



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 390 15 March 2024

Wageningen Grant Office (WGO) Newsletter for Wageningen University & Research on the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and on other international Grants, national and regional Grants, and on relevant EU, Global and national R&D and innovation developments.

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Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe / EU regional funds

No Horizon budget reduction in 2024, but more money for defense research (13 March 2024)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/korting-horizon-budget-niet-in-2024-wel-meer-geld-naar-defensieonderzoek>

The 2.1 billion euro cut to Horizon Europe will not take place this year, according to the proposal for amendments to the 2024 EU budget. In February, the Council and Parliament agreed to a 2.1 billion euro cut. on the EU research and innovation programme.



Money to defense research and Ukraine

The revision of the EU budget for 2024 reports no cuts to Horizon Europe. The Commission does propose to commit an additional 125 million euros to defense research within the European Defense Fund (EDF). This is evident from the **proposal for amendments** https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e085ec11-091f-436b-8e65-4181cc1a60de_en?filename=COM_2024_80_1_EN_ACT_part1_v4.pdf to the EU budget for 2024. This means that the first cuts to the framework program will most likely take place from 2025. **For now it is still unclear which parts of Horizon will be cut.**

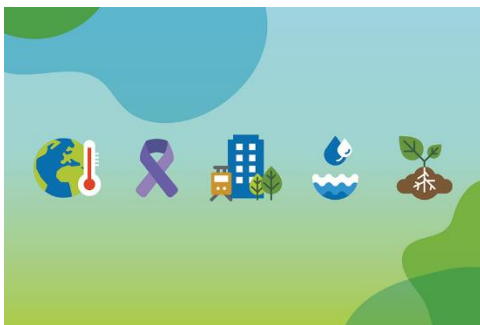
See press release EC 'Commission proposes amendment to EU budget 2024 in record time to continue delivering on EU priorities': https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/IP_24_1229

Read full article here: <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/korting-horizon-budget-niet-in-2024-wel-meer-geld-naar-defensieonderzoek> (in Dutch)

EU Missions info days: New topics and funding opportunities (12 March 2024)

Source: Website EC <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/3WjiVunxm0t5j4zQIVax3Q/overview>.

The European Commission is hosting an online info session to present new funding opportunities part of the **EU Missions in Horizon Europe** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe_en in the areas of health, climate and the environment.



Are you interested in funding opportunities for projects helping to reach the EU Missions goals https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe_en in the areas of health, climate and the environment? Would you like to contribute to bring concrete solutions to some of the greatest challenges facing our society?

Join us online and learn more about the new calls in the Missions' part of the main Work Programme 2024 under Horizon Europe for each mission:

- Adaptation to Climate Change Mission
- Cancer Mission
- 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart cities by 2030 Mission
- Restore our Ocean and Waters by 2030 Mission
- A Soil Deal for Europe Mission

The EU Missions part of the main work programme 2024 under Horizon Europe contains new mission specific calls and topics to support the full implementation of Missions according to their implementation plans. In addition, the calls under Cross-cutting Activities will be presented in its own session.

Note PJ: the final Workprogramme 2024 for the missions will be published at the beginning of April; for the latest version of Draft Workprogramme go to the WGO Portal: https://intranet.wur.nl/Project/GrantOffice/Pages/Edit/I_JubwgF5kWqvKHE_9Fp5g#

The event will take place on 25 and 26 April.

Details are available here <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/3WjiVunxm0t5j4zQlVax3Q/overview>.

European Research Executive Agency (REA)'s Post on the seven call 2024 under Cluster 6 (11 March 2024)

Source: REA <https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7170696535070986240/>

The seven #HorizonEU 2024 Cluster 6 calls for proposals have recently close. We have received 1.269 project ideas. The submitted proposals are competing for €890 million EU funding. Evaluations are starting with the help of independent experts. Successful projects will be informed in June. They are expected to start as of November to help the EU deliver on its climate action goals set on the #EUGreenDeal

Submission figures per call / destination:

- **Biodiversity call (12 topics): 227 proposals** are competing for €111 million. Under this call, the topic 'Demonstrating the potential of Nature-based solutions and the New European Bauhaus to contribute to sustainable, inclusive and resilient living spaces and communities' has received the highest number of proposals (62).
- **EUFarm2Fork call (18 topics): 373 proposals** are competing for €164 million. In this case, the topics 'New healthy and sustainable food products and processes' and 'EU-African Union cooperation on agroforestry management for climate change adaptation and mitigation' have received the highest number of proposals (59 each).
- **Circular economy call (16 topics): 392 proposals** competing for €147,5 million. Most of the proposals (62) have been submitted to develop 'Circular solutions for textile value chains through innovative sorting, recycling, and design for recycling'.
- **Zero pollution call (5 topics): 95 proposals** are competing for €61 million. Most of the proposals (46) under this call have been submitted to advance 'Innovative technologies for zero pollution, zero-waste biorefineries'.

🟢 **Climate Action call (7 topics): 64 proposals** are competing for €61 million. The highest interest has gone to the topic 'Improving irrigation practices and technologies in agriculture' which has received 19 project proposals (19).

🟢 **Resilient communities call (5 topics): 99 proposals** are competing for €37 million. Under this call, the topic 'New sustainable business and production models for farmers and rural communities' has received the highest number of proposals (42).

🟢 **Governance call (12 topics): 83 proposals** are competing for €110,5 million. Most of the proposals (28) submitted to this call aim to 'Enhance working conditions and strengthen the work force through digital and data technologies – the potential of robotics and augmented reality in agriculture'.

Learn more about each call

➡ <https://europa.eu/!bHUYQP> Subscribe to Horizon Europe Cluster 6: 'Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment' newsletter for updates straight into your inbox

➡ <https://europa.eu/!gmuqxq> #Farm2Fork #ZeroPollution #EUBiodiversity #EUForest #BlueEconomyEU #ClimateAction <https://lnkd.in/dBbd3Vyx>



Over a thousand ideas received to build a more sustainable, resilient and healthy Europe

Note PJ: WUR was involved in 144 application of which 14 co-ordinations!

Read more and keep an eye on the upcoming calls: <https://europa.eu/!bHUYQP>

Commission to boost R&I knowledge with new guidelines for researchers and innovators (7 March 2024)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/guiding-principles-knowledge-valorisation-and-implementing-codes-practice_en

The European Commission has announced recommendations for **industry-academia co-creation** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024H0774&qid=1709626992959> and citizen engagement <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024H0736&qid=1709626992959> to maximise the transformation of R&I results into solutions that benefit society.

The Commission wants to encourage researchers and innovators to build strong partnerships between, and to build up links between research organisations and societal actors.

"These codes of practice, developed with stakeholders, will be a valuable tool for bridging the gap between the lab and the market and for boosting knowledge valorisation," said Iliana Ivanova, EU commissioner for research and innovation.

The EU Guiding Principles for Knowledge Valorisation aim to maximise the transformation of research and innovation results into solutions that benefit society. They mainly address national, regional and local policy makers.

Practitioners and stakeholders can get more detailed guidance for their daily practice in dedicated Codes of Practice:

Code of practice on the management of intellectual assets for knowledge valorisation: Read more

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/guiding-principles-knowledge-valorisation-and-implementing-codes-practice/code-practice-management-intellectual-assets-knowledge-valorisation_en

Code of practice on standardisation in the European Research Area: Read more: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/guiding-principles-knowledge-valorisation-and-implementing-codes-practice/code-practice-standardisation-european-research-area_en

Code of practice on citizen-engagement: Read more: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/guiding-principles-knowledge-valorisation-and-implementing-codes-practice/code-practice-citizen-engagement_en

Code of practice on industry-academia co-creation for knowledge valorisation: Read more https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/guiding-principles-knowledge-valorisation-and-implementing-codes-practice/code-practice-industry-academia-co-creation-knowledge-valorisation_en

Read the full announcement here: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/eu-valorisation-policy/knowledge-valorisation-platform/guiding-principles-knowledge-valorisation-and-implementing-codes-practice_en .

Helmholtz releases wish list for the next EU Framework Programme (7 March 2024)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/live-blog/horizon-blog-european-rd-policy-newsbytes>
Germany's largest research organisation is putting its weight behind a call by MEPs for a €200 billion budget for FP10, the EU's next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation.

In a position paper https://www.helmholtz.de/assets/helmholtz_gemeinschaft/user_upload/Brussels_Office/Positions/20240228_HELMHOLTZ_Position_Paper_on_FP10_Policy_Considerations.pdf released last week, Helmholtz says increased investment is crucial to ensure the success of FP10.

Bigger funds would help the EU solve big challenges such as digital transformation, energy transition, climate change, the depletion of natural resources and the degradation of ecosystems.

"To meet all these enormous challenges, an increased, very ambitious research budget is key to promoting future innovative and creative solutions – and a sustainable future for Europe," the paper says.

In an interview with Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/planning-fp10/fp10-scrap-missions-favour-ai-and-solar-flagships-says-helmholtz-head> in January, Helmholtz president Otmar Wiestler said FP10 should include EU-wide efforts to take industrial leadership in new technologies.

Note PJ: WUR was involved in 144 application of which 14 co-ordinations!

Read more and keep an eye on the upcoming calls: <https://europa.eu/lbHUYQP>

Other International funding

1ST CO-FUNDED CALL OF THE AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP "FOSTERING AGROECOLOGY AT FARM AND LANDSCAPE LEVELS" THE CALL IS OPEN! (6 March 2024)

Source: Website European partnership Agroecology <https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1>

The objective of this first call of the Agroecology partnership is to fund transdisciplinary research and innovation projects addressing the agroecology transition of both conventional and organic farming systems. Projects are expected to study and implement agroecology at two geographic scales:

Theme 1 – at the farm level and its immediate surroundings

Theme 2 – at the landscape or territorial level. Proposals should demonstrate a multidisciplinary and integrated approach with a multi-actor perspective.

They should consider the problems and challenges from a European perspective and beyond. Projects may be based on existing living labs or bring together different actors following the living lab approach. Research Infrastructures could be incorporated to complement the living lab approach. R&I questions should address actual needs of stakeholders, in co-creation processes together with end-users and integrate their practical knowledge.

Guidelines for applicants and supporting documents with further information of the Call can be found **at the website** <https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1> under "CALL DOCUMENTS" on the left-hand side of this page. Please check on regular basis for updates of the documents as some information are preliminary. Updates will be also announced here.

Webinar was hosted on 05 March 2024 from 10:00 to 13:00 CET. Recordings and slides can be found here: <https://fz-juelich.sciebo.de/s/iTWWA2NDtC1kHgS>. All questions asked during the webinar and the answers will be also published soon.

