



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 415 _ 21 February 2025

Wageningen Grant Office (WGO) Newsletter for Wageningen University & Research on the EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, 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 and FP10

Research ministers urged to defend ERC independence and FP10 (20 February 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/european-research-council/research-ministers-urged-defend-erc-independence-and-fp10>

A draft declaration from the Polish presidency backs the European Research Council's independence and a standalone Framework Programme 10



photo credits: Iwona Castiello d'Antonio/ Unsplash

EU research ministers are being asked to back the independence of the European Research Council (ERC) when they meet in Warsaw on March 10-11, and to acknowledge the value of a standalone EU Framework Programme for research and innovation (R&I).

These positions are set out in a **first draft** <https://sciencebusiness.net/sites/default/files/inline-files/Warsaw%20Declaration%20-%20First%20Draft.pdf> of the Warsaw Declaration, sent by the Polish presidency to national research ministries for comment in advance of an informal Council meeting in the Polish capital.

The draft text notes the “**pivotal**” **role of the ERC and the European Innovation Council (EIC) in Horizon Europe**. “We call upon the Commission to preserve their independence and expand their role in the next Union R&I Framework Programme,” it reads.

EIC work programmes are drafted by the European Commission in coordination with EU member states, but [there have been calls](#) to strengthen its independence along the lines of ERC, whose scientific council is fully responsible for allocating grants.

Universities are worried the Commission plans to impose top-down priorities on the ERC, after it [said in its Competitiveness Compass](#) that the organisation should operate “along the same strategic interests” as the EIC. The research community also fears the successor to Horizon Europe, FP10, could be integrated into a future European Competitiveness Fund, concerns which were exacerbated by [the Commission's initial plans](#) for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), the EU's long-term budget.

In the draft Warsaw Declaration, the Polish presidency recalls that the EU treaties foresee a multiannual Framework Programme, “to cover among others the research activities of the Union, the setting up of a minimum overall amount and the details rules for the Union financial participation.”

Horizon Europe and its predecessor Horizon 2020 “have become the world's major transnational programmes financing science and innovation, enhancing Europe's competitive edge globally,” the declaration reads.

“We therefore call on the European Commission to further build on the indisputable legacy of self-standing framework programmes for R&I and invite the European Commission to draft its initial proposal in respect of this legacy and in close cooperation with the member states.”

Widespread support

As the Warsaw Declaration is at an early draft stage, it is unclear whether member states will be prepared to endorse the text. The declaration may be watered down ahead of the meeting in order to reach a consensus, but research stakeholders are urging ministers to back the strong statement.

They are also encouraged by the non-binding report on FP10 [agreed this week](#) by the European Parliament’s Committee on Industry, Research and Energy. This also backs a standalone Framework Programme, with increased budgets for both the ERC and EIC.

“With these two institutions [Parliament and Council] clearly showing the need to preserve FP10 as a standalone programme, we hope the Commission will reconsider its current approach,” Kamila Kozirog, policy analyst at the European University Association, told Science|Business.

The first draft is “extremely promising,” said Julien Chicot, head of research and innovation policy at the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities.

“At a time of high uncertainties regarding the implications of the Commission’s Competitiveness Compass on EU R&I policy, we need the strong support from the Council to ensure a ‘self-standing’ and excellence-focused FP10 with an ambitious budget in the next MFF,” he added.

While he is pleased by the show of support for the ERC and EIC and their independence, Chicot would like to see Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions added to the list of instruments which should be expanded.

“We also welcome the Council’s relevant support for collaborative research and innovation, the importance of international scientific collaboration, and measures aimed at addressing the R&I gap within Europe,” he said.

MEPs blueprint to boost Europe's research and innovation (19 February 2025)

Source: Website EP <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20250217IPR26977/meps-blueprint-to-boost-europe-s-research-and-innovation>

- Ensuring a standalone Framework Programme 10 with an increased budget
- Streamlining research funding for greater impact and efficiency
- Fostering collaboration across borders and strengthening the European Research Area
- Empowering researchers with simplified processes and increased support

MEPs propose to strengthen Europe's research and innovation capabilities, ahead of the upcoming 10th Research Framework Programme (FP10).

The Committee on Industry, Research, and Energy proposed to bolster the EU's research and innovation policy and set the foundation for the upcoming 10th Research Framework Programme (FP10), in a report adopted on Wednesday on the implementation of the flagship Horizon Europe programme.

MEPs call for the FP10 to be a stand-alone Union Programme with a substantially higher budget, in order to reach the target of spending 3% of GDP on research and development (R&D) and ensure the funding of at least 75% of excellent proposals submitted.

Need for radical simplification

MEPs acknowledge the administrative burdens faced by participants under the current programme, and emphasize the need for radical simplification in the application and management processes of the FP10. Further, based on extensive stakeholder feedback, FP10 should focus on three core objectives:

- Creating a European competition of ideas by accelerating the development from fundamental science to innovation scale-up;
- Supporting strategic research initiatives which require large-scale and European collaboration;
- Advancing the European Research Area.

MEPs highlight the role of the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Research Council (ERC) as key drivers for innovation, with proposals to expand their budgets and ensure their autonomy. This support is crucial for fostering breakthrough technologies and supporting high-risk, high-reward research, which is essential for addressing societal challenges effectively.

Moreover, MEPs advocate for mission-oriented programmes, focusing on bottom-up research ideas and fostering interdisciplinary collaboration. They underscore the importance of international cooperation while ensuring that academic freedom is respected and protected across the EU and in associated countries.

EU proposes new Widening tools, leaked plans show (18 February 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/eu-proposes-new-widening-tools-leaked-plans-show>

Proposals build on Teaming actions and EIC pre-accelerator calls. Meanwhile, ERA fellowships and the hop-on facility will be phased out



Photo credits: Hans Reniers / Unsplash

As the European Commission prepares to review its Widening programme <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/commission-review-different-parts-widening-programme-zaharieva>, leaked plans show that it will add two new actions in 2026-27 intended to boost the research and innovation performance of lagging EU member states.

In 2026, it plans to create a Teaming synergies action to develop thematic clusters and common strategies within the scope of its Teaming actions, which pair institutions in better and worse performing countries. It will also establish a pilot for a research management and administrative support facility, which will provide training and consulting services to institutions in the Widening countries.

The Commission will also follow up on the first European Innovation Council (EIC) pre-accelerator calls for SMEs and start-ups in Widening countries. “Subject to the possibility to amend the work programme 2027, lessons from the 2025 call will be used to adjust the topic description,” the leaked document reads.

There are also plans to strengthen linkages between academia and industry. “Closer links between Widening actions and actions under Pillar 2 and enhanced intersectoral cooperation between research institutions and business are key to bridging these disparities,” the draft plans say.

Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe includes large public-private partnerships and thematic missions.

At the same time, the Commission plans to begin phasing out existing actions such as the European Research Area (ERA) fellowships and the hop-on facility, which allows researchers in Widening countries to join projects that are already under way.

Other instruments, such as Twinning, ERA Chairs and Excellence Hubs, will continue in the final years of Horizon Europe.

The changes are indicated in a draft 2026-27 orientation document for the part of Horizon Europe covering Widening participation and strengthening the ERA. This outlines research topics that the EU is considering for funding, and is one of many documents that Science|Business has shared to provide transparency into the drafting process.

The document also shows that the structure of the second ERA Policy Agenda, which will run from 2025 to 2027, is taking shape. It will comprise 19 elements, namely 11 structural policies and eight ERA actions. Structural policies have a long-term approach to the development of the ERA, while ERA actions focus on a concrete outcome over the three years of the ERA Policy Agenda.

The ERA 2026-27 work programme will support nine out of 19 proposed policies and actions:

Structural policies

- Enabling open science via sharing and re-use of data, including through the European Open Science Cloud
- Strengthening inclusive and intersectional gender equality in the ERA

- Making research careers more attractive and sustainable
- Reforming research assessment
- Upscaling knowledge valorisation capacities and activities
- Enhancing trust in science through citizen participation, engagement and science communication

ERA actions

- Equity in open science
- A harmonised and coordinated framework for a European approach to integrity and ethics in research and innovation in the face of emerging challenges
- Empowering research and innovation: a new era in research management

In the 2026 call, whose topics are organised around the four pillars detailed below, researchers will be tasked to directly address **the new ERA structural policies and actions**.

- **Institutional changes:** Capacity building and technical assistance to foster adoption of policies/practices within institutions in ERA
- **Ecosystems:** Building and reinforcing networks and communities of practice to foster broad uptake of policies/practices within and beyond ERA
- **Citizens and Science:** Connecting research and innovation with citizens and other stakeholders to increase trust in science and relevance and impact of science in ERA
- **New knowledge for ERA:** Creating new knowledge that supports design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of ERA policies

The 2027 call, on the other hand, will only respond to structural policies.

EIC Accelerator – 71 companies selected in the most competitive funding round so far (17 February 2025)

Source: Website EIC https://eic.ec.europa.eu/news/eic-accelerator-71-companies-selected-most-competitive-funding-round-so-far-2025-02-17_en



The European Innovation Council (EIC) **selected 71 cutting edge companies** <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/circabc-ewpp/d/d/workspace/SpacesStore/77a72587-3271-4257-bab5-c426180d5aff/file.bin> for funding, combining grants and equity, following the last 2024 EIC Accelerator cut-off in October. They have been selected among 1211 submitted proposals, out of which 431 have been invited to the jury interviews. It has been the most competitive funding round so far since the launch of the Accelerator under Horizon Europe.

The selected companies will collectively receive up to €161 million in grants and approximately €226 million in equity*. Notably, 79% of the companies will benefit from the full blended finance option, which combines grants and equity investments. Additionally, ten companies opted for grant only and five companies for equity-only funding. The equity investments will be made through the EIC Fund, the EIC's dedicated investment arm and Europe's largest deep-tech investor, which typically attracts additional investors and increases the overall investment to more than three times the EIC's original amount.

Note PJ: 11 of the granted companies are based in the Netherlands.

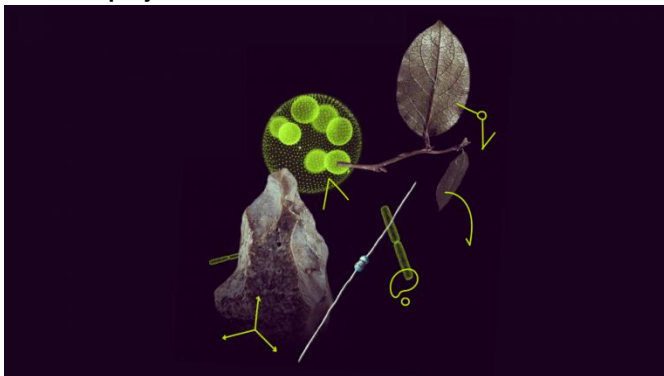
21% of the selected companies are led by women (as CEO, CSO or CTO), while there is a geographical spread spanning 16 countries.

For more information: https://eic.ec.europa.eu/news/eic-accelerator-71-companies-selected-most-competitive-funding-round-so-far-2025-02-17_en

MSCA Seal of Excellence awarded to 2939 outstanding postdoctoral researchers (17 february 2025)

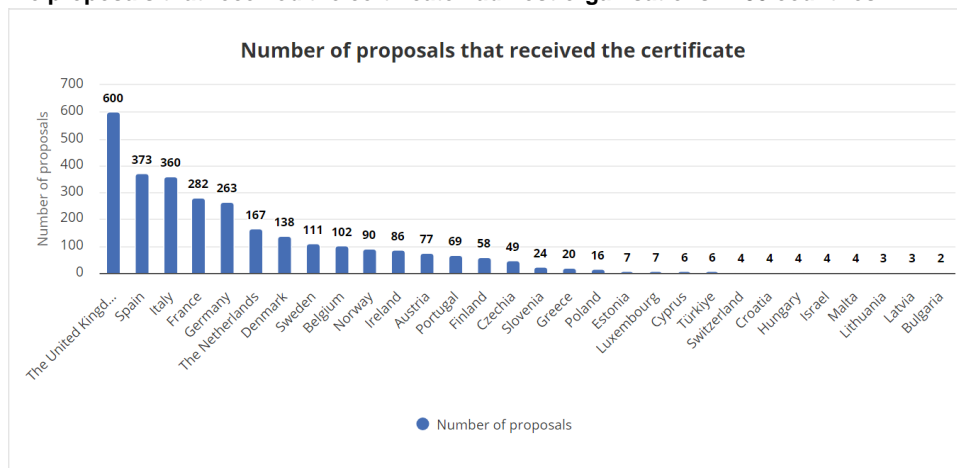
Source: website MSCA <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-seal-of-excellence-awarded-to-2939-outstanding-postdoctoral-researchers>

This recognition will allow MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships applicants to seek alternative funding for their excellent projects.



The European Commission awarded Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Seal of Excellence certificates to 2,939 applicants under the **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2024** call <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-awards-eu417-million-to-postdoctoral-researchers>. **These applicants submitted excellent proposals but did not receive funding due to insufficient budget.**

The proposals that received the certificate had host organisations in 30 countries.



This bar chart shows the number of proposals that received the Seal of Excellence certificate per country of host organisations. The top countries are the United Kingdom with 600 proposals, Spain with 373 proposals, Italy with 360 proposals, France with 282 proposals and Germany with 263 proposals.

For more information: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-seal-of-excellence-awarded-to-2939-outstanding-postdoctoral-researcher>

TO2 federation emphasizes the importance of joint research projects in FP10 (13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

European collaborative research is the cornerstone of research, development and innovation in the EU. The TO2 federation states this in its position paper for the next European Framework Program for Research and Innovation (FP10). The federation is the partnership of the Dutch institutes for applied research Deltares, MARIN, NLR, TNO and WUR. "With robust funding, strategic priorities and an emphasis on collaborative research, FP10 can increase Europe's competitiveness and tackle geopolitical, environmental, societal and industrial challenges. The European joint approach to RD&I is not only the key to innovation, but also crucial for a resilient and competitive Europe," it said.

