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Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe and FP10

New version WP2025 HE Cluster Health draft (27 March 2025)

Source: EC/WGO

We are sharing with you the **final draft version of the Cluster 1 Health work programme 2025** ([see WGO group page](#) under Horizon Europe - Draft Workprogrammes 2025:

https://intranet.wur.nl/Project/GrantOffice/Pages/l_JubwgF5kWqvKHE_9Fp5g#) a confidential basis. Please treat this as confidential and do not share this with others through (social) media, websites or (open) AI tools until the EC publishes it.

Please note that the adjusted deadline for all topics is **16 Sept 2025**, except for the proposals for EU Partnerships (COFUND schemes, deadline 3 June 2025). Other changes compared to previous versions:

- The addition of a **new topic** under the DISEASE destination: Tackling high-burden for patients and under-researched medical conditions. This is a follow-up call of a similar and very popular 2024 DISEASE topic. The EC is expecting to fund 5 proposals, ideally each focussing on one of the five medical conditions listed in the new topic text (through portfolio approach).
- Textual changes in several topics. Please be aware that only the published topic texts are taken into account during the evaluation process.

Check carefully if 'your' topic is a **one-stage or two-stage topic** since some topics have changed over time. **Blind evaluation** is applicable to all 1st-stage proposals in the two-stage topics (part B and abstract). **Lump sum** is being applied in all second-stage, but also in five single-stage topics (DISEASE-01, -03 and -05, IND-01 and -02).

New version WP2025 Missions, including Cancer and information about open days and brokerage event (27 March 2025)

Source: EC/WGO

We are also sharing with you the **final draft version of the EU Missions work programme 2025** on a confidential basis ([see WGO group page](#) under Horizon Europe - Draft Workprogrammes 2025:

https://intranet.wur.nl/Project/GrantOffice/Pages/l_JubwgF5kWqvKHE_9Fp5g#). Please treat this as confidential and do not share this with others through (social) media, websites or (open) AI tools until the EC publishes it.

Please note that the adjusted deadline for all 6 Mission Cancer topics is **16 Sept 2025**. However, the deadline for the Joint Cities-Cancer call (see p. 181) is **4 Sept 2025**. There are only single-stage topics in the Cancer call. Both CSA topics, the CANCER-04 and the joint Cities-Cancer topic use the **lump sum** scheme.

Precommercial procurement on innovative influenza vaccines

The EU Commission has published a tender for multiple Sourcing Framework Contracts to Speed up the Development of and Access to Innovative Medical Countermeasures: Next-Generation Influenza Vaccines. The overall tender budget is 225 million euro. [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

Brokerage event HE cluster Health: May 5-6

The network of Health NCPs, HNN3.0, is organising a brokerage event dedicated to consortium building in Cluster 1 Health. The event will take place from 5 May (10:00) until 6 May (19:00) and will be **fully online**.

There will be pitching sessions as well as scheduled bilateral meetings using the b2match platform. **Registration is mandatory, open until 30 April** and free of charge. Your profile is checked by the Health NCPs prior to validation. Please find the instructions and registration forms here: **CLUSTER Health Horizon Europe Brokerage Event 2025 – Home** <https://cluster-health-horizon-europe-brokerage-2025.b2match.io/>

Open info day HE Cluster Health & Mission Cancer: May 22 & 23

The EC is organising an open info day dedicated to the calls from the 2025 work programme for the Cluster 1 Health. This event will take place on 22 May from 9:00-16:10, **fully online** and free of charge. Registration is not required, the event will be streamed via this **website Open info day Health Cluster** <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/3F0n7H46ft6PIJqQParmIt/programme> Send in your questions prior to the event via the Slido link provided on the website.