The deadline for pre-proposals is 2024 April 26, 14:00h CEST.

The deadline for full proposal submission is 2024 September 19, 14:00h CEST.

The registration area for consortium coordinators is now open. After registration of the coordinator, the coordinator can invite/add partners through the coordinator account.

For pre-proposal submission, please carefully read the **"guidelines for applicants"** and familiarise yourself with the supporting call documents. These documents can be found in the navigation bar, CALL DOCUMENTS. Only online applications via this submission tool will be accepted.

Please note that only the coordinator can carry out and complete pre-proposal submission on behalf of each applying research consortium. However each partner needs to complete his/her part of the partner profile. For all partners of an applying consortium, it is strongly recommended to contact their respective national/regional contact persons for national/regional funding regulations. The contact details can be found in Annex IX (see CALL DOCUMENTS)

For all the information about call and all the required documents: <https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1>

National funding

Three projects awarded for research on realising, accelerating and scaling up mission-driven innovation (15 March 2024)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/three-projects-awarded-for-research-on-realising-accelerating-and-scaling-up-mission-driven-innovationhaling-van-missiegedreven-innovatie>



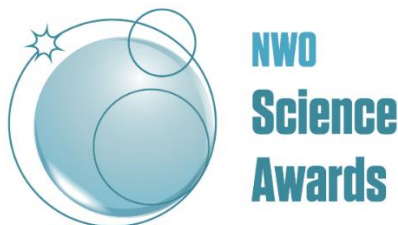
Funding has been awarded to three projects under the KIC Mission call 'Realisation, acceleration and upscaling of mission-driven innovation'. Interdisciplinary consortia of knowledge institutions, private and public partners, will research the usability and applicability of methods, models, ways of working and/or tools for accelerating and scaling up mission-driven innovation, in conjunction with facilitating coordination structures and system conditions.

Climate change, cybersecurity, an ageing population: the Dutch government's Mission-driven Top Sector and Innovation Policy addresses major societal challenges. However, the selection and application of appropriate methods, models, work practices or tools to make MTIB successful is complex and context-dependent. For example, it is often unclear which methods, models, work practices or tools are actually effective or scalable in a given context. At the same time, there is a lack of knowledge about the system conditions and factors that facilitate mission-driven innovation. For example, how can conditions such as funding, support, legislation and/or regulation be designed to support mission-driven innovation and the realisation of societal earning capacity? With this systems approach, the assigned projects in the KIA Societal Earning Capacity aim to contribute to the realisation, acceleration and scaling up of innovations for societal challenges within the KIAs Agriculture, water and food; Security; and Health and care.

For more information and the funded projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/three-projects-awarded-for-research-on-realising-accelerating-and-scaling-up-mission-driven-innovationhaling-van-missiegedreven-innovatie>

Who will you nominate for an NWO Science award in 2024? (13 March 2024)

Source: Website NWO news <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/who-will-you-nominate-for-an-nwo-science-award-in-2024>



You are able, once again, to put researchers in the spotlight by nominating them for one of five special prizes. Exact and natural scientists of all levels, who excel in the areas of societal impact, team science, diversity or science communication, are eligible. The call is open until the 13th of June.

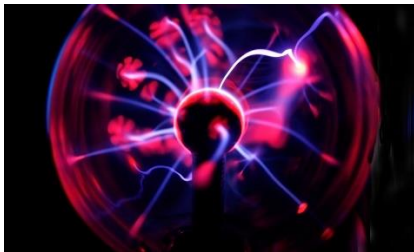
The NWO domain Science has been awarding these five prizes since 2020 to reward researchers who make an extra effort on societal impact, team science, diversity and communication in their research. With the cash prize, NWO wants to encourage the winners and their environment to continue their initiatives. The following awards are being presented

- **The Athena Award** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/athena-award> is for outstanding female researchers who are thereby a role model for others.
- **The Communication Initiative Award** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/communication-award> rewards researchers for effective science communication initiatives that reach a wider audience.
- **The Diversity & Inclusion Initiative Award** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/diversity-inclusion-initiative-award> is for (small-scale) initiatives that increase workplace diversity within the field.
- **The Stairway to impact Award** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/stairway-to-impact-award> rewards researchers for taking steps towards impact on society.
- **The Team Science Award** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/team-science-award> rewards the most inspiring and successful team of researchers from different disciplines who have taken up a scientific challenge together, where their individual strengths and expertise demonstrably reinforce each other.

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/who-will-you-nominate-for-an-nwo-science-award-in-2024>

NWO will distribute extra budget NWO Talent Programme differently (13 March 2024)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-will-distribute-extra-budget-nwo-talent-programme-differently>



NWO is going to distribute the extra available budget (37.5 million euros) in the NWO Talent Programme differently, starting in 2025. From the new round, the demand for research funding will determine the distribution of the money per science domain, in combination with the quality of research.

NWO decided this in response to the Rathenau Institute's recently published report ('NWO programmes for curiosity-driven research: Possible bases for budget distribution'). Rathenau conducted research on the possible bases for budget distribution for curiosity-driven research.

NWO has freed up a combined 37.5 million euros over the past two years to provide more opportunities for talented researchers in the NWO Talent Programme. Annually, NWO now invests some 190 million euros in untied, curiosity-driven research for individual researchers through the Talent Programme (Veni, Vidi, Vici). The amount is divided among the four science domains: Science (ENW), Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH, in Dutch: SGW), Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES, in Dutch: TTW), and Healthcare Research and Medical Sciences (ZonMw). The current distribution of the budget between the domains has grown historically and has barely changed over the past 20 years.

Cautious shift

Based on the Rathenau report, NWO has now decided to distribute this extra budget made available in a different way starting in 2025. The new distribution will determine how many applications have been submitted in recent years per scientific domain, in combination with the quality of the research application. The distribution of the additional 37.5 million euros will then be as follows with effect from 2025:

- Science (ENW): 12.5 million euros
- Social Sciences and Humanities (SGW): 15.2 million euros
- Applied and Engineering Sciences (TTW): 3.9 million euros
- Healthcare Research and Medical Sciences (ZonMw): 5.9 million euros

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-will-distribute-extra-budget-nwo-talent-programme-differently>

EZK wants to extend the Venture Challenge scheme for five years (12 March 2024)

Source: Website Rijksoverheid <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2024/03/12/aanbieding-evaluatierapport-en-verlenging-vervaltermijn-subsidiemodule-venture-challenge>

Minister Adriaansens of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) has informed the House of Representatives by letter that she wants to extend the Venture Challenge (VC) scheme, which expires at the end of this year, for five years until December 31, 2029. This is based on a positive evaluation. of the scheme.

The Venture Challenge scheme aims to increase the valorization of knowledge through greater use of research results for market applications through starting companies. The scheme provides a subsidy to participate in the Venture Challenge program, in which a well-thought-out business case is developed with researchers and insight is provided into what is needed to bring findings to the market. The scheme is aimed at new entrepreneurs in the Life Sciences.

Most participants in the scheme have an academic background. They want to convert a scientific discovery into a product or service, but do not have the knowledge and experience to do so. In the ten-week Venture Challenge program, participants receive intensive coaching and guidance in setting up a company and developing their idea into a business plan. In addition, participants are introduced to the Life Sciences business ecosystem. They are brought into contact with relevant entrepreneurs, experts and investors. The support in the program helps to translate scientific findings more quickly into market-ready services and products.

For more information: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2024/03/12/aanbieding-evaluatierapport-en-verlenging-vervaltermijn-subsidiemodule-venture-challenge> and <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/8ea33ef0-bc3d-43da-9b8a-c42e423ffe68/file> (in Dutch)

Eleven grants in Impact Explorer for unexpected discoveries (8 March 2024)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/eleven-grants-in-impact-explorer-for-unexpected-discoveries>



While doing research, one can sometimes run into unexpected results. Even though it was not part of the research plan, you still want to do something with it. So, in order to explore these results, eleven projects will receive a small top-up grant of maximum 30,000 euros.

With this extra budget researchers can create a societal impact. Knowledge utilisation is important for modern science, but is being considered difficult in practice. When sudden opportunities arise, it is beneficial for society if they can be seized. Knowledge utilization increases the chance of societal impact of research and is therefore an important part of NWO's strategy.

Researchers interested in applying for the Impact Explorer can submit a proposal in the ongoing call. The grant is intended for activities to validate the potential societal impact of discoveries from more curiosity-driven research, from the Talent Line and Open Competitions of both NWO and ZonMw and to explore a route towards it. A total of 1 million euro is available for small grants between 20 and 30 thousand euros. A concise procedure will be used during the application process.

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/eleven-grants-in-impact-explorer-for-unexpected-discoveries>

Call open for research on antimicrobials (7 March 2024)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-for-research-on-antimicrobials>



The KIC call 'Antimicrobials for the preclinical pipeline' is now open for applications. Consortia of researchers and companies can submit research proposals to this programme, which was launched by NWO and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS) to develop new antimicrobials and alternative therapies against human bacterial and fungal infections.

Antimicrobial resistance (AMR) is one of the greatest threats to public health. The increasing difficulty in treating infections could lead to immense pressure on healthcare systems and a significant loss of healthy life years in the future. The emergence of AMR is accelerated by the excessive and improper use of antimicrobials. As a result, the effectiveness of these treatments is diminishing. Hence the need for new antimicrobial agents.

View the call for proposals: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-antimicrobials-for-the-preclinical-pipeline> and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NWO-VWS%20partnerschap%20calltekst_EN_final.pdf

Objective of the call

The objective of the KIC partnership 'Antimicrobials for the preclinical pipeline' is to fill the preclinical pipeline with potential new agents or therapies against human bacterial and fungal infections by funding public-private research. The focus is on the use and application of knowledge that can be translated into (pre-)clinical research within a reasonable time frame. The emphasis on public-private partnerships aims to bring together the expertise and resources of both sectors. This approach will also minimise the economic challenges and risks of developing new antimicrobials.

The deadline for **submitting pre-proposals** is 25 April 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST;

The deadline for **submitting applications** is 1 Oktober 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST.

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-for-research-on-antimicrobials>

Over 10 million euros for collaboration on future-proof high-tech equipment (4 March 2024)

Source: Website NWO news <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/over-10-million-euros-for-collaboration-on-future-proof-high-tech-equipment>



NWO has opened the call 'Future-proof high-tech equipment' to stimulate the development of a new generation of high-tech equipment. This future-proof high-tech equipment focuses on sustainability, digitalisation, health and the technology sovereignty of the Netherlands. A total of 10.6 mEuro is available for the public-private research.