Publication TO2 Federation: <https://to2-federatie.nl/to2-federation-on-european-collaborative-research/>

Nearly half of the ERC laureates bring inventions to the market (13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

About 44% of researchers who have received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) have applied their patented inventions commercially. This is evident from a study by the ERC. The most common form of patent exploitation is licensing to independent parties, followed by the creation of start-ups. "The research results confirm that ERC grantees play a crucial role in translating groundbreaking research into economic opportunities," it said. "The results of the ERC research reinforce the need for a supportive ecosystem, including financing, collaboration opportunities and an environment conducive to innovation."

News item ERC: <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/new-report-reveals-how-erc-grantees-commercialise-their-patented-inventions>

Think tank CEPS about FP10: 'pillar structure needs to be overhauled' (12 February 2025)

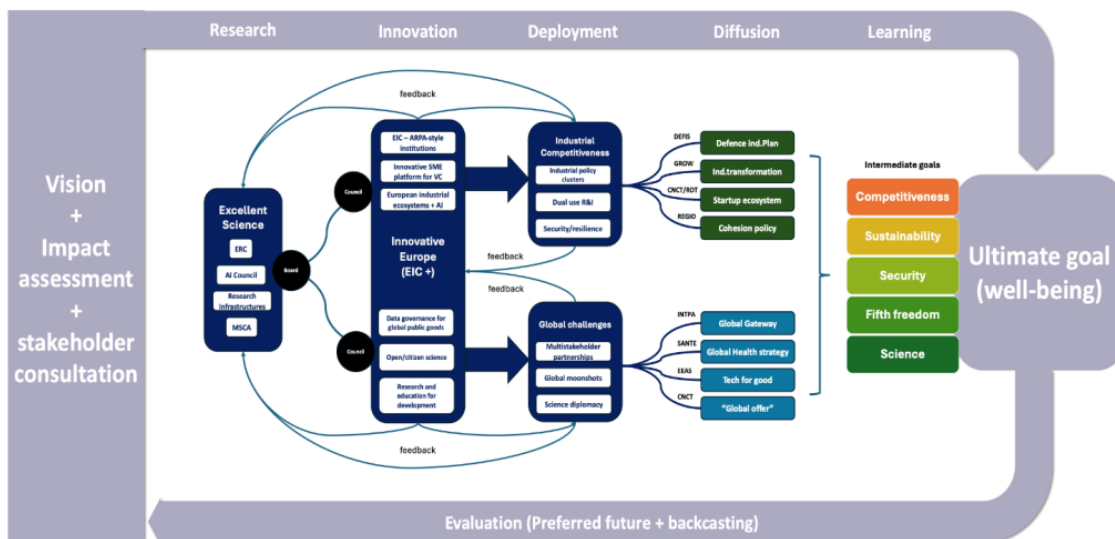
Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/denktank-ceps-over-kp10-pijlerstructuur-moet-op-de-schop->

CEPS proposes to significantly change the pillar structure in the next framework programme. This would strengthen the connection between fundamental research, innovation and industrial competitiveness. CEPS also makes a suggestion about who decides where the money goes. In addition, a cultural change is needed, the report states: risks have to be taken.



From three pillars to three phases

In order to convert fundamental research into innovative solutions, the current pillar system must be overhauled. This is stated by the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in a **new report, entitled Towards an Ambitious FP10** <https://cdn.ceps.eu/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/6g05pHvX-Towards-an-ambitious-FP10-with-cover.pdf>. The current demarcation would hinder synergies. **The CEPS proposal would mean major changes, especially for pillars 2 and 3.** CEPS's proposal is to move away from three pillars and switch to three phases of research. In this way, fundamental research leads more quickly to innovation and applications. CEPS would also like to see successful EIC instruments used much more widely. Dual-use research will also be given a prominent place and should strengthen industrial competitiveness.



high risk, high reward

The report also states that a cultural change is needed. The work programs of the current framework program are often too restrictive. Calls with a more open approach should lead to the financing of promising projects that involve more risks. If projects turn out not to work, they must also be able to be stopped.

Who decides what?

Three councils will determine research priorities: the **ERC board**, a **council for global challenges** and a **council for industrial competitiveness**. The Global Challenges Council should have a broad representation, including young researchers, low- and middle-income countries and philanthropists. The **Industrial Competitiveness Council** should be composed of academics, experts and representatives of industry and Member States. CEPS recognizes the value of an independent ERC board, separate from a possible European Competitiveness Fund.

Read full article here: <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/denktank-ceps-over-kp10-pijlerstructuur-moet-op-de-schop->

EARTO: Joint Statement for a stronger Europe through research & innovation (12 February 2025)

Source: Website <https://www.earto.eu/wp-content/uploads/Joint-statement-A-stronger-Europe-through-research-innovation-Final.pdf>

Achieving the vision to “put research and innovation at the heart of our economy” is essential for addressing Europe’s most pressing challenges. These include closing the innovation gap, advancing competitiveness while enabling the green and digital transitions, and strengthening resilience, security, and defence. These objectives were underscored in the ‘Europe’s Choice’ political guidelines of the European Commission, endorsed by the European Council and the European Parliament, and further elaborated in the Competitiveness Compass.

Recent landmark reports highlight the urgency of enhanced European collaboration in research, development and innovation for all these objectives. The Letta report on the future of the Single Market, the Draghi report on European competitiveness, the Heitor report on research, technology and innovation, and the Niinistö report on civilian and military preparedness collectively underline the critical need for a strengthened European approach. Action at the EU level is essential for boosting excellence in research, development and innovation through continent-wide competition and for leveraging the collective strength of all actors—through collaboration—across the research, development and innovation landscape. This is key to bolstering the research, development and innovation continuum while cultivating the talent, expertise, skills, and capabilities that drive these advancements.

Europe must act boldly to compete globally. To strengthen Europe’s leadership, the undersigned representatives of the research, development and innovation sector recognise the urgency of the challenge and the need to step up efforts. Seizing this opportunity requires a decisive step change in ambition and support at the European level.

To achieve these ambitions, we call for the following:

1. **A robust and dedicated European framework programme for research, development and innovation:** This should support the full research, development and innovation continuum, from fundamental research to market-ready innovative solutions, including through technology maturation, as well as effective deployment

and scaling. It should promote cross-sectoral, cross-disciplinary and cross-continental collaboration and the continuous development of the European research area and innovation ecosystem. Comprehensive support across the entire research, development and innovation continuum is essential to driving excellence and delivering impactful results.

2. **A substantially increased budget reserved for research, development and innovation:** This requires a stable and predictable funding framework, ensuring that more than €200 billion is allocated to research, development and innovation under the EU's 2028–2034 long-term budget. Strengthening research, development and innovation should not be perceived as competing with other priorities, but rather as the foundation for addressing Europe's challenges and seizing opportunities.
3. **Simplifying for beneficiaries and ensuring an attractive programme:** Improved regulatory frameworks and processes are needed to reduce transaction costs, enhance collaboration, and empower researchers and innovators of all kinds to focus on advancing excellent and innovative ideas that create solutions and impact.

EARTO, together with CESAER, ERT, EUA, LERU, Science Europe, and The Guild, issues this joint statement and stands ready to collaborate with the European Commission, the Council, and the Parliament to ensure that research, development, and innovation remain central to Europe's strategic priorities. We invite other organisations to endorse and join this effort.

Download the full Joint Statement here <https://www.earto.eu/wp-content/uploads/Joint-statement-A-stronger-Europe-through-research-innovation-Final.pdf>

Belgium wants to retain three-pillar structure for next Framework Programme (10 February 2025)

Source: Website



The Belgian federal and regional research and innovation administrations have prepared a reflection paper outlining key principles and perspectives for the upcoming 10th European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Belgium emphasises continuity with the current Horizon Europe programme while advocating for improvements and enhancements. Key guiding principles include maintaining a focus on excellence and impact, advocating for a stable and dedicated budget for R&I, and fostering synergies between European funding programmes to create a unified funding ecosystem. Belgium recommends retaining the three-pillar structure of Horizon Europe for stability and clarity, and emphasises the importance of interdisciplinary and intersectoral collaboration.

The paper supports bolstering the European Research Area, enhancing research infrastructures, and better aligning the European Institute of Innovation & Technology with other Horizon Europe instruments. Belgium highlights the valuable role of European Partnerships for aligning various sectors and streamlining the Partnership ecosystem. The Mission approach is recognised for its potential, but requires revised governance and strategic alignment beyond Horizon Europe.

For international cooperation, Belgium proposes balancing collaboration opportunities with knowledge security concerns, recommending that each EU organisation develop a knowledge security action plan. Simplification measures should include reducing administrative burdens, improving application processes, and ensuring clear communication and guidelines. The paper also emphasises gender equality, inclusiveness, and integrating social sciences, arts, and humanities throughout FP10. By embedding these guiding principles, Belgium aims to maximise the impact and effectiveness of FP10 in advancing R&I across various sectors.

The paper can be downloaded here: <https://era.gv.at/fp10/position-papers/position-papers/>

ERC should contribute more to competitiveness, says EU research chief (7 February 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/european-research-council/erc-should-contribute-more-competitiveness-says-eu-research-chief>

EU's basic research funder "is not living in a vacuum" and should listen to "evolving demands from society," says Marc Lemaître



Marc Lemaître, director general for research and innovation (left) and Florin Zubașcu, executive editor at Science|Business (right). Photo credits: Jeroen Vanhecke

EU policymakers and research funders should be "obsessed" with economic impact as part of the Commission's new competitiveness agenda, Marc Lemaître, director general for research and innovation, told the annual Science|Business conference on Thursday.

While the purpose of research and innovation goes beyond competitiveness, "we should wake up to the fact that this is what we will be judged upon ultimately in the coming years," Lemaître said.

Last week the Commission **presented its Competitiveness Compass** <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/eu-will-focus-funds-strategic-technologies-boost-competitiveness>, which will guide its work in the coming years and lays the groundwork for a greater focus on strategic technologies.

That document prompted concerns within the research community that the autonomy of the European Research Council (ERC) would be undermined, as it called for it to operate "along the same strategic interests" as the European Innovation Council (EIC).

"The ERC is not living in a vacuum," said Lemaître. "It has an essential role to play for society, and I have no doubt that it is listening to the evolving demands from society, and today, yes, competitiveness is very high on that list."

ERC's core mission is to foster scientific excellence. Unlike other parts of the Framework Programme, it is managed by an independent scientific council, which has strongly resisted attempts to impose more top-down decision making.

This led to the **dramatic resignation** of its last president, Mauro Ferrari, in 2020, after he **tried and failed** to convince the council to establish a special initiative focused on COVID-19, to run in parallel to the ERC's regular bottom-up research grants.

Lemaître pointed out that the organisation already supports the transition from research results to innovation, through its Proof of Concept grants, and suggested it could also play a greater role in attracting talent.

"[ERC] can perhaps also design some grants which would be more tailored for people who could be reflecting in the coming year or two, especially on the other side of the Atlantic, on their options.

"I think these are all valid points, which, in all respect for the ERC's independence and its choices, can and should be brought to their attention."

While the Competitiveness Compass plans to set top-down priorities in key sectors to steer funding, Lemaître said his personal view is that disruptive innovation also needs to be supported across sectors.

"We should not limit the scope of where disruptive innovation should come from, and this is why it should be, at least to a certain extent, free from top-down priorities. And this clearly starts in frontier basic research," he said, noting that ERC is "a very compelling model for that".

Mark Lloyd Davies, who oversees public-private partnerships at pharmaceutical firm Johnson & Johnson, agreed that industry and academia should be trusted to come forward with innovative ideas. "Once the civil service, if you like, has an idea to put forward [...] it's not necessarily the latest idea," he said.

This is one of the benefits of the US Advanced Research Projects Agencies (ARPA) model the Commission **wants to implement** as part of the EIC, Davies said. ARPAs embrace risk and test out new ideas. "The beauty of it is, it helps organisations to fail fast, because most of the products don't succeed, and that's innovation."

Framework Programme 10

There are also concerns that the successor to Horizon Europe, Framework Programme 10, will not be a standalone programme but integrated into a new Competitiveness Fund, after FP10 was not mentioned once in the Competitiveness Compass.

Lemaître was unable to confirm whether FP10 will have a “ringfenced” budget but acknowledged that there will be a “radical” reduction in the number of instruments in the next long-term EU budget in an effort to focus and simplify the various programmes.

The existence of an overall Framework Programme for research and innovation is however specified in the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union. “The Commission will not ignore the treaty,” Lemaître said.

Earlier in the day, MEP Christian Ehler [sought to reassure stakeholders](#), saying, “There will be a Framework Programme 10.”

Integrating research into the Competitiveness Fund is “really not an option, at least from the science point of view,” said Martina Brockmeier, president of the Leibniz Association, an alliance of German research institutes. She echoed concerns from universities that the Commission’s competitiveness plans focus on innovation, to the detriment of research.

“If you don’t have fundamental research, you don’t have innovation at some point, and that’s why we believe it should be a ringfenced budget,” she said, explaining that this would mean funds cannot be diverted to other areas.

The EU’s research chief refused to speculate about the budget for the next programme. However, in terms of providing more support for research and innovation, “we have about the best political backdrop we can dream of,” he said, after President Ursula von der Leyen [vowed to increase research spending](#) ahead of her re-election last year.

Research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva has been trying to manage expectations, telling [Science|Business](#) that promising to double the Horizon Europe budget to at least €200 billion in FP10, as MEPs, lobbyists and expert advisors <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/fp10/time-major-shakeup-how-eu-funds-research-expert-group-says> have called for, is “not realistic”.

