

Horizon Europe: Greek university seeks a coordinator and industrial partners for research on human oversight of artificial intelligence in manufacturing

Summary

Profile type

Research & Development Request Greece

Company's country

POD reference

RDRGR20261008001

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

**Research and development
cooperation agreement**

Targeted countries

• All countries

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Term of validity

8 Oct 2026**8 Oct 2027**

Last update

8 Oct 2026

General Information

Short summary

A Greek university laboratory specialising in artificial intelligence (AI), risk management and AI governance seeks a coordinator and an industrial consortium for Horizon Europe topic HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage. It offers human oversight, decision-authority and evaluation methods for AI-supported manufacturing workflows. Partners sought bring industrial AI, robotics, operational pilots and worker participation under a research and development cooperation agreement.

Full description

A Greek university research group with expertise in artificial intelligence, model validation, risk management and AI governance seeks to join an existing or forming consortium preparing a proposal for the Horizon Europe topic HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage on new approaches for human/AI collaboration for the workforce of the future. The laboratory seeks participation as a research partner, with responsibility for a task or work package where appropriate; the coordinator and industrial partners would lead the overall proposal and pilot implementation.

The research challenge is to make AI-supported industrial work effective and accountable while preserving workers' ability to understand, question and intervene in consequential decisions. Potential pilot contexts include AI copilots, digital twins, collaborative robots and extended-reality guidance used by workers and supervisors. Within a consortium led by a coordinator with manufacturing and industrial AI capabilities, the laboratory proposes to develop and evaluate the governance and human-oversight layer of collaborative workflows.

Proposed contributions include mapping decision authority; defining when AI should defer or escalate to a human; designing intervention, correction and override mechanisms; translating relevant EU AI Act oversight requirements into pilot requirements; and developing contestability mechanisms, traceable decision logs and common evaluation indicators. Evaluation would examine appropriate reliance on AI, the practical ability to intervene, and accountability across pilots. The applicability of legal requirements will depend on each use case and system classification.

The laboratory combines research in neural systems, model identification and validation, financial engineering and risk management with current AI-governance research and applied AI development. Its financial model-risk perspective supports systematic validation, monitoring, escalation and documentation. Its current activities include core AI responsibilities in a nationally funded project on predicting cognitive-disorder progression, and the design of an AI-assisted academic assessment environment. This research base can inform the design and evaluation of methods with industrial partners.

The target is a Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Research and Innovation Action under HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage. The call has two stages: 2 February 2027 and 2 September 2027. The expected EU contribution is EUR 4-6 million per project; the consortium budget and duration remain to be agreed. A proposed expression-of-interest deadline is 30 November 2026, subject to confirmation before publication.

Cooperation is sought through a research and development cooperation agreement with a coordinator, manufacturing end-users, industrial AI and robotics developers, researchers in human factors and worker-centred evaluation, and organisations representing workers or providing vocational training. The consortium would provide pilot environments, technical integration and industrial data access, subject to permissions and agreements.

Advantages and innovations

The proposed contribution connects technical model evaluation with the governance of decisions made using AI. Its distinctive methodological basis is model-risk management from finance, adapted through research into industrial human/AI workflows.

The proposed work would examine who can act on an AI recommendation, who can challenge it, when escalation occurs, and whether an authorised worker can intervene effectively. Outputs could include decision-authority maps, escalation protocols, contestability requirements, traceable decision records and evaluation indicators shared across pilots. The contribution can therefore complement partners responsible for AI technologies, robotics, human-machine interfaces and manufacturing deployment.

For an industrial consortium, the proposed contribution would translate relevant human-oversight requirements into concrete pilot procedures and measurable indicators. Methods would be co-designed with industrial partners and workers, then evaluated alongside operational performance, usability and appropriate reliance on AI.

Technical specification or expertise sought

Coordinator with experience in Horizon Europe research consortia and proposal preparation, preferably in industrial AI, robotics or human factors. Manufacturing partners able to host operational pilots involving workers and supervisors using AI copilots, digital twins, collaborative robots or extended-reality guidance. Technology partners able to develop or integrate industrial AI, robotics, human-machine interfaces and oversight mechanisms. Human-factors researchers able to evaluate usability, workload and reliance. Worker representatives, works councils or vocational training networks able to support co-design and training. Partners should help define use cases, baseline measures, data-access conditions and intervention and escalation requirements.

Stage of development

Concept stage

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal**
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions**
- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**

IPR Status

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

The principal partner sought is an experienced coordinator of an existing or forming industrial consortium preparing a proposal for the specified Horizon Europe topic. The coordinator would lead proposal development, assemble complementary capabilities and integrate the laboratory's proposed governance and evaluation contribution into the work plan.

Manufacturing end-users would define relevant human/AI workflows, provide pilot sites and facilitate participation by workers and supervisors. Industrial AI, robotics and automation partners would develop and integrate the technical systems, interfaces, decision logs and mechanisms for human intervention. Human-factors researchers would contribute worker-centred design, ergonomics and evaluation of usability, workload and reliance. Worker representatives, works councils and vocational training organisations would support participation in co-design, identify skills and training needs, and help evaluate whether intervention and contestability mechanisms work in practice.

The Greek University would participate as a research partner and could lead or co-lead a task or work package on human oversight, decision authority, contestability, accountability and evaluation. Roles, deliverables, person-months, data access and intellectual-property arrangements would be agreed during proposal preparation. Cooperation sought: research and development cooperation agreement.

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **SME 50 - 249**
- **Big company**
- **SME 11-49**
- **University**
- **R&D Institution**
- **Other**

Call Details

Framework program

Horizon Europe

Call title and identifier

HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage — New approaches for Human/AI collaboration for the workforce of the future (RIA) (Made in Europe and AI, Data and Robotics partnerships)

Submission and evaluation scheme

Two-stage submission and evaluation. Seeking consortium participation for stage 1. Stage 1: 2 February 2027. Stage 2: 2 September 2027, subject to successful stage-1 evaluation.

Anticipated project budget

Coordinator required

TBD; EU contribution EUR 4-6m

Yes

Deadline for EoI

30 Nov 2026

Deadline of the call

2 Feb 2027

Project duration in weeks

Web link to the call

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52-two-stage>

Project title and acronym

To be defined by the consortium; no project title or acronym agreed.

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **01003003 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)**
- **01004016 - Analysis Risk Management**
- **01003008 - Data Processing / Data Interchange, Middleware**
- **01003015 - Knowledge Management, Process Management**
- **02003001 - Process automation**

Targeted countries

- **All countries**

Market keywords

- **02007011 - Manufacturing/industrial software**
- **02007016 - Artificial intelligence related software**
- **08002003 - Process control equipment and systems**
- **08002004 - Robotics**

Sector groups involved

- **Digital**