The call 'Future-proof high-tech equipment - NxtGen Hightech open call 2024' is the first call stemming from the National Growth Fund programme NxtGen Hightech. The research will contribute to a new generation of high-tech equipment in the Netherlands. The Netherlands' current strength in this field is due to the expertise and entrepreneurial spirit of various players, including companies, knowledge institutions, governments and financiers. To maintain this position and strengthen future earning power, significant investments are needed.

View the call for proposals: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-future-proof-hightech-equipment>

Application areas

The National Growth Fund programme NxtGen Hightech aims to develop, deploy and apply new knowledge in six promising application domains over the next seven years. These application domains are:

1. Laser Satcom;
2. Energy conversion and storage;
3. Biomedical manufacturing technology;
4. Semicon equipment for heterogeneous integration;
5. Flexible micro-factories for composites;
6. Hands-free agrifood.

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/over-10-million-euros-for-collaboration-on-future-proof-high-tech-equipment>

Positive evaluation of Implementation Plan Investments Digital Research Infrastructure (4 March 2024)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/positive-evaluation-of-implementation-plan-investments-digital-research-infrastructure>



NWO is pleased with the positive evaluation of the Implementation Plan Investments in Digital Research Infrastructure. There is no need to revise the Implementation Plan. NWO will start working on the different recommendations made in the evaluation report.

In 2018, the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW) asked NWO for advice on the increasing digitalisation of science and the needs for digital infrastructure and expertise. In response, the then ICT Subcommittee of the Permanent Committee on Large-Scale Research Infrastructure (PC-GWI) provided NWO with advice in the spring of 2019. The planned investments suggested in the advice report were then specified in **the Implementation Plan Investments Digital Research Infrastructure** <https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/documents/Uitvoeringsplan%20investeringsen%20digitale%20onderzoeksinfrastructuur.pdf>. The Plan stipulated that NWO should evaluate the extent to which the additional investments had achieved the desired effects by the end of 2022. This evaluation has now been carried out by Dialogic, an independent research and consultancy company. The evaluation covers the years 2020-2022.

Conclusions of the evaluation report

Dialogic's evaluation report concludes that the collaboration between NWO, SURF and the eScience Centre went smoothly, despite the turbulent period during which the Implementation Plan was developed (the reorganisation of SURF and the eScience Center and the COVID-19 crisis), which delayed some parts of the Implementation Plan. The evaluation report also concludes that the Implementation Plan's investments in high-performance computing (HPC), other computing facilities and data storage are adequate and are perceived as positive.

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/positive-evaluation-of-implementation-plan-investments-digital-research-infrastructure>

Ammodo Science Fellowship 2024 Open for applications (4 March 2024)

Source: Website Ammodo https://ammodo-science-award.org/en/fellowship/?mc_cid=16968b3bcf&mc_eid=567335f160

This new fellowship offers early career researchers the opportunity to conduct high-quality research of their choice and expand their international network.

The fellowship will be granted biennially across four domains:
Biomedical Sciences, Humanities, Natural Sciences and Social Sciences.

Each fellowship ranges from **EUR 50,000 to EUR 200,000**.

Ammodo has allocated a total of **EUR 800,000 for this application round**

Ammodo is looking to reach ambitious researchers who:

- are within 0-5 years after their first PhD;
- present an innovative research proposal; and
- aspire to conduct research at a host institute abroad.

Deadline 6 September 2024

Start application round for Ammodo Science Fellowship 2024
Granting December 2024

For more information and the application forms: https://ammodo-science-award.org/en/fellowship/?mc_cid=16968b3bcf&mc_eid=567335f160 and <https://ammodo-science-award.org/en/fellowship/applications/>

MIT: Artificial Intelligence (AI) R&D Collaborative Projects (1 March 2024)

Source: Website RVO <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/mit/rd-samenwerkingsprojecten-ai>

Do you work with other SMEs to develop or innovate products, production processes or services and do you want to contribute to the development of the digital key technology Artificial Intelligence (AI)? You can then submit an application for an R&D Collaboration Project on the theme of AI. In this way the government stimulates innovation.

Call will open 19th of March 2024 and close the 7th of May 2024 at 17.00

For more information: <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/mit/rd-samenwerkingsprojecten-ai> (in Dutch)

Regional funding

Openings LEADER North Holland established (6 March 2024)

Source: Website Provincie Noord Holland https://www.noord-holland.nl/Bestuur/Gedeputeerde_Staten/Gedeputeerde_Staten/GS_besluitenlijst/2024/GS_besluitenlijst_5_maart_2024.pdf

The North Holland Provincial Executive (GS) has adopted the opening decisions for the implementation of LEADER projects in the Kop van Noord-Holland and Westfriesland. This will soon make it possible to apply for LEADER subsidies for rural projects in both regions.

An amount of € 3,180,231 will be available for LEADER projects in the Kop van Noord-Holland. A subsidy ceiling of €3,106,570 has been set for LEADER projects in Westfriesland 2023-2027. The exact opening dates have not yet been announced.

In addition, GS have amended the parent Implementation Regulation for European Agricultural Subsidies North Holland 2023-2027. Finally, GS have also adopted an amendment to the opening decision for the LEADER management costs component.

More information will follow after publication in the Provinciaal Gazette.

See also: https://www.noord-holland.nl/Bestuur/Gedeputeerde_Staten/Gedeputeerde_Staten/GS_besluitenlijst/2024/GS_besluitenlijst_5_maart_2024.pdf

4.3 million euros available for Flevoland's countryside (1 March 2024)

Source: Website Provincie Flevoland <https://www.flevoland.nl/actueel/leader-flevoland-2023-2027-geopend>

Do you have a good idea to strengthen the landscape, the quality of life, the economy or the sustainability of Flevoland? Then you can apply for a subsidy from April 2 to realize your initiative. This is the LEADER subsidy and you can apply for this subsidy until December 31, 2027. €4,293,750 is available: 80% of this amount is a European contribution (€3,435,000), the province of Flevoland and the 6 Flevoland municipalities contribute 20% (€858,750).

Apply for a grant

Residents, organizations, associations and entrepreneurs with a good idea can submit their subsidy application on this web page <https://www.flevoland.nl/Content/Pages/dossiers/Gemeenschappelijk-landbouwbeleid-GLB/LEADER/Stappenplan-subsidie-aanvragen> from April 2, 2024. Please note that your application must be in line with the Local Development Strategy (LOS). Submitted projects are assessed by the Local Action Group (LAG).

What is LEADER?

LEADER has been around for over 30 years. It is a European subsidy program that helps realize new projects in rural Flevoland. With the aim of developing the countryside sustainably by stimulating initiatives that focus on economic, ecological and social innovation. More information about LEADER can be found at [flevoland.nl/leader https://www.flevoland.nl/Content/Pages/dossiers/Gemeenschappelijk-landbouwbeleid-GLB/LEADER](https://www.flevoland.nl/Content/Pages/dossiers/Gemeenschappelijk-landbouwbeleid-GLB/LEADER).

For more information: <https://www.flevoland.nl/Content/Pages/dossiers/Gemeenschappelijk-landbouwbeleid-GLB/LEADER/Stappenplan-subsidie-aanvragen> and (in Dutch)

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

Swiss take another step towards being able to apply to Horizon Europe (12 March 2024)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/horizon-europe/swiss-take-another-step-towards-being-able-apply-horizon-europe>

The European Council has adopted a negotiating mandate with Switzerland. When talks formally begin, transitional measures will allow applications to the European Research Council this year, and the entire programme in 2025



Member states have signed off a negotiating mandate with Switzerland, clearing another hurdle in talks that pave the way for Swiss researchers to apply for European Research Council (ERC) grants. Switzerland has been locked out of Horizon Europe since Bern walked away from wider talks in 2021 to create a new legal framework for Swiss-EU relations.

Since then, though, technical talks have continued in the background, and last December the Commission and the Swiss government agreed on a Common Understanding <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/european-research-area/swiss-researchers-should-be-able-apply-european-research-council-grants> that will be the basis for formal negotiations. Today, member states signed off on that understanding, allowing talks proper to begin. Switzerland's Federal Council had already approved its own mandate on 8 March.

"On the basis of the mandate, the Commission will now be able to engage in formal negotiations with Switzerland on the broad package of measures," according to a **statement** <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2024/03/12/eu-switzerland-council-adopts-mandate-for-negotiations-on-future-relationship/> from the European Council. "The negotiations are expected to start in the coming days."

That matter for researchers because, as agreed in December, the EU will allow Swiss researchers to apply for ERC grants while Horizon Europe association negotiations are ongoing, rather than when they are complete. These transitional measures will also apply to the rest of Horizon Europe calls in 2025, meaning Swiss researchers should be able to apply for grants next year. They will not receive any money, however, until association is fully negotiated and signed off.

The first ERC call that could be available would be the 2024 advanced grants, set to open on 29 May. If Swiss researchers are once again allowed back into Horizon Europe proper, it will end a frustrating and damaging period for Swiss research that university rectors repeatedly warned was damaging the country's research prowess.

South Korean association to Horizon Europe “imminent” (11 March 2024)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/horizon-europe/south-korean-association-horizon-europe-imminent>

Alongside New Zealand and Canada, Korea would be one of the first countries from outside the European region to join the EU's research and innovation programme. Association is set to start in 2025



Yoon Suk Yeol, President of South Korea (left) and Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission. Photo: Dati Bendo / European Union

South Korea is set to strike a deal with Brussels to join Horizon Europe, the EU's €95.5 billion research and innovation scheme, as the European Commission wants more democracies outside of Europe to associate.

Speaking last week, Park Sang-ook, a senior science and technology official in the office of the Korean president, said that a deal was “imminent”, according to several Korean news outlets.

"Starting next year, we will join Horizon Europe and pay a portion of the contribution, so that researchers can directly obtain EU funding for their research," he said, according to the **Korea Herald** <https://news.heraldcorp.com/view.php?ud=20240305050390>, relayed by the **EU's Euraxess** <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/worldwide/south-korea/news/korea-become-associate-member-horizon-europe-next-year-presidential> research funding news service.

"Despite being a geographically distant country, Korea is in negotiations to join the programme, and a deal is imminent," he said during a press conference. A Commission spokesperson confirmed a deal is near. "It is the intention of the two sides to complete the ongoing negotiations on the association of the Republic of Korea to the pillar II of Horizon Europe and we hope to reach a deal in the nearest future," they said.

Korean science minister Jong-ho Lee will meet research commissioner Iliana Ivanova for a "bilateral exchange" on 25 March in Brussels, they added.