Budget negotiations will be tough, with EU leaders also committed to ramping up defence spending, but Lemaître said the Competitiveness Compass, based around innovation, decarbonisation, and security, shows that all three are top priorities.

“It is not either we spend on research, or we spend on our defence capacities. We absolutely need to find a way to do both,” he said.

Call update - FutureFoodS First co-funded Call: 275 Pre-Proposals Submitted! (7 February 2025)

Source: Website FutureFoods Partnership <https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/news/call-update-futurefoods-first-co-funded-call-275-pre-proposals-submitted>

First Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call European Partnership FutureFoods

We are excited to announce that the pre-proposal submission period for the FutureFoodS Partnership’s First Transnational Co-Funded Call – “*Transforming Food Systems: Reshaping Food System Interactions, Fostering Food Innovations, and Empowering Sustainable Food Choices*” – has successfully ended.



This call brings together 36 funding organizations from 19 countries and the European Commission, jointly committing up to 40 million Euros to support innovative research and development projects focused on creating a sustainable food future.

We are happy to share that a total of **275 pre-proposals** has been submitted, contributing to one of the following key topics:

- **Topic 1: The way towards sustainable and resilient food systems - 85 pre-proposals**
- **Topic 2: New foods** – Fostering innovations in food design, processing and supply via demand and supply reorientation - **134 pre-proposals**
- **Topic 3: Empowering sustainable food choices** – Enabling food environments and dietary shifts - **63 pre-proposals**

This represents a strong commitment from nearly 1700 researchers across Europe who joined forces to develop innovative research for sustainable food systems transformation.

Read full article here: <https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/news/call-update-futurefoods-first-co-funded-call-275-pre-proposals-submitted>

Other International funding

28 new Eurostars projects launching soon (11 February 2025)

Source: Website RVO <https://www.rvo.nl/nieuws/28-nieuwe-eurostars-projecten-binnenkort-van-start>

In the last Eurostars call, 35 Dutch organizations were approved for 28 new Eurostars projects. With 28 projects, the Netherlands supports the largest number of projects of all Eurostars countries. In total, the winning projects represent more than €49 million in international R&D costs.

The 28 projects were selected by an international evaluation panel from a total of 699 applications, 135 of which involved Dutch participants. The projects involve collaboration with partners from 15 different countries, such as Spain (5 projects), Switzerland (5) and Germany (5), but also with partners from Estonia (2), Finland (1) and Canada (1).

Eurostars stimulates faster development and growth of innovative SMEs through international cooperation. The Ministry of Economic Affairs makes €22 million available annually for the Eurostar programme, divided over 2 calls per year. The Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO) implements the program.

For overview Winning projects Eurostars-3 call 7: <https://www.rvo.nl/nieuws/28-nieuwe-eurostars-projecten-binnenkort-van-start> (in Dutch)

8th Eurostars call opened (17 February 2025)

Source: Website RVO. <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/eurostars> (in Dutch)

The 8th call of the Eurostars program opened **on January 10, 2025 and will close on March 13, 2025, 2:00 PM CEST**. The United Kingdom, Switzerland, South Korea, Greece and 1 funding body from Italy (MIMIT) have not made a budget available for this call. In the run-up to this call, the Eureka secretariat has organized a webinar for applicants. This webinar can be viewed here.

Webinar/workshop February 18

In addition, RVO is organizing a separate webinar on February 18, 2025 from 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM for everyone who is currently preparing an application. During this webinar we will delve deeper into the factors that determine a successful Eurostars application, using the Eurostars application form, the evaluation criteria and the guidelines for expert evaluation. More information and registration can be found on this page.

Read more information about Eurostars. <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/eurostars> (in Dutch)

Opening Eurostars call 9 not determined yet

At this time, the 9th call of the Eurostars program has not yet been determined, but we expect a new opening **in July 2025 and closure in September 2025**. It is also expected that partner countries such as the UK, Switzerland and South Korea will again make budget available for that call.

National funding

Update: NWO increases security with introduction of 2FA on ISAAC (20 February 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-increases-security-with-introduction-of-2fa-on-isaac>



NWO previously announced the introduction of a new security measure for its digital system ISAAC: two-factor authentication (2FA). This measure is an important step in further enhancing the security of user data. From 25 February, the phased rollout of 2FA on ISAAC will begin.

The introduction of 2FA translates to an authentication step via an authenticator app or SMS. In addition to the usual login credentials username and password, users will select either 2FA method. Due to, amongst others, local laws and regulation SMS may not arrive (in time), which is why an authenticator app is the recommended 2FA method (outside the Netherlands).

- When choosing **2FA via SMS**, users enter their mobile number, after which they receive a verification code to complete the login procedure. This phone number is used exclusively for verification and is not stored with the user's personal data.
- When choosing **2FA via authenticator app**, instructions for installing a Microsoft or Google authenticator app will appear. The login procedure can be completed by scanning a QR code.

At NWO, the security of our digital systems and our users' data is paramount. The introduction of 2FA is a crucial measure to prevent unauthorised access and ensure the integrity of our systems even more. NWO understands that this change will require users to adapt, but stresses the importance of this extra layer of security. Login with 2FA is enabled automatically, users do not need to change any settings. **The ISAAC manual** <https://www.isaac.nwo.nl/isaac-web/help?languageId=nl> will be updated on 25 November.

Seventeen innovative research projects awarded through Open Competition Domain Science-M programme (17 February 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/seventeen-innovative-research-projects-awarded-through-open-competition-domain-science-m-programme>



The NWO Executive Board has approved seventeen grant applications in the Open Competition Domain Science-M programme. M-grants are intended for innovative, high-quality, fundamental research and/or studies involving matters of scientific urgency.

The topics vary from advancing the understanding of dissociative chemisorption reactions on metal surfaces, to developing a super-speed optical coherence tomography technique. And from investigating a kill-switch as bacterial immune system, to developing a mobile setup to study the inner workings of ears.

WUR is involved in the following 5 projects:

1. **The origin of colon cancer in the context of Western-style diet:** *Dr Riccardo Fodde & Dr Fränzel van Duijnhoven (EMC/WUR)*
2. **Unraveling the secrets of genomes: evolutionary cell biology in fungi and their sister lineages:** *Dr Jolien van Hooff (WUR)*
3. **How past fires influence the Amazon of the future:** *Dr Masha van der Sande (WUR)*
4. **A kill-switch as bacterial immune system:** *Dr Daan Swarts & Prof Dr Chirlmin Joo (WUR/TU Delft)*
5. **A Twist in the Tail: Exploring Chiral Interactions in Liquid Crystals for Biosensing:** *Dr Lisa Tran & Dr Siddharth Deshpande (UU/WUR)*

For more information about funded projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/seventeen-innovative-research-projects-awarded-through-open-competition-domain-science-m-programme>

About the NWO Open Competition Domain Science-M

M-grants are intended for realising curiosity-driven, fundamental research of high quality and/or scientific urgency. The M-grant offers researchers the possibility to elaborate creative and risky ideas and to realise scientific innovations that can form the basis for the research themes of the future. There are three categories of M-grants: M-1 (one scientific position), M-2 (two scientific positions in collaboration) and M-invest (investments) that are assessed in competition with each other.

Update Landscape Large-Scale Research Infrastructure (17 February 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/update-landscape-large-scale-research-infrastructure>



This spring, NWO is updating the Large-Scale Research Infrastructure (LSRI) Landscape. New large-scale research infrastructures and large-scale research infrastructures not yet included on the current Large-Scale Research Infrastructure Landscape (hereafter Landscape LSRI) are invited to apply.

Research infrastructures already on the **Landscape LSRI** <https://www.onderzoeksfaciliteiten.nl/> are asked to update the information on their infrastructure. Signing up and updating can be done by **filling in an online inventory form** <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=3TvmgU5Tr0qFWkwBfuxxJgsGGC91iCtKnGXsb0iXckRUOUM5MUISUIk3OUM4REJHRTdIU1hPRzJGRy4u&route=shorturl>. Deadline for signing up and updating is 10 April 2025.

Note PJ: WUR Shared Research Facilities coordinates this process because an offer letter must also be submitted from the Executive Board with a list of all LSRI that WUR wants to place on the landscape. If you are not on this list, your application will not be processed by NWO.. For more information about internal process of updating LSRI and request for including new LSRI please contact Mascha Rasenberg (mascha.rasenberg@wur.nl) from the department Co-creation value & Impact (CV&I)

What is included in large-scale research infrastructure?

Research infrastructures include equipment or collections of instruments, archives, collections or research data, e-infrastructures and data infrastructures. Large-scale research infrastructures are research infrastructures that are freely accessible to researchers and have a size of at least €10 million euros in terms of capital investment and operational costs over a five-year period. Any research infrastructure that meets the definition for **Large-Scale Research**

<https://onderzoeksfaciliteiten.nl/permanente-commissie/definitie> Infrastructure is included on the Landscape LSRI, regardless of which funding sources fund it.

Inclusion on the Landscape LSRI gives visibility to the research infrastructure for potential users. In addition, the Landscape LSRI is also important for policymakers and ministries. The national overview provides a starting point for making choices and formulating the strategy for funding research infrastructure. For example, **the National Roadmap Large-scale Research** <https://www.nwo.nl/onderzoeksprogrammas/nationale-roadmap-grootschalige-wetenschappelijke-infrastructuur> Infrastructure comprises a small subset of the LSRI Landscape and consists of the research infrastructure of national importance and highest priority for realising research breakthroughs. The updated LSRI Landscape 2025 is an important starting point for the new LSRI National Roadmap, to be published in 2026.

More information and contact

More information about the landscape inventory and procedure can be found on **the current Landscape LSRI** <https://onderzoeksfaciliteiten.nl/node/3985website>.

Call Lowlands Science 2025 open (13 February 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-lowlands-science-2025-open>



Collecting research data for three days in a row at a festival with over 65,000 potential test subjects. This is possible thanks to a collaboration with festival organisers, artists and scientists. Researchers with an innovative idea for scientific research are given the unique opportunity to carry it out at Lowlands, one of the largest and most renowned festivals in the Netherlands.

Lowlands, the Dutch Research Agenda (NWA), New Scientist and BKB | The Campaign Office invite researchers from all knowledge institutions in the Netherlands to conduct research at the festival, which this year will be held on 15, 16 and 17 August 2025. The deadline for submitting a research proposal is 28 March 2025.

The designated Lowlands Science site can be used for the research. Lowlands visitors can participate in experiments on a voluntary and anonymous basis, and in this way become more familiar with science in an accessible way. Previous editions of Lowlands Science were very successful, both for the festival visitors and for the participating scientists, who were able to collect an extraordinary amount of data. See the video below for an impression of Lowlands Science:



Video: Onderzoek doen op Lowlands Science:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LWzq_u28sLk

Proposals can be submitted using the form on the Lowlands website. For more information and the criteria for this call, read the full advance notice in the document below or **visit the Lowlands website** <https://lowlands.nl/ll-science/>.

Research proposals must be submitted no later than March 28, 2025 via this form:

<https://ikmeldmijaan.typeform.com/to/Zukooywq>

Open call Lowlands 2025: https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/ll25_llscience_opencall_def.pdf

Health Holland Programme – Call for Proposals (13 February 2025)

Source: Website EWU Preventive health <https://preventivehealth.ewuu.nl/health-holland-tailored-lifestyle-programme/>
Under the Health–Holland banner, the Institute for Preventive Health (i4PH) and the AI-Hub of the TU/e, WUR, UU, and UMCU Alliance (EWUU) invite project proposals from Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) for the programme “Tailored Lifestyle: An Integrated Data-Driven Approach to Lifestyle and Living Environment.”

Please find the full call text download here: <https://preventivehealth.ewuu.nl/wp-content/uploads/sites/398/2025/02/ENG-Call-tekst-HH-PROG-Tailored-Lifestyle.pdf>

Health challenges such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, cancer, and depression pose a significant burden on public health. These issues disproportionately affect people in lower socioeconomic positions (SEP). This program is dedicated to reducing health disparities by promoting healthier lifestyle choices and creating environments that support sustainable behaviour change.

This programme aims to contribute to the national mission to promote increased health standards for the entire population, achieve an increased lifespan of at least 5 years and decrease health inequalities between the lowest and highest socio-economic groups by 30%.

Projects & project objectives

The **Tailored Lifestyle Programme** offers two types of projects:

- **Kickstart Projects:** Subsidy range of **€125,000 – €200,000**.
- **Signature Projects:** Subsidy range of **€500,000 – €750,000**.

Both project types share the same objectives and must focus on the integration of:

Technology: Advanced technologies, such as artificial intelligence (AI), apps, and sensors, provide personalised health advice and scalable, practical solutions.

Behaviour: Incorporating insights from behavioural science, to support sustainable behaviour change and empower individuals to make healthier choices in their daily lives.

Lifestyle: Personalised nutrition and exercise advice, helping individuals adopt and maintain healthier lifestyles tailored to their needs.

Living Environment: Community-based interventions focus on creating environments that promote health by enhancing access to healthy food and encouraging physical activity in schools, workplaces, and neighbourhoods.

Furthermore, the programme places a strong emphasis on addressing health inequities, with particular focus on underserved communities to ensure equitable access to benefits. Taking a transdisciplinary approach, collaboration between research institutions, businesses, societal organisations, citizens and governments is central, with an emphasis on sustainable impact and broad societal implementation.

Submitting proposals

The call for project proposals opens on February 19th, 2025. We follow a two-step approach:

Preproposals deadline: March 31st, 2025 When submitting the pre-proposal form, letters of intent from the partners must be included

Submission deadline for full proposals: 12 September 2025

For more information and the forms: <https://preventivehealth.ewuu.nl/health-holland-tailored-lifestyle-programme/>

Sharing research data and software: how are NWO and ZonMw funded projects doing? (10 February 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/sharing-research-data-and-software-how-are-nwo-and-zonmw-funded-projects-doing>



Research data and software resulting from NWO and ZonMw funding should be shared as openly as possible. But to what extent does this actually happen? A report published today sheds light, for the first time, on compliance with the research data management policy.

