



**FutuResilience**  
Building sustainable futures together

**OPEN CALL TEXT**

**FUTURERESILIENCE – Open Call for Pilots  
(Ref: FRS\_2023\_01)**

Closing date for proposals:  
Thursday 12th October 2023 at 15:00 (CET)

Final Version of 15/06/2023



*This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101094455.*

## Contents

1	Introduction .....	3
2	Topics addressed by the open call .....	3
3	Who can apply for funding? .....	5
4	How to apply? .....	5
5	How will the projects be selected? .....	5
6	Support to applicants.....	6



## 1 Introduction

Multiple, overlapping and interconnected crises are increasing in frequency, raising challenges of societal resilience. These crises do not impact expertise in a single domain but are testing the capacities of a variety of stakeholders to connect, cope, communicate, react, and rebuild. Environmental, health, conflict, energy and resource crises highlight major inequalities in public, private and civil society spheres. Traditional institutions are not adequately prepared to face unexpected adverse events and deal with uncertainty.

Societal resilience entails absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities. All three capacities depend heavily on the ability of the social, economic and political systems to mobilise resources in the face of a crisis, quickly set up connections between diverse domains and include a varied range of stakeholders in the process of sense-making and narrative formation (participatory capacity). Pre-existing societal conditions, including institutions, knowledge and culture, shape resilience. Thus, building and strengthening societal resilience is a context-dependent process.

Research and Innovation (R&I) can play a key role by providing a basis for a more flexible and responsive capacity of stakeholders in crisis periods, informing policy development and decision-making, and thus, strengthening resilience and preparedness for future events. The FUTURESILIENCE project aims to strengthen Europe's economic and social resilience and, thereby, its ability to respond to future crises rapidly. This will be accomplished by facilitating a rapid and effective use of policy-relevant R&I findings for national, regional, and local actors. At the project's core is an experimentation phase that will include 10 Future Resilience labs working with foresight and participative methodologies to tackle a range of challenges. The experimentation approach will shed light on the future risks that Europe may face and uncover vulnerabilities in the different cases. As part of the experimentation phase, the FUTURESILIENCE project will provide financial support to third parties to achieve its objectives. Third-party projects (pilot cases) may only receive financial support if they work on areas that foster societal resilience, as listed below.

## 2 Topics addressed by the open call

Organised in co-creation mode and guided by a group of experts from the consortium, each Future Resilience lab will **address challenges** they face from internal or external shocks<sup>1</sup>. The experimentation will result in the uptake and tailoring of existing solutions and design of novel ones to address the challenges of the pilot case, looking to increase future preparedness and resilience.

The guiding questions to frame the project could include: what would be a major challenge/shock to which your [e.g. city, region, organisation] would be most vulnerable to, given the existing capacities? How is the challenge interrelated with other existing problems? What solutions have been implemented that contributed to mitigate the impact? What can

---

<sup>1</sup> By shock, we understand this widely, including multiple types of risks included, for instance, in the Global Risk Report by the World Bank: <https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-risks-report-2023/>



be changed in order to be better prepared for the future? What are the gaps that should be addressed to build resilience and strengthen absorptive and transformative capacities? indicatively, the following table may serve as a reference, structured by areas and challenges that are may be impacted by different types of shocks:

Area	Examples of challenges
<b>Urban development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing as human right</li> <li>- Difficulties in implementing green or digital solutions in remote regions</li> <li>- Gentrification and inequalities</li> <li>- Unsustainable concentration of population in urban centres / unsustainable urban sprawl</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to climate-friendly technology</li> <li>- Shifts to sustainable food production systems</li> <li>- Producing food with less water</li> <li>- Preserving food biodiversity</li> <li>- Addressing land-use conflicts</li> </ul>
<b>Mobility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Transitioning to net-zero policies</li> <li>- Use of data to improve mobility solutions</li> <li>- Sustainable mobility systems (safe, affordable, accessible, low-emission, climate neutral)</li> <li>- Traffic reduction (e.g. freight transport)</li> </ul>
<b>Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shifting to digital health, linking to environmental and social implications of doing so.</li> <li>- Supply chain disruptions due to material shortages</li> <li>- Facing pathogens X</li> </ul>
<b>Welfare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ageing population and migration (including refugees, mass movement of people, displacement)</li> <li>- Social protection</li> <li>- Tax systems</li> <li>- Greed vs. solidarity</li> <li>- Financial disruptions</li> </ul>
<b>Industries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to material</li> <li>- Inefficiency of supply chain</li> <li>- Skill gaps in a changing labour market</li> <li>- Beyond growth</li> <li>- Sustainable value creation models</li> <li>- Technology disruptions</li> </ul>
<b>Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increasing extreme-weather events (heatwaves, flooding, etc.)</li> <li>- Increasing loss of biodiversity</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Water resilience</li><li>- Increased stress on water/energy/food supplies</li><li>- Supply of materials for digital transitions</li></ul>
--	---