If association with South Korea is confirmed, it will be a win for the Commission, which has opened up Horizon Europe for the first time to scientifically advanced democracies globally. This drive to forge stronger scientific and technological links with likeminded democracies has taken on even more urgency <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/horizon-europe/ukraine-invasion-spurs-eu-push-associate-democratic-world-horizon-europe> for the EU since the Russian invasion of Ukraine rattled European security.

Read full article here: <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/horizon-europe/south-korean-association-horizon-europe-imminent>

French science critical of proposed research cuts (7 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 7 March 2024

The French government wants to cut 904 million euros in higher education and research, as part of a large-scale cut of 10 billion euros in public spending. Scientists in France have strongly criticized these plans, writes Nature. Scientists warn that the cut "shows that the government is not respecting its research plan for 2021 to 2030." They also fear that the country is further away from achieving its goal of increasing public spending on research from less than 0.75% to 1%.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00589-5>

New Codes of Practice for industry-academia co-creation and citizen engagement for knowledge valorisation (5 March 2024)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/new-codes-practice-industry-academia-co-creation-and-citizen-engagement-knowledge-valorisation-2024-03-05_en&pk_campaign=rtd_news

Today, the Commission published two Recommendation on a Code of Practice on **industry-academia co-creation** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024H0774&qid=1709626992959> and on **citizen engagement** <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/?uri=CELEX%3A32024H0736&qid=1709626992959> for knowledge valorisation. Both codes of practice provide guidance for researchers and innovators on how to actively engage with other players to jointly produce and valorise knowledge for the benefit of the economy and society.

The Code of Practice on industry-academia provides practical guidance for creating successful partnerships for knowledge valorisation. It calls for promoting co-creation in the organisation's strategy, investing in skills, networking, communication, and awareness raising. It stresses the importance of creating incentives and strengthening the role of intermediaries and joint infrastructures in translating research results into business applications.

The Code of Practice on citizen engagement offers practical guidance to strengthen links between research entities and societal actors for better uptake of research results. It identifies the need for a strategic approach at the organisation level which encourage cross-sector collaboration, awareness raising and strengthening the role of intermediaries. It also proposes the use of incentives, co-creation tools and digital solutions with a human-centric and sustainable design.

Read full article with more background information: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/new-codes-practice-industry-academia-co-creation-and-citizen-engagement-knowledge-valorisation-2024-03-05_en&pk_campaign=rtd_news

First ever defence industrial strategy and a new defence industry programme to enhance Europe's readiness and security (5 March 2024)

Source: website EC Press corner https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1321

Today, the European Commission and the High Representative presented the first-ever **European Defence Industrial Strategy** https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edis-our-common-defence-strategy_en at EU level and proposed an ambitious set of new actions to support the competitiveness and readiness of its defence industry.

Two years ago, Russia's unjustified, on-going war of aggression against Ukraine marked the return of high-intensity conflict on our continent. The European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS) sets a clear, long-term vision to achieve defence industrial readiness in the European Union. As a first immediate and central means to deliver the Strategy, the European Commission today tables a **legislative proposal for a European Defence Industry Programme** https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edip-future-defence_en (EDIP) and a framework of measures to ensure the timely availability and supply of defence products.

The Strategy outlines the challenges currently faced by the European Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB) but also the opportunity to tap its full potential and sets out a direction for the next decade. To increase European defence industrial readiness, Member States need to **invest more, better, together, and European**. To support Member States in achieving these goals, the European Defence Industrial Strategy presents a set of actions

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_24_1321

New report: Research and Innovation for Climate Neutrality by 2050: Challenges, opportunities and the path forward (4 March 2024)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/new-report-research-and-innovation-climate-neutrality-2050-challenges-opportunities-and-path-forward-2024-03-04_en

Transforming Europe into a climate neutral economy by 2050 requires extraordinary efforts. Each sector must fundamentally rethink the way it operates to ensure that it can be transformed towards this new net-zero paradigm, without jeopardising other environmental and societal objectives, both within the EU and globally. Our ability to meet our climate neutrality target directly depends on our ability to innovate. However, the current level of innovation is insufficient to meet the net-zero challenge.

The aim of the report **'Research and Innovation for Climate Neutrality by 2050: Challenges, Opportunities and the Path Forward'** <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/5dee91d3-d9e8-11ee-b9d9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en/format-PDF/source-308322154> is to provide policy recommendations regarding the design, principles and solution landscapes needed for a long-term, forward-looking R&I agenda to accelerate the transition to net-zero emissions. Through a methodological approach which combines literature review, climate neutrality scenarios

analysis, foresight workshops and stakeholder engagement, the report focuses on broad high-risk (not yet close to market) R&I areas where significant investments are needed today to achieve maturity, commercialisation, and adoption in the coming 10-20 years.

The report advocates moving beyond the paradigm of individual technologies and embrace a systemic approach by focusing on goal-oriented R&I interventions, as well as considering how systemic interactions of climate mitigation approaches can be better integrated in the development of R&I programmes (thus considering socio-economic and technological challenges and opportunities, regulatory barriers/needs, enabling conditions and positive tipping points). To that end, the report identifies key R&I areas under 17 solution landscapes grouped under three key nexuses for climate neutrality, to better integrate systemic interaction of climate mitigation approaches in the design of R&I agendas:

- Mobility – Built environment – Energy nexus
- Circularity – Industry – Carbon removals and capture nexus
- Agrifood – Carbon removals nexus

Read full press release here: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/new-report-research-and-innovation-climate-neutrality-2050-challenges-opportunities-and-path-forward-2024-03-04_en

Global policy

OECD presents new definition of AI (14 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 14 March 2024

The OECD explained the amended definition of AI last week. The change was necessary to continue to support the relevance and technical aspects and can help shape regulation. The definition now is: "An AI system is a machine-based system that, for explicit or implicit purposes, infers from the inputs it receives how to generate outputs, such as predictions, content, recommendations, or decisions that may affect physical or virtual environments. Different AI systems vary in their degree of autonomy and adaptability after implementation". The revision is explained in more detail in the memorandum and the blog post.

OECD Memorandum: https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/science-and-technology/explanatory-memorandum-on-the-updated-oecd-definition-of-an-ai-system_623da898-en

Blog post OECD: <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/definition>

UK: Investment of £360 million in R&D (14 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 14 March 2024

The British government wants to invest £360 million in R&D together with the private sector, it was announced last week. This mainly concerns intensifications in the areas of healthcare, aviation and automotive. Most of the money, £200 million, will go towards developing clean aviation. Around £92 million will go towards R&D of medicines and diagnostic products. The resources for the automotive industry will mainly go to the development of innovative applications for electric cars.

News item British government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/360-million-to-boost-british-manufacturing-and-rd>

American elections: Major consequences for science (14 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 14 March 2024

The outcome of the American elections in November could have major consequences for international scientific collaborations. Nature writes this in an analysis. In his first term as president, Trump regularly bypassed scientists and withdrew from international climate agreements and the World Health Organization (WHO). The incumbent President Biden actually stimulated innovation in the field of clean energy and reinforced that policy was again based on scientific substantiation. The piece mentions, among other things, the climate agenda arising from the Inflation Reduction Act, which could potentially be torpedoed by Trump. It is also expected that Trump will again tighten the policy on immigration, including of scientists. According to Nature, the policy agenda for China is closer together. Although Biden rolled back the repressive China Initiative, under his administration the US remained extremely reluctant to scientific cooperation between the countries. Some experts even say that cooperation has deteriorated further under Biden.

Analysis Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00657-w>

China is increasing investment in science (14 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 14 March 2024

Despite the economic adversity, China is increasing the budget for science and technology by 10 percent compared to 2023. Nature writes this based on a budget proposal from the Chinese Ministry of Finance. "The government is showing that it is committed to providing more resources for scientists to support their research," said economist Albert Hu of the China Europe International Business School in Shanghai.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-024-00695-4>

US holds off China challenge in global R&D spending race (14 March 2024)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/international-news/us-holds-china-challenge-global-rd-spending-race>

In 2018, US government advisers predicted it would soon be overtaken by China. But now, with the Chinese economy faltering, that no longer looks inevitable. Meanwhile, the EU lags both significantly



Yin Hejun, China's minister of science and technology. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Closely watched science and technology indicators from Washington DC show the US is still the world's biggest spender on research and development, confounding expectations that China would takeover the lead.

A faltering Chinese economy and plummeting birthrates have driven a conversation over whether the world has reached 'peak China' <https://www.ft.com/content/943fc54d-f2b4-44ea-aa0f-ae49f16ee033>, where Beijing's economic and geopolitical ascendancy over the US no longer looks inevitable. Now, a similar debate is happening in the domain of R&D.

On 13 March the US's National Science Board (NSB), which advises Congress and the president, released its biennial State of **US Science & Engineering report** <https://ncses.nsf.gov/pubs/nsb20243>, a gold-standard set of data on the shape of the world's R&D effort.

It shows that the US still retains a healthy lead, spending \$806 billion on R&D, both public and private, in 2021, the latest year the report calculates. China spent \$668 billion. While China has been catching the US over the last two decades, on the basis of these statistics, it no longer looks on a trajectory to overtake it.

"We've all been waiting to see when those two curves cross, and they haven't crossed," said Arati Prabhakar, director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy at an event <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wgCjW0ScIis> launching the report.

Back in 2018, it looked inevitable that China would soon take the top spot. In that year, the NSB issued a warning https://www.nsf.gov/nsb/news/news_summ.jsp?cntn_id=244465 that on current trends, it expected China to surpass the US in R&D investment by the end of the year.

But in recent years the US has seen a "huge surge" in corporate spending on R&D, particularly by IT and pharmaceutical companies, Prabhakar said.

"It came from businesses," she said. "What you see in these numbers is the intensification of our innovation economy." The statistics bear this out: from 2018 to 2021, business R&D spending ballooned by more than a third, to over \$600 billion. Meanwhile, federally funded R&D stayed roughly flat as a proportion of the economy, Prabhakar noted. Private sector R&D is now so important in the US that it funds almost as great a proportion of basic research (36%) as the federal government (40%).

EU lags behind

Prabhakar was withering about the EU's spending performance. It is "quite notable" that China's expenditure on R&D was 40% higher than the EU's, the third biggest spender, she said.

"We're not alone anymore," she said of the US. "We have a very significant R&D competitor in China. But actually, there's a big gap between there and where the rest of the world is."

Read full article here: <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/international-news/us-holds-china-challenge-global-rd-spending-race>

New National Science Foundation directorate on the hunt for international partners (7 March 2024)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/international-news/new-national-science-foundation-directorate-hunt-international-partners>

The Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, set up to create real world impact in the US, is very much open to global cooperation, its director tells Science|Business



Erwin Gianchandani is the US National Science Foundation's assistant director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, leading the newly established TIP Directorate. Photo: Amanda Joy Mason / NSF

The US National Science Foundation's (NSF) new impact-focused directorate is keen to work with partners outside the US, its director Erwin Gianchandani says, as it begins to roll out hundreds of millions of dollars to create new industry clusters in relatively neglected parts of the country.

The Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP), the first new NSF directorate for 30 years, has a mission to create growth and jobs in the US through boosting "use-inspired" R&D, but is also beginning to work with global research partners.

"We are very open to collaborating with what we sometimes call like-minded countries, countries that have shared values with the US," Gianchandani told Science|Business as the directorate approaches its **second birthday** <https://new.nsf.gov/news/nsf-establishes-new-directorate-technology>.

TIP's approach is around halfway between the basic research focus of the rest of the NSF, and the ultra-applied Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, Gianchandani explains. It's out to create real world impact, but is not driven by a need to create specific new technologies for the government, as Darpa does for the US military. Since it was founded in **2022**, **TIP's budget** https://nsf-gov-resources.nsf.gov/2023-03/03_fy2024.pdf?VersionId=flgi34XGsO37jXDwn0SnuCagvC7hodZR more than doubled to \$880 million last year, making it a relative winner in the constant research budget wranglings in Washington DC.

The NSF wants this to increase further to nearly \$1.2 billion this year, although with **cuts across the board planned** <https://ww2.aip.org/fyi/many-science-agencies-cut-in-final-fy24-budget> for numerous science agencies, they may fall short.

Still, TIP has started getting some hefty grants out the door. In January it announced ten new regional innovation engines <https://tableau.external.nsf.gov/views/NSFEnginesPortfolio/Overview?%3Aembed=y&%3AisGuestRedirectFromVizportal=y>, clusters of research institutes and private companies that hope to build up industrial centres specialising in everything from energy storage to regenerative medicine.

The point of these engines is that they are not in the US's usual innovation hotspots. **Instead they include agricultural technology in North Dakota**, semiconductor packaging in central Florida, and textile innovation in North Carolina. Each will get \$15 million to start with, and if they hit certain milestones, receive up to \$160 million over the next decade, plus state and private funding too.

Read full article here: <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/international-news/new-national-science-foundation-directorate-hunt-international-partners>

CSIS calls for holistic green politics in the US (7 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 7 March 2024

America's green industrialization policy requires a more holistic approach, argues Ilaria Mazzocco of the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS). According to the author, the rise of green industrial policy and climate

action in the US is accompanied by growing geopolitical tensions with consequences for supply chains and economic security. To achieve greater balance between the objectives surrounding economic security and the green industrialization approach, four recommendations are made, including supporting innovation. "Innovation will remain an important route in improving safety and reducing CO2 emissions. Ensuring support for viable R&D efforts will prove valuable in limiting the impact of existing technologies on the environment and becoming less dependent on from Chinese suppliers," it can be read.

CSIS analysis: <https://www.csis.org/analysis/green-industrial-policy-holistic-approach>

Brookings: Policy Suggestions for More Effective Climate Policy in the US (7 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 7 March 2024

A publication by think tank Brookings outlines various scenarios and makes suggestions for fiscally driven climate policy in the US. According to the researchers, 2025 could be a crucial year, because tax cuts will expire and climate goals will remain out of sight. For example, a CO2 tax and a standard for clean electricity could help achieve the emission targets in the period 2030-2050.

Brookings Publication: <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/climate-tax-policy-reform-options-in-2025/>

Can digital innovations ensure productivity growth? (7 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 7 March 2024

An in-depth article on Economics Observatory addresses the question of how digital innovations (such as AI) can contribute to increasing production. For example, it can be read that the complexity of AI and machine learning makes it more difficult to use them for productivity growth. This growth is especially visible in companies that already have a lot of experience with ICT and production. It is important to prevent large tech companies from becoming too powerful and smaller players no longer have room to bring innovations to the market. Furthermore, according to the authors, it is not unusual that it takes a while before innovations lead to economic growth. Especially with technological innovations, large investments are often required first, which can only be capitalized on later. Technological developments also often require broader reorganizations, whereby employees must also develop new skills in order to use the technology. What could help in the case of AI are standardized AI models that are easier to integrate.

Publication Economics Observatory: <https://www.economicsobservatory.com/can-digital-innovation-including-ai-improve-productivity-growth>

57 countries agree on principles and values for international R&I cooperation (1 March 2024)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/international-ministerial-meeting-brussels-endorses-statement-principles-and-values-international-2024-02-16_en

Ministers for research (or their representatives) from 57 countries met in Brussels on **15-16 February** to endorse a common statement on principles and values for **international cooperation in research and innovation** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/international-ministerial-meeting-brussels-endorses-statement-principles-and-values-international-2024-02-16_en. These countries consist of the EU member states, countries associated to Horizon Europe and countries with a science and technology agreement with the EU, including research heavyweights such as the US, China and Japan, as well as organisations such as UNESCO, the OECD and others.



Why this is important: The statement mentions a wide variety of principles and values, but it is more a roadmap than a definitive list. The importance of this exercise rather lies in the fact that a large and diverse number of countries agree to

talk about cooperation in research and innovation at a time of big geopolitical tensions and worries about research security.

The European Commission and the EU member states have a long-standing dialogue about international cooperation in research and innovation in the context of the European Research Area; this is part of an ambition to engage in several strands of 'multilateral dialogues' https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/europe-world/international-cooperation/multilateral-dialogue-principles-and-values_en on common topics, for example Open Science or gender equality. The various strands come together in the statement on principles and values.

The main outcome of the meeting in February was to confirm the usefulness of the dialogues and continue the format. In the words of the European Commission's Deputy Director General for Research and Innovation, Signe Ratso, this is a **'moving target'** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GVB0mFs5y28&t=984s> as discussions and definitions are also evolving within the different countries. Even if the dialogues will not produce a common, globally agreed set of well-defined principles and values, there is certainly value to having a set of international working groups where politicians and stakeholders can discuss, for example, how to handle Open Science or research ethics.

For more information: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/international-ministerial-meeting-brussels-endorses-statement-principles-and-values-international-2024-02-16_en

National policy

Companies and knowledge organizations send urgent letters about innovation and business climate (14 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 14 March 2024

A group of companies and knowledge institutions have sent a letter to the cabinet with concerns about the innovation and business climate and the reliability of the government. The reason for the letter is the lack of clarity about the passage of the National Growth Fund. In a recent debate about the earning capacity of the Netherlands, Minister Adriaansens announced that he would postpone the fourth round of the Growth Fund for a few months. The letter is an initiative of the trade association of the digital sector NLdigital and the entrepreneurs' organization of the technology industry FME. The signatories emphasize that the government is not sufficiently aware that action is needed in the short term. "The House of Representatives is engaged in short-term politics, they are further destroying the innovation climate of the Netherlands. Look at the poignant examples; the National Growth Fund is being stolen and the 30% scheme has been reduced. What the Chamber must realize is that there is a need for stability and continuity for the business community," says FME chairman Theo Henrar. NLdigital chairman Lotte de Bruijn warns that many efforts of recent years will be in vain if the money tap from the National Growth Fund is now turned off. "You cannot complain that we are becoming increasingly dependent on foreign countries, including in the digital field, if we limit investments in knowledge and innovation ourselves."

Press release Nldigital: <https://www.nldigital.nl/news/sloop-van-innovatieklimaat-dreigt/> (in Dutch)

News item NWO: <https://www.nwo.nl/nieuws/nwo-schaart-zich-achter-oproep-voor-meer-duidelijkheid-toekomst-nationaal-groefonds> (in Dutch)

'Dutch science is among the world's best (14 March 2024)

Source: Website Financieel Dagblad <https://fd.nl/samenleving/1510854/nederlandse-wetenschap-behoort-tot-de-wereldtop>

As a science country, the Netherlands is among the best in the world and therefore has an impact on innovations and government policy. This is evident from international research by the largest scientific publisher in the world, Elsevier. They looked at the number of international citations from scientific publications and the degree of international cooperation.

In particular, Dutch research conducted in collaboration with the business community has been frequently cited by other scientists worldwide: three times as many as the average number of citations worldwide. This concerns, for example, research together with pharmaceuticals.

Dutch universities also collaborate relatively often with companies compared to other countries. Of Dutch publications, 7.4% are the result of collaboration with companies, compared to the world average of 2.7%.

Scientists from the Netherlands thus have an impact on policy and innovation, the researchers say. Their research is frequently cited in international patents and international policy documents. Of all Dutch articles, 9% are cited in government policy documents. This is twice the European average (4.3%) and three times the world average (2.9%).

Elsevier, known as publisher of The Lancet, among others, comes with the conclusions at a time when the outgoing cabinet is considering limiting internationalization at universities. They use it to underline their concerns about this.

"Radically limiting the influx of international students and making science less international will have major negative consequences," responds Jouke de Vries, interim chairman of the interest group the Universities of the Netherlands (UNL). 'Then the Dutch universities will soon no longer play in the world Premier League.'

The government continues mandatory screening when working on high-quality technology (12 March 2024)

Source: Website Financieele Dagblad <https://fd.nl/samenleving/1510469/rijk-zet-verplichte-screening-door-bij-werken-aan-hoogwaardige-technologie>

In brief

- The national screening of scientists from risk countries continues, although only for new employees.
- According to the minister, cooperation with China is important, but too many scholarships from the Chinese Scholarship Council pose a risk.
- The Netherlands is also trying to put more effort into knowledge security at European level.

Outgoing Minister Robbert Dijkgraaf (Education, D66) is sticking to his plans to screen scientists and students from 'risk countries' if they want to work on sensitive topics at Dutch universities. But this mandatory screening will not apply to employees who are already here or to bachelor's students, he wrote to the House of Representatives on Monday.

The Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (KNAW), which advises the government on science, among other things, warned in October last year that the mandatory vetting of scientists is at the expense of scientific exchange, academic freedom and the autonomy of universities and knowledge institutes. The scientific body would prefer to see a system in which universities themselves deal with the risks of espionage, for example.

Dijkgraaf emphasizes that knowledge security and screening are also pre-eminent tasks for the government. "Only the central government has access to all relevant information — such as sources from the security domain — in order to arrive at the sharpest possible risk assessment and to assess this similarly at national level," he says. The new working method encroaches on people's private lives and that is why, according to the minister, it is extra important that safety considerations are made carefully and uniformly.

It remains unclear who will be subject to the screening. Dijkgraaf is finalizing a definitive list of sensitive technologies. In any case, this will concern prospective foreign students and PhD candidates from outside the European Union.