As research funders, NWO and ZonMw consider it important that research data and software generated as part of awarded projects are shared as openly as possible. Data availability improves transparency and reproducibility of the presented research, and allows for the reuse of data in follow-up research. Since 2013 (ZonMw) and 2016 (NWO) there has been a policy in place requiring that as a minimum, research data should be made as open as possible, for reuse. Until now, NWO and ZonMw did not have a quantitative overview of the extent to which researchers comply with the data management policy.

Innovative study design

NWO commissioned Technopolis to conduct a study. For this, an innovative method was used: all articles published in 2022 and 2023 in which NWO and ZonMw were acknowledged as funders (N=10,053) were analysed using the open-source text and **data mining tool Grobid (GeneRation Of Bibliographic Data)** [https://grobid.readthedocs.io/en/latest/Introduction/#:~:text=GROBID%20\(or%20Grobid%2C%20but%20not,on%20technical%20and%20scientific%20publications](https://grobid.readthedocs.io/en/latest/Introduction/#:~:text=GROBID%20(or%20Grobid%2C%20but%20not,on%20technical%20and%20scientific%20publications). Using a machine learning approach, this tool can distinguish different ways in which data and software are mentioned in publications: whether data is used, whether new data is created or whether data is shared. The results of this analysis were supplemented with data from two major citation databases: **OpenAIRE** <https://www.openaire.eu/> and **DataCite** <https://datacite.org/> that collect metadata on data and software citations.

The main findings of the report for publications from 2023 are:

- 44% of studied publications contain a data availability statement.
- 20% of publications mention data sharing.
- 16% of publications contain a formal citation to datasets.
- 3% of publications mention software sharing.

A similar analysis is regularly conducted by the **French Open Science Monitor** <https://frenchopensciencemonitor.esr.gouv.fr/research-data/general>. This analysis shows that less than 7% of French publications mentioned data sharing and a little bit more than 1% mentioned software sharing. The difference may be explained by the fact that ZonMw's policy has been in place since 2013 and NWO's policy has already been in existence since 2016.

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/sharing-research-data-and-software-how-are-nwo-and-zonmw-funded-projects-doing>

Regional funding

Room for improvement in the coherence of Horizon Europe and Cohesion Policy (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

Barriers remain between Horizon Europe funds and European Cohesion Policy R&I activities. This is evident from a study by the European Commission, which was carried out at the request of the European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). The researchers see cautious progress compared to the 2014-2020 period, but conclude that there are still 'persistent strategic and operational gaps'. The main barrier is that the goals, timing, procedures and conditions of programs are inconsistent, making it difficult to align strategic priorities with financing opportunities. This requires more cooperation and coordination between the EU, national and regional governments and agencies, but this is complex because of the many and different government agencies involved, each with their own expertise, roles and responsibilities.

Publication European Union: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/2e2d3d39-e2b1-11ef-be2a-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

Expert report outlines possibilities for a European framework for science diplomacy (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

The European Commission has published the expert report 'A European Framework for Science Diplomacy'. More than 130 scientists, diplomats and other relevant experts are involved in the preparation of the report, which outlines recommendations for a future European framework for science diplomacy. According to the experts, science diplomacy must be used strategically to tackle geopolitical challenges and scientific substantiation and future explorations are needed to make European diplomacy more effective and robust. Proposals include strategic, operational and enabling instruments and measures to improve coordination between Member States and ensure that the EU can act more strategically on the world stage.

News item European Commission: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/european-framework-science-diplomacy-2025-02-13_en

Recommendations for European policy for technological infrastructures (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

The European Commission's Expert Group on Technology Infrastructures (EGTI) has presented its final report. The report presents five strategic recommendations for a European approach to technological infrastructures. For example, the EU should work towards a formalized definition of technological infrastructures to ensure a clear and uniform approach across the EU. It also calls for a new mechanism for investing in key technologies for the EU's competitiveness and to improve access for companies - especially SMEs and start-ups - to infrastructures.

Publication European Commission: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/ebbad86c-ea87-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Commission presents its roadmap for a thriving EU farming and agri-food sector (19 February 2025)

Source: Website https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_530

Today, the Commission is presenting its **Vision for Agriculture and Food**, an ambitious roadmap on the future of farming and food in Europe. This roadmap sets the stage for **an attractive, competitive, resilient, future-oriented and fair agri-food system for current and future generations of farmers and agri-food operators.**

Simplifying further our policies and increasing the uptake of innovation and digitalisation are pre-requisites to all actions outlined in the Vision. Later in 2025, the Commission will propose a **comprehensive simplification package for the current agricultural legislative framework**, along with an **EU digital strategy for agriculture** to support the transition to digital-ready farming.

Ursula **von der Leyen**, President of the European Commission, said: *“Our farmers take centre stage in the EU's food production system. It is thanks to their daily, hard work that all of us have safe and high-quality food. Yet, our farmers face the growing challenges of global competition and climate change. That is why today, we are offering a comprehensive strategy that makes farming more attractive, more resilient and more sustainable.”*

The Vision outlines four priority areas:

- **An attractive sector:** Farming must have the necessary stability to encourage young people to enter the profession, including through fair incomes and better-targeted public support. They also need to be actively supported to reap the benefits of innovation and new business models, including from carbon and nature credits, as complementary sources of income. The Commission is committed to ensuring that farmers are not forced to systematically sell their products below production costs, and will take concrete action to that end, including through the review of **the Unfair Trading Practices Directive**. The Commission will also present a **Generational Renewal Strategy in 2025**, with recommendations on measures needed both at the EU and national/regional level to address the barriers to young and new people entering the profession.
- **A competitive and resilient sector:** The EU will continue to prioritise food security and sovereignty in various ways. Trade negotiations and agreements will be used to their full extent, while protecting the interests of European farmers. The Vision also responds to the requests of farmers, citizens and society at large for a stronger alignment of production standards for imported products to guarantee that **the EU's ambitious standards do not lead to competitive disadvantage, while in line with international rules**. For this reason, the Commission will start taking steps in 2025 to assess the impact of **greater coherences in standards** when it comes to the hazardous pesticides banned in the EU and on animal welfare. Additionally, the rigorous enforcement and controls of **food safety standards remains a non-negotiable priority**. The Commission will **reinforce its focus on livestock** to foster the long-term future of the sector.
- **A future-proof sector:** Europe's agricultural sector plays an important role in the transition to a low-carbon economy. The vision recognises the need to reconcile climate action with food security and the specific challenges faced by the sector. Farmers should be rewarded for adopting nature-friendly practices. In this context, the Commission will carefully consider any further ban on the use of pesticides if alternatives are not available in a reasonable time and will **streamline access to biopesticides** in the EU market. The Commission will also develop a voluntary benchmarking system, **the 'on-farm sustainability compass'**, to help farmers measure and improve their farm-level performance. A **Water Resilience Strategy** will also be prepared to address the pressing need for more efficient water uses.
- **Fair living and working conditions in rural areas:** The Commission will come forward with an **updated Rural Action Plan** to ensure that rural areas remain vibrant, functional, and deeply linked to the EU's cultural and natural heritage. An **annual Food Dialogue** will also be launched with a broad range of actors, including consumers, farmers, industry and public authorities to find solutions for issues such as food affordability and innovation. Reducing **food waste** and addressing societal concerns for **animal welfare** will also be closely looked at by the Commission going forward.

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_530

Research faces uncertain future in EU budget shakeup (13 February 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/eu-budget/research-faces-uncertain-future-eu-budget-shakeup>

The Commission's roadmap for the 2028-34 budget has renewed fears that research and innovation will disappear into a European Competitiveness Fund



Piotr Serafin, Commissioner for Budget, Anti-Fraud and Public Administration. Photo credits: Brigitte Hase / European Union

The European Commission is kicking off consultations on the post-2027 EU budget, which it wants to be ambitious “both in size and design” in the face of geopolitical tensions to unfair global competition.

“The status quo is not an option,” the Commission writes in its outline for the 2028-34 budget

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/6d47acb4-9206-4d0f-8f9b-3b10cad7b1ed_en?filename=Communication%20on%20the%20road%20to%20the%20next%20MFF_en.pdf , or

Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), published on Wednesday.

At its core is a Competitiveness Fund to “support strategic sectors and technologies critical to the EU competitiveness,” including research and innovation. “The Fund’s comprehensive architecture will allow it to accompany European projects along the entire investment journey, from research, through scale-up, industrial deployment, to manufacturing,” it says. This fund will operate alongside a plan for each country, with key reforms and investments in areas such as cohesion funds, allowing resources to be linked to performance.

It is unclear whether, and how, the Commission plans to fund research and innovation in fields that are not deemed to be strategic and do not therefore fall under the Competitiveness Fund.

The roadmap set off alarm bells for research organisations and universities, which already worry that research funding could fall under the Competitiveness Fund rather than a standalone Framework Programme to replace Horizon Europe. At the Science|Business conference last week, MEP Christian Ehler **insisted** that “there will be a Framework Programme 10.” Marc Lemaître, director general for research and innovation at the European Commission, said the Commission **would respect the EU treaty**, which provides a legal basis for a Framework Programme, but he was unable to confirm whether FP10 would have a ringfenced budget.

Lidia Borrell-Damián, secretary general of Science Europe, fears that including FP10 in the Competitiveness Fund implies losing “curiosity-driven, blue-sky research” essential to drive societal progress and address ongoing challenges. She also wants clarification on the research and innovation areas that qualify for Important Projects of Common European Interest and how research outside this scope will be supported.

Meanwhile, the document reiterates Commission President Ursula von der Leyen’s desire to put research and innovation at the heart of the EU economy: “Europe’s future competitiveness will depend on our ability to start a new age of invention and ingenuity,” it says.

Mattias Björnholm, secretary general of the CESAER university association, supports this ambition, but points out that Horizon Europe already offers a proven tool for boosting European research and innovation. As such, he finds it “deeply concerning” that the Commission’s MFF plans do not explicitly mention its successor.

“This would have been an ideal opportunity to set out a vision for significantly expanding the resources for the programme to match this ambition,” he said.

On the other hand, if placing FP10 under a Competitiveness Fund in the next MFF helps politically to secure a substantial funding increase, the change could be acceptable. “As long as the programme builds on best practices from Horizon Europe, including its structures and rules of participation, its exact political or legal positioning matters less,” he said.

For Borrell-Damián, however, “a truly future-oriented Union must safeguard free scientific inquiry, best ensured through an independent research and innovation Framework Programme that complements, but remains distinct from, other funding instruments.”

On his end, Jan Palmowski, secretary general of the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, questioned the evidence to suggest that the status quo is not an option for research funding. “Europe may be falling behind in research and innovation, but after decades of national underinvestment that is despite, rather than because, of European Framework Programmes,” he wrote on social media.

Think tanks and knowledge umbrella organizations respond to Strategic Compass (13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

The European Commission’s Strategic Compass could cause a conflict between industrial policy and the internal market, think tank Bruegel says in an analysis. The Compass is said to be ‘a cheap version of Draghi’s policy advice’. Bruegel states that the Compass, like Draghi’s plans, requires ‘exceptional coordination and cooperation at EU level’, but is less relevant in the areas of trade policy and the role of government financing. “This makes it more budgetary and politically realistic, increasing the likelihood that the plan will at least be implemented. But it also generates tensions between objectives and increases the risk that implementation will stall,” it reads. The American think tank CEPA believes that the Compass contains good plans, but warns that it appears to be a slow response to a rapidly changing world.

The European University Association (EUA) responds largely positively, but argues that separate programs such as the Framework Program for Research and Innovation and Erasmus+ should not be swallowed up by a general Competitiveness Fund. “These programs are invaluable for Europe’s competitiveness. Therefore, they must continue to

exist as individual entities with their own identity and community,” EUA said. The League of European Research Universities (LERU) advocates sufficient investment in basic research. With this, LERU responds to the call from various knowledge umbrella organizations, about which we wrote last week.

Analyse Bruegel: <https://www.bruegel.org/analysis/draghi-shoestring-european-commissions-competitiveness-compass>

Analyse CEPA: <https://cepa.org/article/is-europes-competitiveness-compass-leading-it-astroy/>

Nieuwsbericht EUA: <https://www.eua.eu/news/eua-news/stable-research-innovation-and-education-programmes-are-needed-to-build-a-competitive-europe.html>

Nieuwsbericht LERU: <https://www.leru.org/news/competitiveness-compass-must-find-a-place-for-basic-research>

A bolder, simpler, faster Union: the 2025 Commission work programme (12 February 2025)

Source: Website EC https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_466

The Commission has adopted its **2025 work programme** https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategy-documents/commission-work-programme/commission-work-programme-2025_en, outlining its ambition to **boost competitiveness, enhance security, and bolster economic resilience** in the EU. It builds on the commitments set out in the **Political Guidelines** https://commission.europa.eu/document/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en and the mission letters sent by President **von der Leyen**.

The work programme focuses on the flagship initiatives the Commission will take in the first year of its mandate, responding to the issues that matter most to Europeans. It reflects the need for **more opportunities, innovation, and growth** for our citizens and businesses, ultimately fostering a more secure and prosperous EU. The newly proposed initiatives are laid out in a dedicated annex together with the evaluations and fitness checks announced today. A Communication on Implementation and Simplification accompanies the work programme. It sets out how the Commission plans, over the next five years, to make implementation of EU rules easier in practice, and to **reduce administrative burdens and simplify EU rules**. It contains targets and tools to help lighten the regulatory load, boost competitiveness and resilience, and deliver fast and meaningful improvements for people and businesses.