Applicants may apply for one or more of the listed areas or address additional specific topics for which they have identified a potential societal and transformational impact in terms of building or strengthening resilience. We welcome applications that **work with cross-cutting areas** and interrelated uncertainties, looking to create interlinkages among multiple topics (i.e. energy and mobility or housing and inequalities, etc.)

### 3 Who can apply for funding?

Applicants must be legal entities and should be registered in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country (see list of countries in Guide for Applicants). The call is open to individual organisations or joint consortium applications (see guide for applications for further information). For both cases:

- The leader should be based on the place where lab will take place.
- Within the application form, a preliminary mapping of potential stakeholders (including local, regional and national policymaking levels) to engage in the experimentation phase should be included. Support letters or Memorandum of Understandings are a plus.
- Groups of stakeholders already working together in previous experiences are encouraged to apply and bring further stakeholders to a joint application.

### 4 How to apply?

The application guidelines present a step-by-step process for the application. Each application should be done using the application form. No further sections beyond those requested will be considered in the application. Proposals should not be longer than 10 pages, annexes excluded.

You please download the files available at the [www.futuresilience.eu](http://www.futuresilience.eu) – under news section.

### 5 How will the projects be selected?

The evaluation procedure of the proposals is set out in the Guide for Applicants. The time schedule for the Open Call is as follows:



Date	Step
15th June 2023	Open call launched
12 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	Deadline for submission of applications
20 <sup>th</sup> October 2023	1 <sup>st</sup> Evaluation: eligibility check
31 <sup>st</sup> October 2023	2 <sup>nd</sup> Evaluation: experts' individual evaluation
16 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	3 <sup>rd</sup> Evaluation: evaluation panel decision and submission to European Commission for final approval
January 2024	Contracting and signature of approved third-party grants and start of projects.

- The maximum duration of the third-party projects should be **up to 12 months**.
- Maximum award to any single third-party will be **€60,000** over the life-time of the FUTURESILIENCE project. The criteria for determining the exact amount of the financial support is defined in section 5.2 of the Guide for Applicants.
- Sub-grants may not have the purpose or effect of producing a profit for the beneficiary (third-party grantee).
- Financial support will be paid in instalments against achievement of pre-defined milestones (1: Signature of contract; 2: Final Report approved, including verification of expenditure)

Technical evaluation criteria for proposals will include:

- Excellence (50% weight): (a) coherence of objectives, concept, approach and ambition of the proposal, (b) alignment of the topic selected with the call text/identified thematic priorities, (c) sectoral-focus and cross-cutting nature, (d) relevance to societal, gender, cultural diversity, environmental and IPR-related issues, (e) possibility to mobilise sectoral/multilevel stakeholders, (f) sustainability approach to the process.
- Experience (20% weight): Track record and previous experience of the team with co-creation activities and participative methodologies, relevance and added value, composition of the team.
- Feasibility (30% weight): management strategy, availability of resources (personnel, facilities, networks, etc.); realistic timeframe and comprehensive description of implementation (milestones, risk management).

## 6 Support to applicants

The FUTURESILIENCE consortium will organise a number of webinars and be present at a number of events during the period June-July 2023 to discuss with interested applicants. Please check the FUTURESILIENCE open call pages & follow our social media accounts: <https://twitter.com/futuresilience> or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/futuresilience/> if you would like to register for one of these sessions.

For further information on the call or if you have any doubts relating to the eligibility rules or the information that is to be provided in the application form, please contact the Support Team: [contact@futuresilience.eu](mailto:contact@futuresilience.eu)