Chinese favors

The minister also informs the House that two thousand Chinese scientists are currently working at Dutch universities with a grant from the Chinese Scholarship Council (CSC). Previously, there had been a fuss about these grants because students and PhD candidates had to sign contracts that put pressure on them to deliver knowledge back to their home country.

Dijkgraaf then had the Clingendael Institute conduct research into the grants. In some departments or faculties, more than 15% of international PhD students appear to have a CSC grant. That is proportionally too much and therefore creates 'vulnerability', according to the minister. He now wants to talk to the relevant universities. He also wants to talk to the grant provider about the academic core values in the Netherlands.

Read the full article: <https://fd.nl/samenleving/1510469/rijk-zet-verplichte-screening-door-bij-werken-aan-hoogwaardige-technologie> (in Dutch)

Dutch academic freedom is deteriorating (7 March 2024)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/nederlandse-academische-vrijheid-verslechtert>

Dutch academic freedom is deteriorating and will score worse in three out of five categories in 2023 than last year. At the same time, the institutional autonomy of Dutch institutions is improving. **This is evident from the 'Academic Freedom Monitor'** [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2024/757798/EPRS_STU\(2024\)757798_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2024/757798/EPRS_STU(2024)757798_EN.pdf) that **Parliament draws up annually**. The categories where the Netherlands scores worse are: freedom in research and education, freedom of academic exchange and dissemination and integrity on campus. Freedom of academic and cultural expression remains stable. In total, there are only three other EU member states that perform worse on the Academic Freedom Index: Greece, Poland and Hungary.

Institutional autonomy on the rise

Although academic freedom in the Netherlands is declining, the institutional freedom of Dutch knowledge institutions has actually improved. The Netherlands scores particularly high on organizational autonomy and personnel policy. Although institutional autonomy is on the rise, the European University Association (EUA) recently warned that language restrictions in Dutch higher education threaten academic autonomy. These language restrictions arise from the

Internationalization in Balance bill. With this report, Parliament recommends that academic freedom be clearly defined, but also that academic freedom be given better legal protection.

Europe relatively stable, but threatened

Although academic freedom in Europe is relatively high and stable compared to other regions worldwide, several threats lurk. There are nine EU Member States (Austria, Malta, Romania, Croatia, Bulgaria, the Netherlands, Greece, Poland and Hungary) that perform below the EU average.

Full report EP 'Academic Freedom Monitor 2023':

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2024/757798/EPRS_STU\(2024\)757798_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2024/757798/EPRS_STU(2024)757798_EN.pdf)

Read full article here: <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/nederlandse-academische-vrijheid-verslechtert> (in Dutch)

Experimenting with task-oriented research (7 March 2024)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 7 March 2024

The Climate Research Initiative Netherlands (KIN) experiments with new ways to program and organize scientific research. Researchers from the Rathenau Institute support the KIN in the development of a new research approach, in which collaboration rather than competition is central. The institute explains this approach in an article. The KIN was founded on the belief that scientific climate research can and should do more justice to the urgency of the climate challenge. "In that context, the KIN is experimenting with 'a different kind of science': task-oriented research, in which researchers from different disciplines collaborate with social partners, and the climate task is the starting point for research," it can be read.

Article Rathenau Institute: <https://www.rathenau.nl/nl/kennis-voor-transities/experimenteren-met-opgavegericht-onderzoek> (in Dutch)

Cabinet response to AWTI evaluation report (5 March 2024)

Source: Website AWTI Actual News <https://www.awti.nl/actueel/nieuws/2024/03/05/kabinetsreactie-op-evaluatie-awti-2019-2022>

This week, Minister Dijkgraaf (OCW) responded positively to the evaluation of the AWTI for the period 2019 to 2022. The evaluation was published in November 2023 and was carried out by an external committee led by Prof. Dr. Reinhilde Veugelers. The minister endorses the committee's conclusion and sees opportunities for the further development of the AWTI.

Minister Dijkgraaf, who is responding partly on behalf of the Minister of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK), endorses the conclusion of the evaluation committee that the right to exist of the AWTI is beyond dispute. The AWTI is a professional organization, its advice is appreciated and more attention is paid to interaction with various stakeholders. Under the new leadership of the chairman and secretary-director, new impetus has emerged.

Read more here: <https://www.awti.nl/documenten/publicaties/2024/03/05/kabinetsreactie-op-evaluatie-awti-2019-2022> (in Dutch)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 15 March 2024

Call identifier	Deadline
Pillar I Excellent Science	
ERC	
ERC-2024-AdV	Foreseen opening 29 May 2024 and foreseen deadline 29 August 2024
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions	
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 TMA Doctoral Networks	Foreseen opening 29 May 2024 and foreseen deadline 27 November 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 TMA Doctoral Networks)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 TMA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates	Foreseen opening 29 May 2024 and foreseen deadline 27 November 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 TMA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates	Foreseen opening 29 May 2024 and foreseen deadline 27 November 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01 TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01 Postdoctoral Fellowships - European	Foreseen opening 10 April 2024 and foreseen deadline 11 September 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01 Postdoctoral Fellowships – European)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01 Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global	Foreseen opening 10 April 2024 and foreseen deadline 11 September 2024 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-PF-01-01 Postdoctoral Fellowships – Global)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE01-01 Staff Exchanges	Foreseen opening 10 October 2024 and foreseen deadline 5 March 2025 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024-SE01-01 Staff Exchanges)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024- COFUND- 01-01 TMA-Cofund Doctoral	Foreseen opening 8 October 2024 and foreseen deadline 6 February 2025 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024- COFUND-01-01 TMA-Cofund Doctoral)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024- COFUND- 01-01 TMA-Cofund Postdoctoral	Foreseen opening 8 October 2024 and foreseen deadline 6 February 2025 (HORIZON-MSCA-2024- COFUND-01-01 TMA-Cofund Postdoctoral)
Research Infrastructures	
Cluster 1 HEALTH	
Destination 1 – Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2024-STAYHLTH- 01- two-stage	19 September 2023 at 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage) and 11 April 2024 (Second Stage) at 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 2. Living and working in a health-promoting environment	
HORIZON-HLTH-2024- ENVHLTH- 02-two-stage	19 September 2023 at 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage) and 11 April 2024 (Second Stage) at 17.00 Brussels time

Destination 3. Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden	
HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-08	11 April 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-09	11 April 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-03-two-stage	19 September 2023 at 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) (CLOSED) and 11 April 2024 (Second Stage) at 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Cluster 2 Culture Creativity and Inclusive Society</u>	
<u>Cluster 4 Digital - Industry - Space</u>	
Destination 1: CLIMATE NEUTRAL, CIRCULAR AND DIGITISED PRODUCTION	
HORIZON-CL4-2024-TWIN-TRANSITION-01-TWO-STAGE	7 February 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 24 September 2024 (Second Stage) at 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 2: INCREASED AUTONOMY IN KEY STRATEGIC VALUE CHAINS FOR RESILIENT INDUSTRY	
HORIZON-CL4-2024-RESILIENCE-01-TWO-STAGE	7 February 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 24 September 2024 (Second Stage) at 17.00 Brussels time
DESTINATION 3 - WORLD LEADING DATA AND COMPUTING TECHNOLOGIES	
HORIZON-CL4-2024-DATA-01	19 March 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
DESTINATION 4 – DIGITAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND FIT FOR THE GREEN DEAL	
HORIZON-CL4-2024-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01	19 March 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL4-2024-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01-CNECT	19 March 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
DESTINATION 5 – DESTINATION – OPEN STRATEGIC AUTONOMY IN DEVELOPING, DEPLOYING AND USING GLOBAL SPACE-BASED INFRASTRUCTURES, SERVICES, APPLICATIONS AND DATA	
DESTINATION 6 – A HUMAN-CENTRED AND ETHICAL DEVELOPMENT OF DIGITAL AND INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES	

HORIZON-CL4-2024-HUMAN-01	19 March 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
CLUSTER 5 - Cluster 5: Climate - Energy - Mobility	
Destination - Climate sciences and responses	
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D2-01	18 April 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (5 topics, HORIZON-CL5-2024-D2-0, IA and RIA)
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-01	18 April 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (3 topics, HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-01, IA)
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D2-02	5 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D5-01	18 April 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (18 topics, HORIZON-CL5-2024-D5-01, CSA, RIA and IA)
Destination: Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02	5 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
Destination: Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use	
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-01	18 April 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2024-D4-02	5 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time
Destination: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	
Destination: Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods	
<u>Cluster 6</u>	
Destination 1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	
HORIZON-CL6-2024- BIODIV-02 2 stage	22 February 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 1) CLOSED 17 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 2)

Destination 2: Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption	
HORIZON-CL6-2024-FARM2FORK-02 2 stage	22 February 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 1) CLOSED 17 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 2)
Destination 3: Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors	
HORIZON-CL6-2024- CIRC BIO-02 2 stage	Foreseen deadline stage 1 22 February 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 1) CLOSED 17 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 2)
Destination 4 – Clean environment and zero pollution	
HORIZON-CL6-2024-ZEROPOLLUTION-02 2 stage	22 February 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 1) CLOSED 17 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 2)
Destination 5 – Land, oceans and water for climate action	
Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities	
HORIZON-CL6-2024-COMMUNITIES-02 2 stage	22 February 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 1) CLOSED 17 September 2024 at 17.00 Brussels time (STAGE 2)
Destination 7 – Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal	
Pillar III Innovative Europe	
Mission calls 2023	
WIDERA 2023	
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01 ERA Chairs	7 March 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time ERA Chairs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-TALENTS-01-01)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01 Excellence Hubs	7 March 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time Excellence Hubs (HORIZON-WIDERA-2023-ACCESS-07-01)

Other related EC calls (European Partnerships, ERA-Net COFUNDS etc.)

