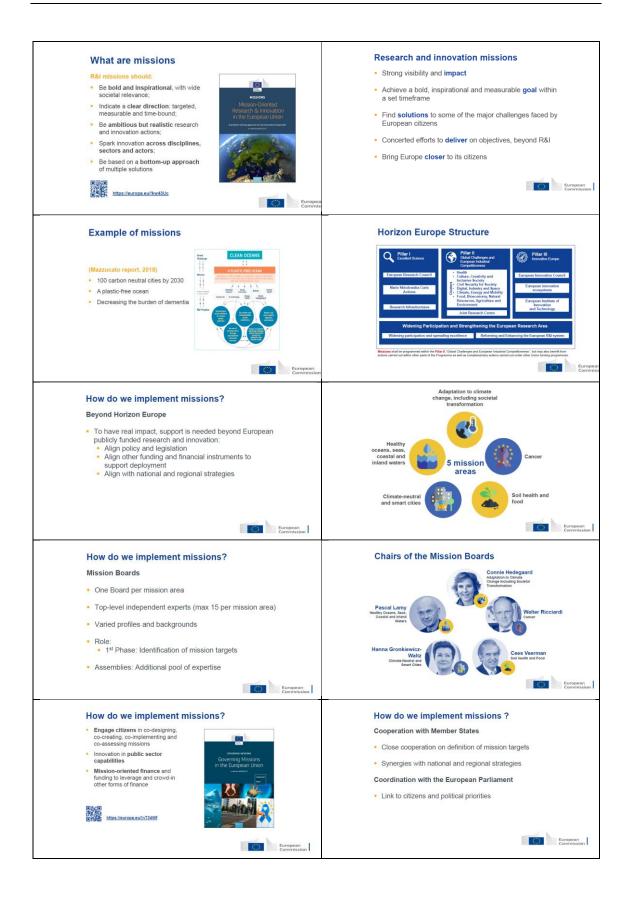


#### **ANNEX II:** EC Presentation

















DPI – Direção de Promoção Internacional