The next day, May 23 from 9:30-11:30, the EC will present the Cancer Mission topics online. This event is streamed via this **website Open info day Cancer Mission** <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/2ZvkNXyGsLoGBfC8CtVcJt/programme>

ERC and EIC unite to call for increased, ringfenced budgets in FP10 (27 March 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/european-research-council/erc-and-eic-unite-call-increased-ringfenced-budgets-fp10>

Coordinated statement adds to pressure for European Commission to reveal its plans for the next research Framework Programme



Photo credits: Philippe Buissin / European Union

The European Research Council (ERC) and the European Innovation Council (EIC) have joined forces to push for an increase in their respective budgets amid persisting concerns over post-2027 research and innovation funding. In a statement released on March 26, the two EU funding agencies called for “increased” and “ringfenced” budgets in the next research Framework Programme, FP10, “even if included in an envisaged Competitiveness Fund.” They also asked for “a clear mandate, independence and agility in governance and operations.”

Michiel Scheffer, the president of the EIC board, explained to Science|Business that this call had been inspired by the European Commission’s new competitiveness strategy, which calls for a stronger alignment between the ERC and the EIC. “There is already an alignment, but not all ERC research can lead or should lead to something applied,” he said. “A lot of the beneficiaries in the EIC come through different entry points than the ERC.”

He also noted that whether or not their budgets will be placed in the proposed Competitiveness Fund mattered less than ensuring the coherence of the upcoming programme and the long-term financial stability of both instruments. But budget stability will not be sufficient. Scheffer hopes to see application success rates under FP10 double, which implies a doubling of the budgets available to the two funding bodies. Such an increase would be in line with Mario Draghi’s suggestion that the EIC should become more like DARPA, the US Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency. “DARPA has four to five times more funding a year than the EIC has,” Scheffer said. He also emphasised the need to preserve bridges for innovators to scale up and take advantage of the instruments foreseen in the Competitiveness Fund, maintaining the flow from low to high technology readiness level research in both ERC and EIC instruments.

Meanwhile, the research community is increasingly worried about the Commission’s plans to fold FP10 into the new overarching Competitiveness Fund, with many stakeholders and politicians [voicing their opposition](#) against such restructuring. Earlier this month, EU research ministers in Warsaw [endorsed a “self-standing” FP10](#), while MEPs in Strasbourg [adopted recommendations](#) for a standalone research programme, laying the ground for a conflict with the EU executive.

The issue is currently being negotiated inside the Commission, but sources suggest that the decision might ultimately come down to Commission president Ursula von der Leyen, who sees the research programme as contributing to her competitiveness agenda.

Associated countries set out Horizon Europe concerns (27 March 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/horizon-europe/associated-countries-set-out-horizon-europe-concerns>

While many are keen on the programme, complaints remain about Commission transparency, financial terms and restricted calls



Photo credits: Luis Desiro / Unsplash

Associated countries to Horizon Europe have complained about being frozen out of sensitive calls, and want a bigger role designing the next Framework Programme, according to a study that tracks how countries outside the EU feel about joining the bloc's flagship research scheme.

Neighbouring countries like Norway, Türkiye and Switzerland have long paid to join the EU's research Framework Programmes. During Horizon Europe, which started in 2021, distant countries like New Zealand, Canada and South Korea have also been allowed to associate. And the UK has gone from being an EU member state to an associated country following Brexit in 2020.

With associated countries now contributing 20-30% of the overall budget, "they should be taken very seriously," said Gosia Mitka, an international macroeconomist at the University of St Andrews, who co-authored the study. Even more countries could join the list in future: Singapore, Japan and Egypt are also in association talks.

But as the programme becomes more international, and less a purely EU scheme, concerns have risen about whether these countries are being treated fairly in association negotiations and in formulating the research agenda. They don't get a formal vote when drawing up the work programmes that determine research calls, for example, nor do they get a formal say on designing the next programme, set to start in 2028, although they can feed their views into discussions.

Mitka's study <https://zenodo.org/records/14794907>, presented to associated countries in Brussels earlier this week, interviewed 12 people from "national public organisations" across nine associated countries, all of which had some insight into negotiations with the EU. Most remained anonymous.

Horizon is the world's biggest international research programme, and many associated countries were upbeat about joining, pointing out that it allowed them to do "research on global challenges which go beyond the capacity of one single country," according to one Swiss interviewee.

But still, there are a number of complaints about the European Commission's transparency during negotiations, restrictions on access and the financial terms of joining. A Commission official said they were "carefully reading" inputs by the associated countries.