Overview of deadlines of most important public-public and public-private EC calls related to Horizon Europe based on information per 15 March 2024 for more details; go to EC Funding and Tenders opportunity Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Call identifier	Deadline
European Partnerships / ERANET-COFUND	
European Partnership Agroecology	<p>1ST CO-FUNDED CALL OF THE AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP "FOSTERING AGROECOLOGY AT FARM AND LANDSCAPE LEVELS" THE CALL IS OPEN</p> <p>THE RECORDINGS AND SLIDES OF THE WEBINAR CAN BE FOUND HERE: HTTPS://FZ-JUELICH.SCIEBO.DE/S/ITWWA2NDTC1KHGS</p> <p>For all call information: https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1</p> <p>The deadline for pre-proposals is 26 April 2024 6, 14:00h CEST.</p> <p>The deadline for full proposal submission is 19 September 2024, 14:00h CEST.</p>
European Partnership Water4All https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/	<p>Water4All 2023 Joint Transnational Call Pre-announcement Aquatic Ecosystem Services</p> <p>Call opening: 12 September 2023</p> <p>Deadline for submitting a pre-proposal (compulsory) is 13 November 2023, 15:00 CET. (CLOSED)</p> <p>Deadline for submitting a full proposal is 29 April 2024, 15:00 CET.</p> <p>For more information: https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/partnership-water4all-aquatic-ecosystem-services, https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Water4All_2023JTC_Call_Announcement.pdf and https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/</p>
European partnership ERA4Health https://era4health.eu/	<p>ERA4Health Partnership: Pre-announcement of the Modulation of brain ageing through nutrition and healthy lifestyle (NutriBrain) call</p> <p>3 November, 2023 Publication of NutriBrain call</p> <p>15 January, 2024, 16h00 CET Deadline for pre-proposal submission</p> <p>CLOSED</p> <p>27 March, 2024 Communication of the results of the pre-proposal assessment (invitation for full proposal)</p> <p>27 May, 2024, 16h00 CEST Deadline for full proposal submission</p> <p>For more information: https://era4health.eu/pre-announcement-of-the-modulation-of-brain-ageing-through-nutrition-and-healthy-lifestyle-nutribraincall/ and</p>
European Partnership Sustainable Blue Economy https://www.bluepartnership.eu/	<p>Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) – Second Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call.</p> <p>Closing date for pre-registration</p> <p>10 April 2024 15:00 hrs.</p> <p>Closing date full application</p> <p>6 November 2024 15:00 hrs.</p> <p>https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20text%20-%20Sustainable%20Blue%20Economy%20Partnership_Def%20%282-24%29.pdf and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-sbep-second-joint-transnational-co-funded-call</p>

Joint Technology Initiatives	
Joint Programming Initiatives	
JPI OCEANS https://jpi-oceans.eu/en/about	<p>new JPI Oceans Joint Call on the ecological aspects of deep-sea mining Deadline for submitting pre-proposals - 01.03.2024 Deadline for submitting full proposals - 30.09.2024</p> <p>View the call for proposals on the website of JPI Oceans: https://jpi-oceans.eu/en/announcement-new-jpi-oceans-joint-call-ecological-aspects-deep-sea-mining</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy diet for a healthy life (HDHL): http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/ • Agriculture, food security and climate change (FACCE): http://www.faccejpi.com/ • Antimicrobial Resistance- The Microbial Challenge - An Emerging Threat to Human Health (JPI AMR): http://www.jpiamr.eu/ • Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik'EU): http://www.jpi-climate.eu/home • Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI-Oceans): http://www.jpi-oceans.eu/ • More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change (JPI MYBL): http://www.jp-demographic.eu/ • Neurodegenerative Disease/Alzheimer's (JPND): http://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/ • Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions (Urban Europe): http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ • Water challenges for a changing world (Water-JPI): http://www.waterjpi.eu/ • Cultural Heritage a Challenge for Europe (Cultural Heritage): http://www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu/

Other international calls

This list is a SELECTION of other international calls. The list was compiled on **15 March 2024**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
From 02-10-2023 until 02-04-2024	Deadline submission proposals Globalstars call for projects with Brazil . You can submit your R&D project application for this call for projects between 2 October 2023 and 2 April 2024 at 12:00 BRT / 17:00 CET. https://www.eurekanetwork.org/open-calls/globalstars-brazil-2024
10-04-2024	Deadline for submission Full proposals for Biodiversa+ call - Nature-Based Solutions for biodiversity, human well-being and transformative change (BiodivNBS) . Closing date full application 9 April 2024 15:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/biodiversa-call-nature-based-solutions-for-biodiversity-human-well-being-and-transformative-change-biodivnbs
10-04-2024	Deadline for submission pre-registration Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) – Second Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call . Closing date for pre-registration 10 April 2024 15:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-sbep-second-joint-transnational-co-funded-call and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20text%20-%20Sustainable%20Blue%20Economy%20Partnership_Def%20%282-2-24%29.pdf and https://www.bluepartnership.eu/
26-04-2024	NEW : Deadline submission pre-proposals 1ST CO-FUNDED CALL OF THE AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP "FOSTERING AGROECOLOGY AT FARM AND LANDSCAPE LEVELS" The deadline for pre-proposals is 2024 April 26, 14:00h CEST. https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1 and https://fz-juelich.sciebo.de/s/ITWWA2NDTC1KHGS
29-04-2024	Deadline for Full proposals Joint Transnational Call for research and innovation projects on "Aquatic Ecosystem Services" (Water4All) . Submission deadline of full proposals: 29 April 2024, 15:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/european-partnerships/water4all-water-

	security-planet and https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2023-joint-transnational-call-pre-announcement
From 20-11-2023 until 21-05-2024	Deadline submission proposals Globalstars call for projects with Taiwan . You can submit your R&D project application for this call for projects between 20 November 2023 and 21 May 2024. https://www.eurekanetwork.org/open-calls/globalstars-taiwan-2024
27-05-2023	Deadline submission Full proposals for Modulation of brain ageing through nutrition and healthy lifestyle (NutriBrain) within the European partnership ERA4Health . The deadline for full proposals is 27 May 2024, 16:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/modulation-of-brain-ageing-through-nutrition-and-healthy-lifestyle-nutribrain and https://era4health.eu/
11-06-2024	Foreseen deadline proposals for NL-CGIAR SEP II on enhancing knowledge and innovation for global food and nutrition security . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-nl-cgiar-sep-ii-on-enhancing-knowledge-and-innovation-for-global-food-and-nutrition-security and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/netherlands-cgiar-research-programme and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/netherlands-nl-cgiar-research-programme/senior-expert-programma-sep-cgiar
19-09-2024	NEW : Deadline submission Full proposals 1ST CO-FUNDED CALL OF THE AGROECOLOGY PARTNERSHIP "FOSTERING AGROECOLOGY AT FARM AND LANDSCAPE LEVELS" The deadline for full proposal submission is 2024 September 19, 14:00h CEST. https://agroecology.ptj.de/call1 and HTTPS://FZ-JUELICH.SCIEBO.DE/S/ITWWA2NDTC1KHGS
06-11-2024	Deadline for submission full applications Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) – Second Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call . Closing date full application 6 November 2024 15:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-sbep-second-joint-transnational-co-funded-call and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20text%20-%20Sustainable%20Blue%20Economy%20Partnership_Def%20%282-2-24%29.pdf and https://www.bluepartnership.eu/
Open until 23-11-2024	Deadline for collection proposal for Open COST Call 2024 . The next collection date will be 23 October 2024 at 12.00 (noon) CEST. The following collection date is expected in Autumn 2025. https://www.cost.eu/funding/open-call-a-simple-one-step-application-process/ and https://www.cost.eu/funding/documents-guidelines/

National calls

This list is a selection of open national calls. The list was compiled on **15 March 2024**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

19-03-2024	Deadline submission Full proposals SSH Open Competition XS 2024 - round 1 The deadline for the first round is 19 March 2024 . The deadline for the second round is 27 August 2024 and the deadline for the third round is 15 October 2024. Applications for the first round are now open. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/ssh-open-competition-xs-2024-a-call-for-promising-ideas and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2024-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20SSH%20OC%20XS%202024%20-%20EN.pdf
19-03-2024	Deadline submission full proposals NWO Demonstrator 2024: Empowering new knowledge by demonstration The deadline for submitting applications is Tuesday 19 March 2024 at 14:00:00 hours CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/demonstrator-2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Demonstrator_CT_2024_NL_final.pdf
21-03-2024	Deadline for submission full applications for Dutch Research Agenda - Research along Routes by Consortia 2023 (NWA-ORC 2023) . Closing date full application 21 March 2024 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwa-call-for-research-along-routes-by-consortia-2023-now-open and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/dutch-research-agenda-research-along-routes-by-consortia-2023-nwa-orc-2023 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/dutch-research-agenda-nwa/research-along-routes-by-consortia-nwa-orc/nwa-orc-2023/themes
26-03-2024	Deadline for submission of full proposals for the 2023 Talent Scheme Vidi . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/talent-scheme-newsflash-2023-schedule-confirmed
26-03-2024	Deadline for submission Rubicon 2024-1Science, AES, SSH, ZonM . The deadlines in 2024 are: March 26 , September 3 and December 3. Once the call is open, a link appears at the bottom of this page. In 2024, the budget for each round is approximately 2.47 million euros??. https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/rubicon https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/rubicon

08-04-2024	Deadline for proposals for NWO Hop-On Call for Proposals for Researchers Based in Ukraine: NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative 2023 NWO and the National Research Foundation of Ukraine (NRFU) join forces in the new "NWO Hop-On Call for Proposals for Researchers Based in Ukraine: NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative 2023" Applications can be submitted at any time from 11 September 2023. The final deadline is 8 April 2024 at 14:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-and-nrfu-open-call-for-collaboration-between-dutch-and-ukrainian-researchers and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/nwo-hop-on-call-for-researchers-based-in-ukraine
09-04-2024	Deadline for submission for full applications mission-driven call 'City and country in coherence': As part of the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC) 2020-2023. Deadline applications: April 9, 2024, 14:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-launched-research-on-integrated-approach-to-connect-city-and-country and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/city-and-country-in-coherence
11-04-2024	Deadline submission proposals for call for proposals 'Research Infrastructure (RI): national consortia'. Deadline proposals 11 April 14:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-research-infrastructure-national-consortia and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/research-infrastructure-ri-national-consortia <i>If you are planning to submit a proposal as main applicant or involved as co-applicant, please inform Shared Research Facilities - mascha.rasenberg@wur.nl. SRF is responsible for the internal approval process of this call and can inform you about the steps to be taken. Besides, SRF can support you with advice on the proposal, tips and tricks from earlier experiences and the needed own investment.</i>
16-04-2024	Deadline for submitting full applications for call KIC Cybersecurity for digital resilience (PPP call NWO). The deadline for submitting full applications is April 16, 2024, 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-15-million-euros-for-cybersecurity-for-digital-resilience-kic and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-cybersecurity-for-digital-resilience and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NWO_Call_for_proposals_Cybersecurity_for_digital_resilience%20%281%29.pdf
16-04-2024	Deadline for submission full application Tackling Global Challenges through Use-inspired Research SDG Scaling Grants. Closing date full application 16 April 2024 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/joint-sdg-research-initiative-programme-launches-follow-up-call and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/tackling-global-challenges-through-use-inspired-research-sdg-scaling-grants
18-04-2024	Deadline for submission of NGF AiNed XS Europe grants. Deadline proposals 18 April 2024 at 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-ained-xs-europe and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-ained-xs-europe-24-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20NGF%20AiNed%20XS%20Europe%20EN%202023-2024v1.pdf
25-04-2024	NEW: Deadline submission pre-proposals KIC call 'Antimicrobials for the preclinical pipeline' The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is 25 April 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-for-research-on-antimicrobials and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-antimicrobials-for-the-preclinical-pipeline and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NWO-VVS%20partnerschap%20calltekst_EN_final.pdf
14-05-2024	Deadline submission proposals call NWO Open Competition Domain Science - XS 2024. The deadline of the first package is 5 March, 2024 and the deadline of the second package is 14 May, 2024. There are deadlines in total for four packages in 2024. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-new-call-nwo-open-competition-domain-science-xs-2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/enw-xs-en
16-05-2024	Deadline for submission of proposal Perspectief round 2023/2024 (NWO). Submission of proposal: Tuesday May 16th, 2023 - 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/CfP%20Perspectief%202023-2024%20-%20EN.pdf and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/perspectief-round-2023/2024
23-05-2024	Deadline for submission Pre-proposals The call 'Smart Materials: From responsive to adaptive' within the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC) The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is 23 May 2024, at 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-for-new-adaptive-materials-opened and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/smart-materials-van-responsief-naar-adaptief and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/screened-English%20version%20of%20Call%20for%20Proposals%20Smart%20Materials%20FINAL_11-12-2023_DEF.pdf