A strategic implementation and simplification agenda

The 2025 work programme focuses strongly on simplification. It includes a **first series of Omnibus packages** and proposals designed to make EU policies and laws work better and faster to strengthen the EU's competitiveness. The **first Omnibus** will put forward far-reaching simplification, notably in the fields of sustainable finance reporting, sustainability due diligence and taxonomy. Other initiatives, like the **Industrial Decarbonisation Accelerator Act**, will streamline permit granting, authorisations and reporting requirements. A **new definition of small mid-caps** will lighten the regulatory load so that SMEs face less obstacles when they grow bigger.

Simplification measures concerning the **Common Agriculture Policy** and other policy areas affecting farmers will further address sources of complexity and excessive administrative burden for national administrations and farmers. Further simplification proposals will be explored, including a possible omnibus in the area of **defence** to help reach the investment goals that will be set out in the White Paper, and to allow innovative companies to flourish.

Moving forward together: the key deliverables of the 2025 Commission work programme

- **Sustainable Prosperity and Competitiveness:** The newly launched **Competitiveness Compass** https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness_en will guide sustainable growth efforts, with the EU Start-up and Scale-up Strategy empowering entrepreneurs through better access to capital. At the heart of the collaborative plan for decarbonisation and competitiveness is the Clean Industrial Deal, which will pave the way towards a proposed 90% emission-reduction target for 2040.
- **Defence and Security:** Amid tensions in the geopolitical landscape, the EU is intensifying efforts to safeguard security and ensure peace, unveiling plans to build a robust future for European Defence. By investing collectively and strategically with NATO's cooperation, the EU aims to reinforce its defence industry and reduce dependencies. The Preparedness Union Strategy will enhance crisis anticipation and resilience, reinforced by initiatives like the EU Stockpiling strategy and the Critical Medicines Act to secure key resources.
- **Supporting people, strengthening our societies and our social model:** Aiming to cement Europe's unique and highly treasured social model and to strengthen social fairness, the Commission will spearhead efforts to modernise social policies through the New Action Plan on the European Pillar of Social Rights. Aiming to adapt to technological, demographic, and sectoral transformations the Commission will present the Union of Skills to ensure that all workers have the education and training they need.
- **Sustaining our quality of life:** The Commission will present a **Vision for Agriculture and Food** to ensure a stable framework for farmers and outline a roadmap for key proposals. **The Ocean Pact** will create a unified framework for ocean policies, aiming to preserve ocean health and boost the EU blue economy. Additionally, the **European Water Resilience Strategy** will adopt a source-to-sea approach to manage water resources

effectively, addressing climate change impacts like floods and droughts. **A simplification package of the Common Agriculture Policy** will address sources of complexity and administrative burden for farmers and national administrations.

- **Protecting democracy and upholding values:** Initiatives like the Democracy Shield will tackle threats like rising extremism and disinformation. The Commission also plans to enhance strategies to combat discrimination based on gender, disability, sexual orientation, or race, including a renewed LGBTIQ Equality strategy and a new Anti-racism strategy.
- **A global Europe: leveraging our power and partnerships:** Whilst working for Ukraine's freedom remains a priority, the EU is committed to a just, comprehensive and lasting peace based on the two-state solution in the Middle East. A Mediterranean Pact and Black Sea strategy will focus on regional cooperation, economic investment, and security, and a new Strategic EU-India agenda will provide a comprehensive approach to pinpoint areas of common strategic interest.
- **Delivering together and preparing our Union for the future:** The Commission plans to present a new Multiannual Financial Framework focused on simplifying access to EU funding and enhancing financial impact to support national, private, and institutional financing. Additionally, a focus on pre-enlargement policy reviews will further assess the consequences and impacts of enlargement on all EU policies guaranteeing that our policies can continue delivering effectively in a larger Union.

Note PJ: The successors to Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ are not included in the Commission's work program for 2025. However, the Commission indicates that it will present its proposal for the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) in the third quarter of this year. Although it is not specifically mentioned in the work program, Von der Leyen, together with Budget Commissioner Serafin, already announced that this will be in July 2025

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_466

For Workprogramme 2025: https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/strategy-documents/commission-work-programme/commission-work-programme-2025_en

NEW public consultation: Shaping the future of the EU together: the Commission sets out the road to the next EU long-term budget (12 February 2025)

Source: Website EC https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_48

Today, the European Commission published a Communication on 'The Road to the next Multiannual Financial Framework'. It outlines **the key policy and budgetary challenges that will shape the design of the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF)**. This lays the groundwork for reflections on how to adapt the EU's long-term budget to evolving needs and priorities. With this Communication, the Commission also launches in parallel a **Europe-wide campaign with a range of stakeholders**, including Member States governments, regional entities, and citizens.

An EU budget at the heart of EU priorities

The European budget supports citizens, farmers, researchers, businesses and regions across Europe and beyond. It has proven **essential for improving the lives of Europeans**. Together with NextGenerationEU, it helped overcome a pandemic and energy crisis, while saving millions of jobs during lockdowns and investing in our clean and digital future. The EU budget also provided unprecedented support to Ukraine and the security of Europe, in the face of Russia's war of aggression.

The next long-term budget, which will start in 2028, needs to square the circle: **the expectations from the EU to act are steadily increasing**. For the EU budget to be fit for our ambitions, ensure the repayment of the borrowing for NextGenerationEU and, at the same time, provide stable national financial contributions from Member States, we need to introduce new own resources. The status quo is not an option. Choices need to be made. The EU must **maximise the impact of every euro** it spends, **focusing on EU priorities** and objectives where EU action is most needed. New challenges and expectations for EU action require reconsidering the way the EU budget works to make it fit for the future. The objective of a free, democratic, strong, secure, prosperous and competitive Europe calls for a reformed and reinforced EU budget – simpler, more flexible, more targeted and impactful.

The new approach for a modern EU budget should include **a plan for each country with key reforms and investments**, designed and implemented in partnership with national, regional, and local authorities. A **European Competitiveness Fund** should establish an investment capacity to support strategic sectors and critical technologies.

Also, a **revamped external action financing** should be more impactful, targeted and aligned with strategic interests, contributing to a new foreign policy. The budget should also build in additional safeguards **protecting the rule of law**.

Furthermore, the EU budget should be able to rely on modernised revenues to ensure sufficient and sustainable financing for our common priorities.

Designing the budget together

The EU budget benefits all Europeans, and they should have the opportunity to express their views on the future of the EU budget. That is why the Commission launches today a public consultation inviting stakeholders and citizens to have their say on the future EU budget and the policies it should support. The consultations will be open for the next 12 weeks. They can be accessed via the following links:

- **Implementing EU Funds with Member States and regions:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14520-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-implementing-EU-funding-with-Member-States-and-regions_en
- **EU funding for competitiveness:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14521-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-competitiveness_en
- **EU funding for external action:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14522-EU-s-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-external-action_en
- **EU funding for cross-border education, training and solidarity, youth, media, culture, and creative sectors, values, and civil society:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14523-EU-s-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-cross-border-education-training-and-solidarity-youth-media-culture-and-creative-sectors-values-and-civil-society_en
- **EU funding for civil protection, preparedness and response to crises:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14524-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-civil-protection-preparedness-and-response-to-crises_en
- **EU funding for the single market, and cooperation between national authorities:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14525-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-the-single-market-and-cooperation-between-national-authorities_en
- **Performance of the EU budget:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14526-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-performance-of-the-EU-budget_en

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_48

EU launches InvestAI initiative to mobilise €200 billion of investment in artificial intelligence (11 February 2025)

Source: Website EC https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_467

Today, at the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Action Summit in Paris, Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** has launched **InvestAI, an initiative to mobilise €200 billion for investment in AI, including a new European fund of €20 billion for AI gigafactories**. This **large AI infrastructure** is needed to allow open, collaborative development of the most complex AI models and to make Europe an AI continent.

Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** said: *“AI will improve our healthcare, spur our research and innovation and boost our competitiveness. We want AI to be a force for good and for growth. We are doing this through our own European approach – based on openness, cooperation and excellent talent. But our approach still needs to be supercharged. This is why, together with our Member States and with our partners, we will mobilise unprecedented capital through InvestAI for European AI gigafactories. This unique public-private partnership, akin to a CERN for AI, will enable all our scientists and companies – not just the biggest - to develop the most advanced very large models needed to make Europe an AI continent.”*

President of the European Investment Bank, Nadia Calviño, said: *“Together with the EU Commission, the EIB Group is stepping up support for Artificial Intelligence, a key driver of innovation and productivity in Europe.”*

The EU's InvestAI fund will finance four future AI gigafactories across the EU. The new AI gigafactories will be specialised in training the most complex, very large, AI models. Such next-generation models require extensive computing infrastructure for breakthroughs in specific domains such as medicine or science. The gigafactories will have around 100 000 last-generation AI chips, around four times more than the AI factories being set up right now. The gigafactories funded through InvestAI will be the largest public-private partnership in the world for the development of trustworthy AI. They will serve the European model of cooperative, open innovation, with a focus on complex industrial and mission-critical applications. The goal is that every company, not only the biggest players, can access large-scale computing power to build the future.

InvestAI will include a layered fund, with shares of different risk and return profiles. The EU budget would derisk the investment of other partners. The Commission's initial funding for InvestAI will come from existing EU funding programmes which have a digital component, such as [Digital Europe Programme](#) and [Horizon Europe](#), and [InvestEU](#).

Member States can also contribute by programming funds from their Cohesion envelopes. Funding of AI gigafactories with a mix of grants and equity will serve as one of the pilot cases for strategic technologies announced in the **Competitiveness Compass** https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_339.

Read full article here: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_467

Gender equality in research and innovation not progressing fast enough, according to new She Figures report (11 February 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/gender-equality-research-and-innovation-not-progressing-fast-enough-according-new-she-figures-report-2025-02-11_en&pk_campaign=whatsnew_newsletter

The Commission has released the latest edition of its flagship publication series, She Figures, which presents the most up-to-date and Europe-wide statistics on gender equality in Research and Innovation (R&I).

Europe's innovation potential is at risk. While women outnumber men in university education, they remain strikingly underrepresented in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers and leadership. The report reveals a widening gender gap in critical sectors like ICT, where only 22% of doctoral graduates are women. This not only deepens the EU's existing skills shortages but also threatens long-term competitiveness. Gender disparities persist at the highest levels of research and innovation, with just 9% of inventors being women and 98% of EU research failing to integrate a gender dimension.

These findings echo concerns raised by the [Draghi report on EU Competitiveness](#), which emphasised the need to harness the power of a diverse and inclusive workforce, to boost Europe's competitiveness and economic growth.

Advancing gender equality in the European Research Area

The European Union has made significant strides in promoting gender equality in R&I, including introducing a Gender Equality Plan eligibility criterion for Horizon Europe. Moreover, the integration of a gender dimension into R&I content is a requirement for most projects, as its absence would reduce the relevance and excellence of the research. Increasing gender balance throughout the programme is another objective, with a target of 50% women in Horizon Europe related boards, expert groups and evaluation committees.

As a result, 81% of Calls for R&I proposals now address the gender dimension, and women now make up more than 51% of participants in Horizon Europe boards and expert groups. Furthermore, 38% of the researchers in Horizon Europe projects are women and the share of women-led consortia in this funding programme has also risen from 23% to 31%.

These progresses build on the European Research Area (ERA) policy agenda, which has prioritised gender equality and the integration of the gender dimension in R&I content since 2012. New initiatives for promoting women in R&I will include actions to counter gender-based violence in academia, and strengthening of the **Women TechEU initiative** https://eisma.ec.europa.eu/programmes/european-innovation-ecosystems/women-techeu_en to support deep-tech start-ups led by women.

More information

She Figures 2024 Report: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f319e450-db7e-41d1-ade7-4bb1f32f08b1_en

The She Figures publication is the European Commission's flagship report monitoring gender equality in R&I across Europe and beyond. In line with previous editions, She Figures 2024 follows the chronological journey of researchers from higher education into the labour market and on to decision-making and leadership positions.

For more information: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/gender-equality-research-and-innovation-not-progressing-fast-enough-according-new-she-figures-report-2025-02-11_en&pk_campaign=whatsnew_newsletter

EU report warns: The Netherlands is falling even further in the academic freedom rankings (10 February 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://neth-er.eu/onderzoek/eu-rapport-waarschuwt-nederland-zakt-nog-verder-weg-op-ranglijst-academische-vrijheid>

Academic freedom in the Netherlands is under pressure. This is stated in the European Parliament's annual report on academic freedom in Europe. The report highlights a worrying decline and offers seven possible strategies to improve the situation. For example, academic freedom should be integrated into Horizon Europe and Erasmus+.



The Netherlands is almost the worst boy in the class

Academic freedom in the Netherlands declined sharply again last year. This worrying observation is contained in a report, EP Academic Freedom Monitor 2024

[https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2025/765776/EPRS_STU\(2025\)765776_EN.pdf](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/RegData/etudes/STUD/2025/765776/EPRS_STU(2025)765776_EN.pdf), published by the European Parliament. The Netherlands scores worse in three of the five categories than last year. Academic freedom within education and research, and academic freedom, are therefore under further pressure. In addition, the Netherlands is the only Member State without constitutional protection for the freedom of science.

Threats come from many quarters

The monitor paints a worrying picture of factors that threaten academic freedom throughout Europe. Possible factors include political interference, censorship by institutions and pressure from the academic community. Social attacks, corporate influence through financing and security restrictions due to geopolitical tensions are also threats.

Influential role for Horizon Europe and Erasmus+

To improve the situation, Parliament is proposing seven policy options. One of these is stronger European laws to protect academic freedom. Parliament also hopes to gain more insight into the current situation by conducting surveys. Moreover, Horizon Europe and the new framework program should allow for more research projects that focus on academic freedom. In addition, Parliament believes that programs such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ should impose stricter requirements on participating countries when it comes to academic freedom.