Horizon Europe info days - Cluster 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment 20-21 May 2025 (26 March 2025)

Source: EC <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/6ILZRxBKVsWnjEtjwhVyl/overview>

About the event

Are you interested in research & innovation funding opportunities in the areas of food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment?
Join the Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Information Days to learn more about the topics of the forthcoming Work Programme 2025.

The event will cover:

- Insights into the policy context
- A 'key-to-success' session focused on guidance and tips for quality proposals
- Pitches for each of the topics from the Work Programme 2025
- A session on COFUND partnerships' topics

When: 20-21 May 2025, 09:00 - 18:00 (CET)

Where: **Online only** (will be web-streamed on this Platform. The live video will be available on the day of the event under the tab "Live sessions".)

The detailed programme will be available soon. You will also have the possibility to raise questions in advance through Sli.do.

Sign up https://register.event-works.europa.eu/reactient/Horizon_Europe_Cluster_6_25/e/1k/k/ to the Info Days and receive updates on the latest news related to the event.

Brokerage event

As a complement to the Info Days, the CARE4BIO <https://horizoneuropencppportal.eu/cluster-6> project, gathering Cluster 6 National Contact Points (NCPs), will organise two additional events in Warsaw (Poland) for potential applicants.

27 May 2025: Brokerage event (on-site) It will offer networking and matchmaking opportunities for prospective applicants. **Registration here** <https://www.b2match.com/e/care4bio-2025>

28 May 2025: On-site interactive training for applicants **Registration here:**

<https://horizoneuropencppportal.eu/stage/how-approach-cluster-6-funding-opportunities-site-warsaw> (Limited number of participants)

Some Interesting observations from Kurt Deketelaere Secretary General LERU concerning FP10 (26 March 2025)

Source: *Linked-in page Kurt Deketelaere*

It's two weeks now since the 27 R&I ministers of the EU unanimously endorsed the Warsaw Declaration on the strategic role of the future EU R&I framework programme (FP).

✓ With the Declaration the 27 R&I ministers call upon the EC to propose a self-standing 10th R&I FP for the period 2028-2034.

✓ Since the explicit endorsement, different actors have tried to downplay this "self-standing FP" message by the 27 R&I ministers.

✓ They try to do that by focusing on the sentence that the EC in drafting its initial proposal for the future FP should build on the legacy of self-standing FP in close cooperation with the member states.

✓ It's unclear to me how a sentence about "the future FP", which should build on "the legacy of self-standing FP", can imply a "non-self-standing" FP 🤔, and make the absorption of EU R&I policy and funding in a still to be created European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) possible ?

✓ This attempt to downplay to R&I ministers' message also disregards the fact that the Warsaw Declaration mentions 10 times "the future FP" or "the next FP". Can it be more explicit ?

✓ The downplaying also disregards the explicit reference to Art 182 TFEU which states that the FP shall establish the S&T objectives to be achieved and fix the overall amount and the detailed rules for Union financial participation.

✓ It is clear that two weeks after its endorsement some actors only now fully realise the importance of the Warsaw Declaration.

● Meanwhile the EC's leadership team (president and executive vice-presidents) remain deafeningly silent on the future use of a FP for R&I, and the drafting of a proposal for a self-standing FP10.

● After months of intransparency, this attitude becomes unacceptable. It clearly indicates a fait accompli approach, avoiding consultation of all R&I stakeholders, EP and Council. Some would say even disregard and contempt.

● It aims at keeping the R&I community busy with a yes or no game, instead of having an open and constructive discussion on a future FP10.

- ✓ A future FP10 of which the EP, Council and stakeholders all have said that it should not be business as usual : lessons must be drawn from the Horizon Europe experiences and major modifications should take place. The proposals for that are abundantly available.
- ✓ For all these reasons, LERU calls upon the EC's leadership team to be transparent and to start asap a debate with the R&I community about the future development of EU R&I policy and funding.

Scottish study looks at participation of non-EU countries in Horizon Europe (25 March 2025)

Source: Website <https://era.gv.at/news-items/scottish-study-looks-at-participation-of-non-eu-countries-in-horizon-europe/>



The Scottish research project "Voices from the Horizon" was presented at Scotland House in Brussels on 24 March 2025. The research project had looked in detail at what it means for a non-EU country to participate in Horizon Europe, and what could be envisaged for the next Research Framework Programme.