28-05-2024	Deadline for submission of declaration of intent for NWO call for Large-scale Scientific Infrastructure . Submission declarations of intent: May 28, 2024. https://www.nwo.nl/onderzoeksprogrammas/nationale-roadmap-grootschalige-wetenschappelijke-infrastructuur and file:///C:/Users/jonge026/Downloads/NWO-GWINC%202024%20537%20call%20for%20proposals%202024.pdf Please contact Shared Research Facilities (SRF, mascha.rasenberg@wur.nl) if you are coordinating a proposal or are part of a consortium submitting a proposal. SRF coordinates the internal submission procedure including the needed approval of our Executive Board.
06-06-2024	Deadline for submitting full-proposals Open Competition Domain Science-XL The deadline for submitting full proposals is June 6, 2024, before 14:00:00 hours CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/new-round-open-competition-domain-science-xl-opened and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-competition-domain-science-xl
18-06-2024	Deadline for submitting an application The NWA call 'Behavioural insights for climate policy' The deadline for submitting an application is 18-06-2024, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-28-million-euros-available-for-new-nwa-call-behavioural-insights-for-climate-policy and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/dutch-research-agenda-nwa/thematic-programming/behavioural-insights-for-climate-policy
Continuously applications until 31-07-2024	Deadline submission of proposals for NWO Open Competition Domain Science - M Applications for the current round (2023/2024) can therefore be submitted until 31 July 2024 at the latest, as long as the maximum number of 420 applications has not yet been reached. The new round, year 2024/2025, will be opened in August 2024, in which applications can again be submitted continuously. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-competition-domain-science-m-2023/2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20proposals%20OC%20ENW-M%20ronde%2023-24_EN_def.pdf
27-08-2024	Deadline submission Full proposals SSH Open Competition XS 2024 - round 2 The deadline for the first round is 19 March 2024. The deadline for the second round is 27 August 2024 and the deadline for the third round is 15 October 2024. Applications for the first round are now open. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/ssh-open-competition-xs-2024-a-call-for-promising-ideas and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2024-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20SSH%20OC%20XS%202024%20-%20EN.pdf
03-09-2024	Deadline submission proposals Rubicon 2024-2 ENW, SGW, TTW, ZonMw . The deadlines in 2024 are: March 26, September 3 and December 3. Once the call is open, a link appears at the bottom of this page. In 2024, the budget for each round is approximately 2.47 million euros??. https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/rubicon
10-09-2024	Deadline for submission Full-proposals VICI round 2024 . Deadline developed applications September 10, 2024, 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/vici-round-2024-open-for-pre-proposals and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme
18-09-2025	Deadline for submitting an application for PHASE 3 NWA-call for research on vulnerability and resilience in an online society . Phase 3: deadline for submitting an application is on September 18 2025, 14:00 CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/publication-call-research-vulnerability-and-resilience-online-society and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/dutch-research-agenda-nwa/thematic-programming/synergy-theme-vulnerability-and-resilience-online-society
24-09-2024	Deadline for submission of full applications for NWO call for Large-scale Scientific Infrastructure . Submission applications: September 24, 2024. https://www.nwo.nl/onderzoeksprogrammas/nationale-roadmap-grootschalige-wetenschappelijke-infrastructuur and file:///C:/Users/jonge026/Downloads/NWO-GWINC%202024%20537%20call%20for%20proposals%202024.pdf Please contact Shared Research Facilities (SRF, mascha.rasenberg@wur.nl) if you are coordinating a proposal or are part of a consortium submitting a proposal. SRF coordinates the internal submission procedure including the needed approval of our Executive Board.
01-10-2024	Deadline for submission full proposals Dutch Research Agenda - Research along Routes by Consortia 2024 (NWA-ORC 2024) Closing date full application 1 October 2024 14:00 hrs . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwa-call-research-along-routes-by-consortia-2024-now-open and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/dutch-research-agenda-research-along-routes-by-consortia-2024-nwa-orc-2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_orc_2024_eng.pdf
01-10-2024	NEW: Deadline submission full proposals KIC call 'Antimicrobials for the preclinical pipeline' . The deadline for submitting applications is 1 Oktober 2024, before 14:00:00 CEST https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-for-research-on-antimicrobials and

	https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-antimicrobials-for-the-preclinical-pipeline and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NWO-VWS%20partnerschap%20calltekst_EN_final.pdf
08-10-2024	Deadline for submission of NGF AiNed XS Europe grants . Deadline proposals 8 October 2024 at 14:00:00 CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-ained-xs-europe and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20NGF%20AiNed%20XS%20Europe%20EN%202023-2024v1.pdf
From 15-11-2023 until 15-11-2024	Deadline for submitting applications for Thematic Digital Competence Centers Integrated approach for digitalization in science . Applications can be submitted from November 15, 2023 until November 15, 2024 at 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-thematic-digital-competence-centers and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/thematic-digital-competence-centers
15-11-2024	Deadline submission Full proposals SSH Open Competition XS 2024 - round 3 . The deadline for the first round is 19 March 2024. The deadline for the second round is 27 August 2024 and the deadline for the third round is 15 October 2024 . Applications for the first round are now open. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/ssh-open-competition-xs-2024-a-call-for-promising-ideas and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2024-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20SSH%20OC%20XS%202024%20-%20EN.pdf
28-11-2024	Deadline for submission Full-proposals The call 'Smart Materials: From responsive to adaptive' within the Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC) . The deadline for submitting proposals is 28 November 2024, at 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-for-new-adaptive-materials-opened and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/smart-materials-van-responsief-naar-adaptief and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/screened-English%20version%20of%20Call%20for%20Proposals%20Smart%20Materials%20FINAL_11-12-2023_DEF.pdf
03-12-2024	Deadline submission proposals Rubicon 2024-3 ENW, SGW, TTW, ZonMw . The deadlines in 2024 are: March 26, September 3 and December 3 . Once the call is open, a link appears at the bottom of this page. In 2024, the budget for each round is approximately 2.47 million euros??. https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/rubicon
Applications from 15-01-2024 until 13-12-2024	Deadline for submission proposals for NWO call for Open Technology Program 2024 . Applications can be submitted from January 15, 2024 to December 13, 2024 via ISAAC, NWO's digital application and reporting system. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-opening-open-technology-programme-2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-technology-programme-2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/open-technology-programme/2024-change-of-support-letter

Regional calls

This list is a selection of regional calls. The list was compiled on **15 March 2024**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
From 01-02-2024 to 31-01-2025	Opening for submission of innovation projects ERDF East! The European subsidy program ERDF East 2021-2027 . You can submit your application from February 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025 (as long as a budget is available). https://www.efro-oost.eu/innovatieprojecten
From 01-03-2024 to 31-01-2025	Opening for submission of Testing and demonstration facilities ERDF East! The European subsidy program ERDF East 2021-2027 . You can submit your application from March 1, 2024 to January 31, 2025 (as long as a budget is available). https://www.efro-oost.eu/test-en-demonstratieprojecten-2024
From 19-02 to 12-03-2024	Opening 1 for proposals OP-Zuid from February 19, 9:00 AM to April 12, 2024, 5:00 PM . A budget of 25 million euros OPZuid 2021-2027 is available for both openings, equally divided into a smarter Europe and a greener Europe. A total of 50 million euros will be available in 2024. https://www.stimulus.nl/subsidiepot-voor-klimaat-niet-leeg/ and https://www.stimulus.nl/opzuid-2021-2027/
From 16-09-2024 to 01-11-2024	Opening 2 for proposals OP-Zuid from September 16, 2024 9:00 AM to November 1, 2024 5:00 PM . A budget of 25 million euros OPZuid 2021-2027 is available for both openings, equally divided into a smarter Europe and a greener Europe. A total of 50 million euros will be available

	in 2024. https://www.stimulus.nl/subsidiepot-voor-klimaat-niet-leeg/ and https://www.stimulus.nl/opzuid-2021-2027/
2023-2024	EFRO 2021-2027 Eastern Netherlands: For for overview calls go to EFRO Oost https://www.efro-oost.eu/geplande-openstellingen
2023-2024	EFRO 2021 – 2027 Western Netherlands: For calls Kansen voor West III https://kvw3.kansenvoorwest.nl/openstellingen/openstellingen-/
2023-2024	EFRO 2021-2027 Northern Netherlands: For calls Northern Netherlands go to Website SNN https://www.snn.nl/programmas/efro-2021-2027
2023-2024	EFRO 2021-2027 Southern Netherlands: For calls Southern Netherlands go to website Stimulus https://www.stimulus.nl/opzuid-2021-2027/openstellingen/

About the EU office

The EU office of Wageningen University & research provides, in close collaboration with Science Group liaison officers, information and support on fund raising, proposal writing and project management. The helpdesk can supply you with information on specific national and international programmes and funding schemes, best practices and templates.

Rooted in the former EuropaDesk that focused mainly on EU funding mechanisms, the services were broadened to include other international funding schemes as well as national and regional subsidies. Our approach is demand-driven. We look for tailor-made solutions, liaise with regional and institutional account managers, National Contact Points and EU officers and can support project coordinators for example with contract negotiations and audits.

The EU office is committed to provide advice in the whole process from proposal development to project execution and beyond. Whether you are looking for consultancy with regard to fund raising and proposal writing, are seeking dedicated support in developing (inter)national strategic initiatives, or are looking for advice on legal, financial or other project management related subjects.

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