Read full article here: <https://neth-er.eu/onderzoek/eu-rapport-waarschuwt-nederland-zakt-nog-verder-weg-op-ranglijst-academische-vrijheid>

Delivering the EU Green Deal - Progress towards targets (10 February 2025)

Source: Website JRC <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC140372>



This report provides a comprehensive assessment of progress towards the European Green Deal (EGD), the European Union's transformative agenda for achieving climate neutrality by 2050. The analysis encompasses 154 quantifiable targets from 44 policy documents between 2019 and 2024 across key sectors such as climate, energy, circular economy, transport, agriculture and food, ecosystems and biodiversity, water, soil and air pollution.

The study shows that significant achievement has been delivered so far but progress needs to accelerate in many areas. As of mid-2024, 32 of the 154 targets are currently “on track” and 64 are identified as “acceleration needed” meaning that more progress is needed to meet the targets on time. Furthermore, 15 of the targets are found to be “not progressing” or “regressing”, and for 43 of the targets no data is currently available. The timing of the binding policies, most of which have been recently agreed and are expected to deliver results in the coming years, is a significant factor influencing these assessments.

This report integrates all EGD actions and related policies, offering an assessment of the EU’s green transition based on robust data and science. It identifies priority areas for intensified efforts to meet short-term implementation goals and contribute to the long-term ambition of a sustainable, fair, just, and climate-neutral Europe by 2050. This collective work serves as a benchmarking tool, providing scientifically grounded guidance for future EU policies and programmes.

You can download report and annexes here: <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC140372> or <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/33a4bbe1-e2b0-11ef-be2a-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Do Europeans trust science? New survey says “yes, but” (7 February 2025)

Source: Website EC https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/horizon-magazine/do-europeans-trust-science-new-survey-says-yes&pk_campaign=whatsnew_newsletter

The latest European Commission public opinion survey on attitudes towards science and technology points to a need to make research even more open and relevant to the needs of society.

A large majority of Europeans believe in the benefits of science, according to the latest Eurobarometer survey on “European citizens’ knowledge and attitudes towards science and technology”. They want to see those benefits more equitably distributed and are cautious about any potential negative impacts of science.

In the survey <https://europa.eu/eurobarometer/surveys/detail/3227>, conducted in 27 EU Member States, the Western Balkans, Türkiye and the UK and released on 3 February, more than 8 in 10 citizens (83%) said they see the overall influence of science and technology as positive. Two thirds (67%) said that science and technology improve people’s lives, making them easier, healthier and more comfortable.

“The overall positive attitude towards science and technology is reassuring, as this is essential for achieving our competitiveness goals,” said Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation. *“At the same time, we need to respond to citizens’ expectations for a more equitable distribution of the benefits of science and technology. We should also continue to promote openness, transparency and integrity, while enhancing public engagement of citizens and other stakeholders in research and innovation,”* she added.

While almost two thirds of the survey respondents acknowledged that science and technology could help improve the environment and tackle climate change, they still felt that *“they mostly help companies make money”*. The EU has supported a wide variety of research fields through its funding programmes, working with research and technology organisations, civil society organisations, private companies, etc.

In doing so, it focuses on strategic fields that can help research and innovation actors become more competitive and sustainable by advancing cutting-edge research that can benefit the economy and citizens. It also funds important research that may not be profitable and is therefore not prioritised by companies, as is sometimes the case in health, for instance. Likewise, it supports research initiatives that foster international collaboration and help to reduce disparities between EU countries.

Technology must benefit everyone

Responses to several questions showed citizens’ preference for science to be inclusive, benefitting the largest number of people, but also involving them in research.

Asked about the importance of upholding gender equality in science and technology, 69% voiced their belief that it would help us live in a fairer and more equal society, and 63% said it would improve the outcomes of research. The majority of respondents also stressed the expected positive impact of science on young people: 68% said science will create more opportunities for future generations, while 61% said it prepares young people to act as well-informed citizens.

As many as 77% of those surveyed said research should consider the needs of all groups of people in its work, while 72% think their government should take responsibility to ensure that new technologies benefit everyone.

In a similar way, 63% said that “involving non-scientists in research and technological development ensures that science and technology respond to the needs, values and expectations of society”.

The Horizon Europe Framework Programme devotes funds to citizen science research projects, as well as relevant policy support actions (e.g. European Citizen Science or ongoing pan-European efforts to track biodiversity).

Along the same lines, the vast majority of respondents (80%) feel that results of publicly funded research should be made available online free of charge.

For more information: https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/horizon-magazine/do-europeans-trust-science-new-survey-says-yes&pk_campaign=whatsnew_newsletter

Have you heard of new networks created under the Health Policy Platform (HPP)? Do you know where to find the latest Joint Statements? Find out by checking the newly created and updated infographics here.

- HPP activities in 2024: this infographic presents the Platform’s main activities and milestones over the past year, including the new networks created, the Thematic Networks cycle and the training sessions organised.
- HPP webinar statistics: the figures shared here reflect the Platform’s success and usefulness for its members. Find out how many webinars were organised in 2024, which countries participants connected from, and more.
- HPP features: this infographic makes registering in the Platform easy and shows how to make use of all the Platform’s features, such as how to post content, create a network or co-organise webinars, among other things.

Not a Platform member yet? HPP members promote their activities and engage with other stakeholders, enjoying the advantages the Platform offers such as the #EUHPP Training Tuesdays that run through February.

Links

- **HPP activities in 2024:** https://health.ec.europa.eu/document/download/86897a25-f524-4d2b-a4a1-fb25a2179f94_en?filename=policy_hpp_yearly-report_en.pdf
- **HPP webinar statistics:** https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/assets/documents/HPP_WebinarStatistics_en.pdf
- **HPP features infographic:** https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/assets/documents/HPP_infographic_en.pdf
- **Find the infographics** <https://webgate.ec.europa.eu/hpf/> in all EU official languages on the Platform’s homepage

The EIC Forum presents its recommendations to close Europe’s innovation gap (7 February 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/eic-forum-presents-its-recommendations-close-europes-innovation-gap-2025-02-07_en

On 6 February, the EIC Forum Plenary held their first meeting of 2025. At the top of the agenda was the presentation of their yearly report the EIC Forum Policy Orientations <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bf42583e-e508-11ef-bc1c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en> to the Director-General for Research and Innovation of the European Commission Marc Lemaître.

Mr Lemaître welcomed the report and presented the **Competitiveness Compass** https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_339, the first major initiative of this mandate providing a strategic and clear framework to steer the Commission's work. He stressed how the Compass translates the President's commitment to put research and innovation at the heart of Europe's competitiveness agenda. He noted that the recommendations of the Policy Orientations will inform the preparation of upcoming initiatives, such as the Startup and Scaleup Strategy and the European Innovation Act.

The recommendations highlight the need to strengthen and unify Europe’s startup ecosystem, improve venture capital availability, and create cohesive tax incentives. These are in line with the aims of the Startup and Scaleup strategy and future Innovation Act to simplify and streamline the regulatory framework, facilitating access to capital, and supporting innovative companies in testing new solutions and technologies. In the area of innovation procurement, they call for the removal of legal obstacles, especially for startups and SMEs, and encourage greater financial incentives. This supports what [President von der Leyen](https://eur-) calls the '28th regime' <https://eur->

[lex.europa.eu/TodayOJ/#:~:text=The%2028th%20regime%20%E2%80%93%20an%20alternative,opinion%20on%2030%20March%202010.:](https://eur-lex.europa.eu/TodayOJ/#:~:text=The%2028th%20regime%20%E2%80%93%20an%20alternative,opinion%20on%2030%20March%202010.:) corporate law, insolvency, labour law, taxation – one single and simple framework across the European Union. The Policy Orientations also advocate the development of a coherent framework with uniform standards on the scope of employee stock option regimes.

For more (background) information: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/eic-forum-presents-its-recommendations-close-europes-innovation-gap-2025-02-07_en

EIC Forum Policy recommendations 2024: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/bf42583e-e508-11ef-bc1c-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

Global policy

Merics: US strategy pushes EU into the hands of China (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

The US risks weakening its international competitiveness and national security if it undermines transatlantic relations with Europe. This is what think tank Merics writes in an analysis of the geopolitical relations between the US, China and the EU under the new American President Trump. "The Trump team should know that what gives the United States an edge in competing with China is the strength of its alliances, which China cannot easily match. Alienating Europe could push Europe to increase cooperation with China on key technologies. Such an outcome is likely to be in no one's interest but China's (and possibly Russia's)," it reads. According to Merics, the EU should in turn cooperate more to arrive at a joint strategic approach, for example with regard to export restrictions. Cooperation in the EU would also help to strengthen Trump's 'transactional approach'. According to Merics, it is a top priority for both the EU and the US to prevent Western products from ending up in Russia via China and becoming part of Putin's war machine.

Analysis Merics: <https://merics.org/en/report/staying-focused-priorities-transatlantic-china-policy-coordination>

Opinion: Revised financing model can make Japan an innovative powerhouse again (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

Japan is lagging behind in innovative breakthroughs because the country has not yet initiated the transition to interdisciplinary research funding. Scientists and engineers working in Japanese research institutions write this in an opinion piece on Nature. The document makes five recommendations for this. For example, more efforts should be made to stimulate research talents, a 'high risk, high impact' strategy should be implemented, more diversity in review panels, financing of university labs and multi-year research funding. "There is nothing stopping Japan from adopting a bolder funding model and encouraging a more dynamic research culture across the country. Innovative projects and results should follow soon," it said.

Opinion piece Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-00394-8>

Opinion: US could lose position as world leader in biomedical research without federal support (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

The large-scale cuts to research infrastructure in the US are hitting the backbone of biomedical research in the country. This is what professor and member of the board of directors of the American Association for Pharmaceutical Scientists Aliasger Salem writes in The Conversation. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is facing billions in cuts from the new administration. As part of this, the NIH has announced that it will no longer set "indirect cost" rates based on the needs of each institution, but will instead use a standard rate. This should ensure that 'as many resources as possible go to direct scientific research costs, rather than to administrative overhead'. "Scientists expect that the long-term effects of these cuts will significantly harm U.S. biomedical research.

Opinion piece The Conversation: <https://theconversation.com/how-much-does-scientific-progress-cost-without-government-dollars-for-research-infrastructure-breakthroughs-become-improbable-249566>

Issues: Japan's approach to R&D financing is an example for the world (13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

Japan's new approach to research and development could provide a blueprint for the rest of the world. This can be read in an analysis on Issues. The piece explains that Japan declined in terms of technology and innovation at the beginning of this century. In response to this, a strategy has been devised in which the country invests directly in foreign projects where it sees innovative opportunities. In exchange, Japan will receive part of the intellectual property. According to Issues, it is very unusual for a country to participate in projects in another country without any shared

investments. “At a time of increasingly complex international engagement, Japan’s unique strategy is worth considering as a potential model for other countries,” it said.

Article Issues: <https://issues.org/japan-collaborative-international-research-ueno/>

Nature: How do scientists use AI?(13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

The use of AI tools for various processes in science is expected to become widely accepted within two years.

This is evident from the results of a survey among almost 5,000 researchers in more than 70 countries. Nature has written about this. The majority of respondents expect AI to play a central role in scientific research and publishing. The survey suggests, among other things, that more relevant skills are needed for using AI. For example, almost two-thirds of respondents say a lack of guidance and training prevents them from using AI to the extent they would like. There are also concerns about the safety of use.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-00343-5>

Publication Wiley: <https://www.wiley.com/en-us/ai-study>

ISC: Concerns about increasing focus on technological sovereignty (13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

The International Science Council (ISC) is concerned about the increasing focus on technological sovereignty. Many countries are turning away from scientific cooperation and see emerging technology as a threat to national security. The ISC advocates a common approach with mutual solidarity, in order to protect the global scientific community and ensure fair opportunities for all countries. The rise of quantum technology is cited as an example, which presents both enormous possibilities and enormous risks. “Developing robust moral and legal frameworks is crucial to manage these technologies and prevent potential crises,” the ISC said.

Blog ISC: <https://council.science/blog/science-ethics-and-power-the-need-for-a-global-commons-approach-to-emerging-technologies/>

National policy

CBS maps digitalization and the knowledge economy (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

Statistics Netherlands (CBS) has launched the first edition of the publication Digitalization and the Dutch knowledge economy. All kinds of relevant figures are mapped out in a dashboard, various publications and a dossier, for example about ICT use, R&D and innovation. The publication is the successor to the publication ICT, knowledge and economy.

News item CBS: <https://www.cbs.nl/nl-nl/corporate/2025/07/digitalisering-en-kenniseconomie-compleet-in-beeld> (in Dutch)

EIB: Dutch companies are at the forefront of investments and innovation (20 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 February 2025

Companies in the Netherlands score well above the EU average in terms of innovation and the adoption of advanced digital technologies. This is evident from an annual survey by the European Investment Bank (EIB) among more than 12,000 European companies, of which 482 are Dutch companies. For example, the share of Dutch companies that prioritize the development or innovation of new products and services (44%) is significantly higher than the average (25%). It is also striking that 97% of Dutch companies indicate that they will have invested in 2024, compared to the EU average of 87%. High energy costs and a tight labor market are major bottlenecks for companies. It is striking that Dutch companies (78%) indicate more than average (60%) that they have to comply with various standards and rules when they export within Europe.

