

Korea-EU Horizon Europe Researchers Consulting Forum

on Cluster 3 & Cluster 6



CONSULTANTS

Cluster 3



Irene Carrion Alvarez

Innovation Expert, Chief Grants Officer
and Head of EU Projects Dept. at FundingBox

Bachelor in Political Science and Master's degree in International Relations and Corporate Social Responsibility. More than 15 years of experience in project design and management. Began her career at Fundacion CEDDET managing e-learning and blended learning activities funded by the World Bank and Spanish International Cooperation Agency for public service experts from Latin America. Later worked as grants consultant for innovation and research projects across consultancy firms and public/non-profit research institutes, specialising in IT projects, social innovation, business incubation, and public-private partnerships in Europe and Latin America. Since 2018 she has worked as Innovation Expert at FundingBox and since 2020 as Head of EU Projects Department.



Valentin Polo

Senior Innovation Consultant / Team Leader
Aerospace, Security & Defence at PNO Innovation Spain

Holds an MSc and PhD in Electrical Engineering (Photonics) from Universidad Politecnica de Valencia. With more than 25 years of experience in R&D+i activities and EU project proposal preparation across advanced materials, digital technologies, photonics, AI/ML, XR/VR, and applications to SATCOM, automotive, health, circular economy, telecom, defence, and security. Has coordinated 9 EU projects, acts as external reviewer for the European Commission, and has published more than 130 scientific papers and conference contributions.

Cluster 6



Mayte Carracedo

Co-Founder and Chief of Ecosystems
and Impact at FundingBox

Degree in Political Sciences and International Studies from the University of Santiago de Compostela; Master in European Policies from ULB (Belgium); MBA from EAE (Spain). Over 20 years of experience in public funding for innovation, with a strong focus on digital transformation, smart manufacturing, and ecosystem-building projects. Expert in Digital Innovation Hubs, currently focused on building the FundingBox ecosystem around deep-tech stakeholders in Europe.



Kim Schierke

Head of Central Systems and Bid Management
at Schuman Associates

Brussels-based EU funding and public affairs consultancy leader. Supports organisations in identifying, positioning for, and applying to EU funding opportunities, with particular expertise in Horizon Europe and the Connecting Europe Facility. Leads the Central Systems and Bid Management practice, supporting clients throughout the full EU funding application cycle: monitoring opportunities, assessing strategic fit, structuring project concepts, coordinating consortium inputs, developing proposal methodologies, and ensuring alignment with EU programme requirements.