Based on interviews with thirteen participants from nine countries, **several factors were identified as top incentives for associating to Horizon Europe:**

1. scale - Horizon Europe is the largest multilateral research programme in the world;
2. excellence and competition - high standards entail high quality;
3. international relations;
4. programming, i.e. bureaucracy in a positive sense, meaning that only the best instruments "survive";
5. visibility and prestige;
6. financial aspects.

The project also identified some top challenges for participation as an associated country:

1. financial challenges - it is difficult to understand how calculations work;
2. participation, timelines, delays;
3. synergies;
4. restrictions (e.g. restricted calls);
5. other challenges, such as different time zones and language.

With regard to FP10, the project finds great interest of third countries to participate, however, the association process should be made simpler, and the third countries would like to be involved in designing FP10. They also call for evolution rather than revolution for FP10, as stability is required.

Study 'Voices from the Horizon: Third Countries' Experiences Guiding the Design of FP10':

<https://zenodo.org/records/14794907>

European Research and Innovation Days (24 March 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/events/european-research-and-innovation-days_en

The Commission's flagship research and innovation event brings together policymakers, researchers, stakeholders and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond.
European Research & Innovation Days 2025

Mark your calendars! The **European Research & Innovation (R&I) Days 2025** will take place on **16–17 September 2025** at **The Square** <https://square-brussels.com/> in Brussels. The sixth edition of this flagship event of the European Commission will bring together policymakers, researchers, business leaders and the wider innovation community to discuss how research and innovation drives Europe's competitiveness, sustainability and industrial leadership, underpinning the EU's top priorities.

This year's edition, **"Together, towards a Research and Innovation Union"**, will come at a pivotal moment of discussions on the EU's next long-term budget and key policy actions such as the **Startup and Scaleup Strategy** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/towards-eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy_en, the European Life Sciences Strategy, the **AI in Science Strategy** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/artificial-intelligence-ai-science_en and the **European Innovation** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/support-policy-making/shaping-eu-research-and-innovation-policy/new-european-innovation-agenda_en and **European Research Area** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/our-digital-future/european-research-area_en Acts.

Join us for high-level discussions, engaging panels and networking opportunities that will shape the future of EU research and innovation. Whether in Brussels or online, be part of the conversation and help steer Europe's R&I agenda! **Stay tuned for more details on the programme and registration.**

Finland presents position paper on FP10 (24 March 2025)

Source: <https://era.gv.at/fp10/position-papers/position-papers/>



Finland presented a compact 'Reflection paper on the future EU RDI Framework Programme' on 21 March 2025. Finland is explicitly in favour of increasing the share of research, development and innovation funding under the next Multiannual Financial Framework, but is critical of a new 'debt-based competitiveness instrument'.

Amongst other issues, the Finnish paper stresses the following elements:

- The principle of excellence and competitive calls must remain as the foundation of EU R&I funding.
- The Framework Programme should further incentivise private funding and knowledge valorisation, and should contribute to reaching the 3% target.
- Funding for collaborative RDI projects and public-private partnerships is important.
- The availability of risk financing for innovation and growth should be strengthened.
- EU RDI funding instruments must be simplified and reformed.
- EU funding processes for innovation should be accelerated and streamlined.
- Technology neutrality is important, while recognising the need to be more competitive in emerging critical and deep technologies (AI, high performance and quantum computing, chips, and 6G).
- Dual-use purposes should be broadly emphasised in the future EU funding.
- Open science, research integrity and academic freedom as well as respecting the needs of research and innovation must remain as fundamental approaches in the Framework Programme.
- Finland does not consider it appropriate to allocate EU research and innovation funding to widening measures. This should be done within cohesion policy programmes.
- Funding activities aimed at solving societal challenges should encourage cross-sectoral collaboration and avoid creating unnecessary silos.
- Top-level scientific research, researcher training and mobility and joint European research infrastructures.