Publication EIB: <https://www.eib.org/en/press/all/2025-067-dutch-companies-ahead-in-investment-and-innovation-eib-investment-survey-shows>

Social Alliance advocates investments in green transition (13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

A broad social alliance calls on the cabinet to speed up the energy transition. An alliance of companies, trade unions, trade organizations and NGOs wrote this in an open letter to Prime Minister Schoof. The organizations point out that countries around us are investing heavily in the sustainable economy of tomorrow with sharp choices to remain competitive. "They know: standing still means going backwards. This is not without consequences for the Netherlands: without consistent and sufficient policy, we will lose important sources of broad prosperity, employment and a sustainable living environment, and our energy supply will remain largely dependent on other countries," it can be read. "Investing in the energy transition is an investment in the future of and for the Dutch business community and the Dutch economy and prosperity."

Letter from National Climate Platform:

<https://www.nationaalklimaatplatform.nl/publicaties+nationaal+klimaat+platform/HandlerDownloadFiles.ashx?idnv=2981771> (in Dutch)

Article NOS: <https://nos.nl/artikel/2554518-boeren-bedrijven-en-milieuclubs-kabinet-kom-snel-met-stabiel-klimaatbeleid> (in Dutch)

News item NVDE: <https://www.nvde.nl/brede-maatschappelijke-coalitie-roept-op-versnel-de-energietransitie-investeer-in-nederlandse-welvaart/> (in Dutch)

PwC benchmark universities: Adjustment programs needed to improve financial health (13 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 13 February 2025

Universities will face various financial challenges in the coming years, according to PwC's annual benchmark of public university data. For example, higher education faces structural financial challenges due to the uncertainty about (international) student numbers and the handling of private activities within institutions. In addition, institutions must take

into account the proposed cuts in higher education. PwC expects that institutions will start adjustment programs or have already started them. HOP has also written about the report.

Publication PwC: <https://www.pwc.nl/nl/actueel-en-publicaties/diensten-en-sectoren/publieke-sector/pwc-benchmark-universiteiten.html> (in Dutch)

Article HOP/U-Today: <https://www.utoday.nl/news/75192/pwc-sommige-universiteiten-sneller-in-gevaar-bij-wegblijven-internationals> (in Dutch)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 21 February 2025

Call identifier	Deadline
Pillar I Excellent Science	
ERC	
ERC-2025-AdG	28 August 2025 at 17.000 Brussels time (<i>ERC-2025-AdV-Grants</i>)
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions	
HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01 - Doctoral networks - Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates - TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates	Foreseen opening: 28 May 2025: Deadline(s): 25 November 2025 (<i>MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025, Industrial doctorates, Joint Doctorates</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2025-PF - TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European Fellowships - TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Global Fellowships	Foreseen opening: 9 April 2025: Deadline(s): 10 November 2025 (<i>MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2025-SE-01	Foreseen opening: 27 March 2025: Deadline(s): 8 October 2025 (<i>MSCA Staff Exchanges 2025</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2025-COFUND-01-01 - TMA-Cofund-Doctoral - TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral	24 June 2025 17.00 Brussels time (<i>MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes 2025-01</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2024-MSCA4Ukraine	The next MSCA4Ukraine call is expected to open in November 2024
Research Infrastructures	
Cluster 1 HEALTH	
Destination - Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-STAYHLTH-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s): 18 September 2025 (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage)
Destination - Living and working in a health-promoting environment	

HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-ENVHLTH-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s): 18 September 2025 (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage)
Destination– Destination - Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-DISEASE	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s) 18 September 2025
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-DISEASE-02-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s): 18 September 2025 (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage)
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-02-DISEASE COFUNDED Partnerships	Foreseen opening: 13 May 2025 Deadline(s) 3 June 2025
Destination - Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-CARE	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s) 18 September 2025
Destination - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-TOOL	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s) 18 September 2025
Destination - Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-IND	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s) 18 September 2025
<u>Cluster 2 Culture Creativity and Inclusive Society</u>	
<u>Cluster 4 Digital - Industry - Space</u>	
Destination 1: CLIMATE NEUTRAL, CIRCULAR AND DIGITISED PRODUCTION	
Destination 2: INCREASED AUTONOMY IN KEY STRATEGIC VALUE CHAINS FOR RESILIENT INDUSTRY	

DESTINATION 3 - WORLD LEADING DATA AND COMPUTING TECHNOLOGIES	
DESTINATION 4 – DIGITAL AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR COMPETITIVENESS AND FIT FOR THE GREEN DEAL	
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	
CLUSTER 5 - Cluster 5: Climate - Energy - Mobility	
Destination - Climate sciences and responses for the transformation towards climate neutrality	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-03-D1	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 Deadline(s) 24 September 2025
Destination - Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-02-D2	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 Deadline(s) 16 September 2025
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2	Foreseen opening: 16 September 2025 Deadline(s) 17 February 2026
Destination: Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-02-D3	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 Deadline(s) 16 September 2025
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3	Foreseen opening: 16 September 2025 Deadline(s) 17 February 2026

Destination: Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D4	Foreseen opening: 16 September 2025 Deadline(s) 20 January 2026
Destination: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-D5	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 Deadline(s): 4 September 2025
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D5	Foreseen opening: 16 September 2025 Deadline(s) 20 January 2026
Destination: Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-D6	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 Deadline(s): 4 September 2025
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6	Foreseen opening: 16 September 2025 Deadline(s) 20 January 2026
Destination 1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 17 September 2025
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 06 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 04 September 2025 (First Stage) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage)
Destination 2: Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK	Foreseen Opening: 6 May 2025 foreseen deadline(s): 16 September 2025
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 4 September 2025 (First Stage) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage)
Destination 3: Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 17 September 2025
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 4 September 2025 (First Stage) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage)
Destination 4 – Clean environment and zero pollution	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 17 September 2025

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01 ZEROPOLLUTION-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 4 September 2025 (First Stage) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE	Foreseen Opening: 06 May 2025 foreseen deadline(s): 16 September 2025
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE- two-stage	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline(s): 4 September 2025 (First Stage) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage)
Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02 COMMUNITIES	Foreseen Opening: 6 May 2025 foreseen deadline(s): 16 September 2025
Destination 7 – Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-03- GOVERNANCE	Foreseen Opening: 6 May 2025 foreseen deadline(s): 24 September 2025
Circular Biobased Europe	
CBE Circular Biobased Europe partnership https://www.cbe.europa.eu/	The call for proposals will open on 4 April 2025, and the call deadline is foreseen for 17 September 2025. https://www.cbe.europa.eu/system/files/2024-12/cbeju_awp2025.pdf
Pillar III Innovative Europe	
EIC Pathfinder-2025-open	Foreseen deadline 21 May 2025
EIC-Pathfinder-Challenges	Foreseen Deadline 29 October 2025
EIC Transition-2025	Foreseen deadline 17 September 2025
EIC-Accelerator-2025	Foreseen deadlines 12 March 2025, 1 October 2025
EIC Accelerator Challenges 2025	Foreseen Deadline 1 October 2025 https://eic.ec.europa.eu/document/download/5e1eb75f-e437-477f-9ee9-ef54ff6387fd_en?filename=EIC%20Work%20Programme%202025.pdf
Mission calls 2024	
HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01 Mission: 100 Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities by 2030	16 January 2025 at 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01</i>)
WIDERA 2024	

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 21 February 2025 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 Partnerships European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare https://www.eupahw.eu/	1 st co-funded call for proposals of the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) "Supporting the Future of Animal Health and Welfare" Pre-proposal: This first step is now open and will be closed on July 8th, 2024, 15:00 h (CEST) . (CLOSED) Deadline for full-proposal submission 4th February 2025, 14:00 CET https://www.eupahw.eu/pdf/open-calls/call-01/call-01_EUPAHW%20Call%20Announcement_13.5.pdf EUPAHW submission webpage: https://eupahw.ptj.de/ EUPAHW webpage: www.EUPAHW.eu
European Partnership Biodiversa+ https://www.biodiversa.eu/	Biodiversa+ call on Biodiversity and Transformative Change #BiodivTransformcall It will follow a two-stage application process: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-proposals: the deadline for submitting pre-proposals will be in 8 November 2024. (CLOSED) • Full Proposals: shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit full proposals by 11 April 2025. https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/06/11/2024-2025-joint-call/
European Partnership Water4All https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/	Upcoming Water4All call Water for Circular Economy The call is planned to be officially launched 12 September 2024, a two-step procedure will be used with a closing date for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • pre-proposals on 13 November 2024 (CLOSED) and • the deadline for full-proposals on 29 April 2025. https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2024-joint-transnational-call-pre-announcement and https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-transnational-call-regarding-water-for-circular-economy
European Partnership Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future (DUT) https://dutpartnership.eu/	Third DUT call Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future . The call opened 2 September 2024 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline for pre-proposals is 14 November 2024 (13:00 CET) (CLOSED). • The deadline for full proposals is 24 April 2025 (13:00 CET). https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/driving-urban-transitions-call-2024-open-for-applications and https://dutpartnership.eu/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/DUT-2024-Call-Text-Version-1.1.pdf
European Partnership FutureFoods https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/	The first call of FutureFoods Partnership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline for pre-submissions is January 15, 2025 (13:00 CET) (CLOSED) • The deadline for full proposals is July 9, 2025 (13:00 CEST) https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/
European Partnership Agroecology https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/	Second co-funded call AgroEcology Partnership https://agroecology.ptj.de/call2?genericModule=callDocuments&action=download&id=955 is open <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for pre proposal submission is 17 February 2025, 14:00h CET. (CLOSED) • Deadline for full proposal submission is 09 July 2025, 14:00h CEST.

Joint Technology Initiatives	
Joint Programming Initiatives	
	<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 **24 February 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
25-02-2025	Deadline for submission Full-proposals NWA Science Communication 2025 . Closing date full application 25 February 2025 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-nwa-science-communication-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-science-communication-2025
04-03-2025	Deadline for submitting full-proposals the call 'Extreme Heat and Water Events: The Adverse Health Effects of Climate Change in Cities 2024' invites consortia with researchers from research institutions in both the Netherlands and Brazil to participate. The deadline for submitting full proposals is 4 March 2025, before 14:00:00 CET, at NWO and 4 March 2025 at 23:59:00 GMT-3, at FAPESP. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/extreme-heat-and-water-events-the-adverse-health-effects-of-climate-change-in-cities-2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_extreme_heat_and_water_events_2024_v10_160924v1.pdf
11-03-2025	Deadline submission full proposals Call strengthening urban resilience through collaboration between the Netherlands and China (NSFC) . Tuesday, 11 March 2025, before 14:00:00 CET at NWO Wednesday, 12 March 2025, at 16:00:00 CST at NSFC. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-strengthening-urban-resilience-through-collaboration-between-the-netherlands-and-china-nsfc and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/cities-amidst-climate-change-enhancing-physical-and-social-resilience-in-urban-areas
13-03-2025	NEW: Deadline submission full proposals 8th Call Eurostars . Deadline for submitting on March 13, 2025, 2:00 PM CEST. https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/eurostars
11-04-2025	Deadline for submission Full-proposals Biodiversity and Transformative Change (BiodivTransform): under European partnership 'Rescuing Biodiversity to Safeguard Life on Earth' (Biodiversa+) . Deadline for submitting a full proposal is April 11th, 2025 at 15:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/biodiversity-and-transformative-change-biodivtransform and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/biodivtransform_call_documents_staatscourant.pdf and https://www.biodiversa.eu/2024/06/11/2024-2025-joint-call/
24-04-2025	Deadline for submission Full-proposals for European partnership Driving Urban Transitions Call 2024 . The submission deadline for full proposals is 24 April 2025, at 13:00. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/driving-urban-transitions-call-2024 and

	https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/DUT%202024%20Call%20Text%20Version%201.1.1_0.pdf and https://dutpartnership.eu/dut-call-2024/
29-04-2025	Deadline for submission Full-proposals for Partnership Water4All call– Water For Circular Economy . Deadline for submitting a full proposal is 29 April 2025, 15:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/partnership-water4all-water-for-circular-economy and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/1_water4all_jtc2024_call_for_proposals.pdf and https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2024-joint-transnational-call-pre-announcement
13-05-2025	Deadline submission pre-proposals for the call The Water-Food nexus in rainfed agri-food systems in Sub-Saharan Africa: socio-economics and governance . The deadline for submitting full proposals is 13 May 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-research-on-scaling-up-soil-moisture-retention-in-rainfed-agriculture-sub-saharan-africa and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/the-water-food-nexus-in-rainfed-agri-food-systems-in-sub-saharan-africa-socio-economics-and-governance and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20-%20WFn%20call%20-%20def_2.pdf
05-06-2025	Deadline for submission full-proposals for call KIC Greenhouses in transition: opportunities in water, energy and agriculture (Joint call of the Dutch Research council (NWO) and the US Foundation for Food & Agriculture Research (FFAR)) . Deadline for submission of full proposals in phase 2 is Thursday 5 June 2025, before 14:00:00 hours CEST (5 June 2025 before 08:00:00 EDT) in ISAAC . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/kic-call-greenhouses-in-transition-in-cooperation-with-ffar-now-open-for-proposals and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-greenhouses-in-transition-opportunities-in-water-energy-and-agriculture and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20KIC%20Greenhouses%20in%20transition-met%20beeld%20%281%29_0.pdf
09-06-2025	Foreseen Deadline for submission full-proposals Merian Fund Cooperation South Africa-The Netherlands SGCI-NWO multilateral research programme . Closing date full application 9 June 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/merian-fund-cooperation-south-africa-the-netherlands-sgci-nwo-multilateral-research-programme
14-07-2025	Deadline submission Full proposals (mandatory) for the Long-term Europe – Africa WEF Nexus (LEAWEF) Multilateral Research Programme . The deadline for the submission of Full proposals (mandatory) is 14 July 2025, at 14:00:00 hours CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/long-term-europe-africa-wef-nexus-leawef-multilateral-research-programme and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/LEAWEF%20call_for_proposals%20%281%29_0.pdf
02-09-2025	Deadline for knowledge management proposal in Phase II ADM-LAB: Livings Labs for Adaptive Delta Management in Bangladesh . Deadline for submission of a knowledge management proposal in Phase II is Tuesday 2 September 2025, 14:00:00 CEST in ISAAC . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/adm-lab-livings-labs-for-adaptive-delta-management-in-bangladesh and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/ADM-LAB%20Livings%20Labs%20for%20Adaptive%20Delta%20Management%20in%20Bangladesh%20%20call%20for%20proposals%20UK.pdf
September 2025	NEW: Foreseen closing date 9th Call Eurostars . Follow information on https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/eurostars

