

**STRATEGIC AND TARGETED SUPPORT TO INCENTIVISE TALENTED NEWCOMERS TO NMP PROJECTS UNDER HORIZON EUROPE****Press release – Project launch**

The **FIT-4-NMP** project is a recently launched support action funded by the European Commission's Horizon 2020 programme to increase the participation of talented newcomers from underrepresented regions in the Horizon Europe programme in the fields of nanotechnologies, advanced materials and new manufacturing processes (NMP).

In this context, newcomers refer to organizations - especially small and medium-sized enterprises - that did not participate in Horizon 2020 NMP projects, but which have important research and innovations on a national and/or international level (e.g. projects, patents, marketed products, etc.)

The **FIT-4-NMP** project will take strategic and targeted approaches to facilitate collaboration across borders and between industry and research organizations.

From a strategic perspective, the project will:

- Investigate statistical data on a regional level in the EU-13, EU-15 and Associated Countries to identify underrepresented regions with a low level of participation in Horizon 2020 NMP projects and with untapped innovation potential.
- Analyse the complex reasons of non-participation of talented innovators in NMP projects via a dedicated survey of these innovators and research and innovation policy experts on regional and national levels.
- Formulate and communicate best practices and recommendations to relevant stakeholders: talented newcomers; regional/national authorities responsible for research and innovation policy; local innovation and technology transfer nodes; and the EC.

From a targeted perspective, the **FIT-4-NMP** project will:

- Organise innovation workshops between talented newcomers and NMP Top Innovators to facilitate their networking.
- Provide training to talented newcomers on technology-transfer, proposal writing, and use of European networking portals.
- Provide hands-on support to talented newcomers to prepare proposals for Horizon Europe.

The project brings together partners located in EU Member States and Associated Countries with a low level of participation in H2020 NMP. The project partners represent “umbrella” organisations and leading research institutions with extensive contacts with innovative NMP organisations and talented newcomers in their regions.

Overall, **FIT-4-NMP** will enable more efficient exploitation of NMP capacities and talents from across the entire EU and Associated Countries. This will create positive changes across European NMP research and innovation chains and contribute to the development of new NMP product and process innovations that are important for EU industry competitiveness and EU citizen wellbeing.

**Project information:**

*Duration:* 1 January 2021 – 31 December 2023

*Budget:* 1.5 million euro

*Consortium partners:*



*Coordinator contacts:*

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