National calls

This list is a selection of open national calls. The list was compiled on **24 February 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

27-02-2025	Foreseen deadline submission Full-proposals KIC - Missie 24/27 - Call Digital Identities - a foundation for trust in the digital world . Closing date full application 27 February 2025 14:00 hrs . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-missie-24/27-call-digital-identities-a-foundation-for-trust-in-the-digital-world
04-03-2025	Deadline for submission of Full proposals Take off phase 1 - Feasibility studies WO fall 2025 . A full proposal must be submitted via our ISAAC system before Tuesday 4 March 2025 14:00:00 CET . Please use the correct form (spring 2025, see tab 2 "Prepare"). In the ISAAC system, a pre-proposal can be converted into a full proposal. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/enthusiastic-reactions-from-broader-ecosystem-to-opening-of-take-off-spring-round-2025-with-increased-budgets and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/take-off-phase-1-feasibility-studies-wo-fall-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20fase%201%20WO%20voorjaarsronde%202025_versie2.pdf

06-03-2025	Deadline submission full applications for SSH Open Competition XS round 1 . Round 1: 6 March 2025, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/first-round-of-ssh-open-competition-xs-2025-now-open-for-applications and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2025-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20SSH%20OC%20XS%202025%20-%20EN.pdf
06-03-2025	Deadline submission Full proposals for call Interdisciplinary Earth and Environmental Science with use of Atmospheric Instrumentation in Space Thematical call Use of space infrastructure for Earth observation and planetary research (GO) . The deadline for submitting full proposals is Thursday 6 March 2025, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/interdisciplinary-earth-and-environmental-science-with-use-of-atmospheric-instrumentation-in-space and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Vertaling%20thematische%20GO%20call_v3.pdf
11-03-2025	Deadline submission Full proposals NWO Open Mind 2025 . The deadline for submitting proposals is March 11 2025, before 14:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-mind-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Open%20Mind%202025%20Call%20for%20Proposalsv2%20%281%29.pdf
11-03-2025	Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025 . 11 March 2025 by 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer
18-03-2025	Deadline submission for Full applications Demonstrator 2025 . The deadline for submitting applications is Tuesday 18 March 2025 at 14:00:00 hours CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/2025-round-open-funding-for-developing-a-demonstrator and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/demonstrator-2025
25-03-2025	Deadline submission Full proposals Hydrogen and green electrons for carbon-based chemistry from work package four of NGF programme GroenvermogenNL . Deadline proposal: Tuesday 25 March 2025, 14:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-hydrogen-and-green-electrons-for-carbon-based-chemistry and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-hydrogen-green-electrons-for-carbon-based-chemistry and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/ENG%202024_10_02_CfP_Hydrogen%20and%20green%20electrons%20for%20carbon-based%20chemistry.pdf
20-03-2025	Deadline submission Full proposals for KIC call Sustainable buildings inspired by nature . Deadline proposals 20 March 2025 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/7-million-available-for-innovative-research-on-climate-proof-buildings and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-sustainable-buildings-inspired-by-nature and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20KIC%20Sustainable%20Buildings%20Inspired%20by%20Nature.pdf
31-03-2025	Foreseen deadline submission Full proposals KIC - Future Plastics 2024 . Closing date full application 31 March 2025 14:00 hrs . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-future-plastics-2024
08-04-2025	Deadline submission Full proposals for call Knowledge for education of the future – Small . The deadline for submitting proposals is 8 April 2025, at 14:00:00 CEST . https://www.nro.nl/en/calls/knowledge-for-education-of-the-future-small and https://www.nro.nl/sites/nro/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_-_knowledge_for_education_of_the_future_-_small_2024.pdf
08-04-2025	Deadline submission full proposal pre-proposals Vidi 2024 NWO Talent Programme, Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research . The deadline for submitting full proposals is 8 april 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/vidi-round-2024-open-for-pre-proposals and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme-vidi-science-2024 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Vidi%202024%20EN%20%281%29.pdf
08-04-2025	Deadline submission Proposals for KIC call Digital Identities - A Foundation for Trust in the Digital World . The deadline for submitting proposals is Tuesday 8 April 2025, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/seven-million-euros-available-for-research-on-digital-identities-and-digital-trust and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/digital-identities-a-foundation-for-trust-in-the-digital-world and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Cfp%20KIC%20Mission%20Digital%20Identities%20-%20A%20Foundation%20for%20Trust%20in%20the%20Digital%20World%20%28EN%29%20%281%29.pdf
22-04-2025	Deadline for submission applications NWA call 'NWA Social dynamics in the energy transition. From practice to theory' . The deadline for the submission of applications is

	<p>Tuesday 22 April 2025 at 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-285-million-euros-available-for-the-nwa-call-nwa-social-dynamics-in-the-energy-transition-from-practice-to-theory and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-social-dynamics-in-the-energy-transition-from-practice-to-theory and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/def_-_cfp-sociale_dynamieken_in_de_energietransitie_-_nwa_sjabloon_-_nl.pdf</p>
22-04-2025	<p>Deadline for submission full applications Open Science Infrastructure. The deadline for submitting applications is 22 April 2025, before 14:00 CEST. https://www.openscience.nl/en/calls/open-science-infrastructure and https://www.openscience.nl/sites/open_science/files/media-files/Call%20for%20proposals%20Open%20Science%20Infrastructure%20v2.pdf</p>
22-04-2025	<p>Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025. 22 April 2025 by 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer</p>
01-05-2025	<p>Deadline submission Full proposals for call Use of space infrastructure for earth observation and planetary research (GO). Closing date full application 1 May 2025 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/use-of-space-infrastructure-for-earth-observation-and-planetary-research-go and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/CfP_GO2025-1_v7_clean%20%281%29.pdf</p>
06-05-2025	<p>Deadline for submission proposals for Open Competition Domain Science - XS 2025. Deadline for submission of proposals round 2025-2 6 May 2025, at 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-open-competition-domain-science-xs-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-competition-domain-science-xs-package-25-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20ENW-XS%202025_ENG.pdf</p>
08-05-2025	<p>Deadline submission full applications for SSH Open Competition XS round 2. Round 2: 8 May 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/first-round-of-ssh-open-competition-xs-2025-now-open-for-applications and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2025-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20SSH%20OC%20XS%202025%20-%20EN.pdf</p>
13-05-2025	<p>Deadline for submission of Full-proposal Perspectief round 2024/2025. Submission of proposal: Tuesday May 13th, 2025 - 14:00:00. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/new-perspectief-round-opened-for-applications and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/perspectief-round-2024/2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Perspectief%202024-2025_EN.pdf</p>
27-05-2025	<p>Deadline for submission of sub-applications for call research into innovative treatments for hereditary heart disease (KIC). The deadline for submitting the full application is 27 May 2025, by 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-over-76-million-euros-available-for-research-into-innovative-treatments-for-hereditary-heart-disease-kic and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20NWO-%20Hartstichting%20DEF%20met%20beeld%20WIJZ_0.pdf</p>
03-06-2025	<p>Deadline for submission Full proposals for fourth call Faculty of Impact. The deadline for submitting proposals is Tuesday 3 June 2025 2025, 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/faculty-of-impact-opens-its-doors-for-the-fourth-time and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/safety-and-energy-transition and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/foi-2025_-_call_for_proposals_-_eng_-_publicatie.pdf</p>
12-06-2025	<p>Deadline for submission for research ideas for NWA Key Enabling Methodologies (KEMs) - The utilisation of Key Enabling Methodologies in complex societal transition issues. The deadline for the submission of proposals is 12 June 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-knowledge-development-and-application-of-kems-for-effective-policy and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-key-enabling-methodologies-kems-the-utilisation-of-key-enabling-methodologies-in-complex-societal-transition-issues and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20NWA%20Key%20Enabling%20Methodologies%20%28ENG%29_2.pdf</p>
24-06-2025	<p>Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025. 24 June 2025 by 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer</p>
10-07-2025	<p>Deadline submission Full Proposals Hydrogen and green electrons for special and fine chemicals. 13 March 2025 - Deadline to apply for preparatory workshops. Participation in the two workshops is mandatory for the main applicant and the technical manager of the</p>

	consortium. 7-9 April 2025 - First preparatory workshop. 12-14 May 2025 - Second preparatory workshop. 10 July 2025 - Deadline to submit full proposal. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-hydrogen-and-green-electrons-for-special-and-fine-chemicals and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/national-growth-fund/groenvermogennl/hydrogen-and-green-electrons-for-specialities-and-fine-chemicals and https://groenvermogennl.org/en/event/information-meeting-groenvermogennl-rd-theme-6/
Until 31-07-2025	Deadline for submission proposals Open Competition Domain Science - M 2024/2025. Applications for the current round (2024/2025) can therefore be submitted until 31 July 2025 (continuous call). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-competition-domain-science-m-2024/2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20proposals%20OC%20ENW-M%20ronde%2024-25_EN_def%20%282%29.pdf
14-08-2025	Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025. 14 August 2025 by 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer
16-09-2025	NEW: Deadline for submission proposals for Open Competition Domain Science - XS 2025. Deadline for submission of proposals round 2025-3 16 September 2025, at 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-open-competition-domain-science-xs-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-competition-domain-science-xs-package-25-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20ENW-XS%202025_ENG.pdf
17-09-2025	Foreseen deadline for submission Full proposals KIC - Future Plastics 2024. Closing date full application 17 September 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-future-plastics-2024
18-09-2025	Deadline for submission Full-proposals KIC Nature-inclusive decision making in business. The deadline for submitting full proposals is September 18, 2025, at 14:00:00 hours CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-nature-inclusive-decision-making-in-business-kic and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-nature-inclusive-decision-making-in-business and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%202024_def_EN.pdf
18-09-2025	Deadline submission full applications for SSH Open Competition XS round 3. Round 3: 18 September 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/first-round-of-ssh-open-competition-xs-2025-now-open-for-applications and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2025-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20SSH%20OC%20XS%202025%20-%20EN.pdf
07-10-2025	Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025. 7 October 2025 by 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer
12-11-2025	Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025. 12 November 2025 by 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer
From 13-01-2025 until 12-12-2025	Deadline submission full proposals Open Technology Programme 2025. Applications can be submitted on a continuous basis between 13 January 2025 until 12 December 2025, as long as the grant ceiling or the maximum number of applications submitted has not yet been reached. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-opening-open-technology-programme-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-technology-programme-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/CfP_OTP_2025_EN.pdf
20-12-2025	NEW: Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025. 20 December 2025 by 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer
03-02-2026	NEW: Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025. 3 February 2026 by 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer

Regional calls

This list is a selection of regional calls. The list was compiled on 24 February 2025. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
From 01-03-2025 to 28-02-2026	Opening EFRO East Netherlands: Innovation projects priority 1 (a smarter East Netherlands): applications can be submitted from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026. The

	subsidy ceiling is € 11.7 million, of which € 10 million for activities that benefit Gelderland and € 1.7 million for activities that benefit Overijssel;
From 01-03-2025 to 28-02-2026	Opening EFFO East Netherlands <u>Test and demonstration projects priority 1</u> (a smarter East Netherlands): applications can be submitted from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026. The subsidy ceiling is €6.7 million, of which €5 million for activities that benefit Gelderland and €1.7 million for activities that benefit Overijssel.
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/
24-02-2025 to 04-04-2025	Foreseen deadline Spring call OP-Zuid 2025: from 24 February 2025 (from 9 a.m.) to April 4, 2025 (until 5 p.m.);
15-09-2025 to 24-10-2025	Foreseen opening Autumn call OP-Zuid 2025: from 15 September, 2025 (from 9 a.m.) to 24 October, 2025 (until 5 p.m.).

About the Wageningen Grant Office

Wageningen Grant Office

The Wageningen Grant Office (WGO) is a team of experts across Wageningen University & Research (WUR) dedicated to supporting WUR's participation in national, European, and global funding programs. WGO offers information, guidance, and training on available funding opportunities and on effective, efficient application processes. The team includes specialized advisors, i.e. Grant Support Officers, Policy Officers, Liaison officers from various science groups and Officers dealing with Co-creation Value & Impact.

This expert team—providing second-line support services—delivers technical and personalized advice on specific funding programs and themes. They work closely with the liaison offices, which provide first-line support within the science groups.

WGO primarily focuses its generic support on Horizon Europe (including ERC, MSCA, Research Infrastructures under **Pillar 1**; Clusters, Missions, and Partnerships under **Pillar 2**, and EIC and WIDENING under **Pillar 3**), and on NWO-programmes (such as the **Talent Programme** (Veni-Vidi-Vici), **Open Competition M1 and M2 (OC)**, **Open Technology Programme (OTP)**, and **Research along Routes by Consortia (NWA-ORC)**). More specific support is given to large initiatives WUR coordinates.

Through the WGO web portal (<https://intranet.wur.nl/Project/GrantOffice>), users can access up-to-date information on the latest developments within specific funding programmes, along with links to relevant resources, documents, and contacts. There, also the link can be found to our funding identification tool Research Connect (<https://search.myresearchconnect.com/Default/Index?ReturnUrl=%2fHome>), that can be used by all WUR colleagues to assess national, European and global grant opportunities by themselves.

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WUR is serious about data

WUR deeply cares about the protection of your privacy and making our services transparent, personal and trustworthy. Our updated [privacy policy](#) gives a clear explanation of how we treat your data.