For Finnish reflection paper on the future EU RDI Framework Programme:

https://era.gv.at/public/documents/5282/Finnish_reflection_paper_on_the_future_EU_RDI_Framework_Programme.pdf

EU boosts innovation with new European partnerships in advanced materials, textiles and photovoltaics (20 March 2025)

Source: Website EC https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_841

The Commission has taken a key step in advancing Europe's technological leadership and sustainability goals by creating three new European Partnerships on advanced materials, textiles, and photovoltaics.

Established under Horizon Europe https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en, these partnerships will drive growth, sustainability and resilience, contributing to a strong, inclusive and globally competitive Europe.

Identified as essential in **the Horizon Europe Strategic Plan 2025-2027** <https://op.europa.eu/en/web/eu-law-and-publications/publication-detail/-/publication/6abcc8e7-e685-11ee-8b2b-01aa75ed71a1>, the three partnerships are:

- **European Partnership for Innovation in Photovoltaics:** It will strengthen Europe's position in the global photovoltaics (PV) industry, supporting the transition to renewable energy, particularly to solar power, as outlined in the [European Green Deal](#), the [REPowerEU](#) Plan and the [2023 Renewable Energy Directive](#). It will scale up the European PV manufacturing capacity, develop a more resilient value chain in the EU and reduce dependency on fossil fuels through collaboration across the entire PV value chain. The Commission and the private partners plan to invest up to €240 million each from 2025 to 2030 in the partnership.
- **European Partnership for Textiles of the Future:** It will drive the transformation of the textile industry towards sustainability and circularity, aligning with the [EU Strategy for Sustainable and Circular Textiles](#). The initiative will leverage digital innovations and new business models within the sector and enhance Europe's strategic autonomy. At the same time, it will help to keep the industry competitive, resilient, and sustainable in a rapidly changing global market. The Commission and the private partners plan to invest up to €30 million each from 2025 to 2030 in this partnership.
- **European Partnership for Innovative Advanced Materials for the EU:** In line with the [Communication on Advanced Materials for Industrial Leadership](#), it will strengthen technology sovereignty and industrial competitiveness in advanced materials. The partnership will respond to industrial needs and accelerate design, development and industrial uptake of safe and sustainable advanced materials and associated technologies fit for the circular economy. The Commission and the private partners plan to invest up to €250 million each by 2030 in this partnership.

For more information: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_841

European academies call for FP10 budget of 220 billion euros (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

The next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10) should include incentives for the entire research and innovation continuum and should counteract Europe's declining competitiveness. This is stated by 32 European academies - including the Dutch KNAW - in an open letter to the European Commission. The academies call for a budget of approximately 220 billion euros. This amount is based on the recommendations from the Heitor report. The programme should also provide European mechanisms to stimulate individual member states to invest more in R&D. The letter is an initiative of the Austrian academy ÖAW. "Europe needs to wake up. This has become clear since US President Trump took office. We can no longer rely on others. In order not to fall even further behind, we need a clear European commitment to research and development, as well as sufficient funding," says ÖAW President Heinz Faßmann.

News item ÖAW: <https://www.oeaw.ac.at/en/news/offener-brief-32-europaeische-wissenschafts-akademien-fordern-220-mrd-euro-fuer-die-forschung-1>

Open letter: https://www.oeaw.ac.at/fileadmin/NEWS/2025/pdf/Open_letter_2025.pdf

EU strengthens ties with South Africa on green transition (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

The EU and South Africa are strengthening their strategic cooperation with the signing of a Clean Trade and Investment Partnership. The agreement focuses on investment, green transition, skills, technology and the development of strategic industries. South Africa is the first country to sign such an agreement with the EU. European Commission President von der Leyen announced a €4.7 billion investment package, of which €4.4 billion is earmarked for energy transition projects.

Press release European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/nl/ip_25_774

Horizon Europe info days - Cluster 4 (18 March 2025)

Source: Website EC <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/9ds9jXc5ca1xdrdJ5dEGI/overview>

This event aims to inform potential applicants about the funding opportunities of the Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Work Programme 2025

- **13 May 2025 - 14 May 2025**
- 09:30 (GMT+02:00)

About the event

This event aims to inform potential applicants about the funding opportunities within the Work Programme 2025 of the Horizon Europe Cluster 4 'Digital, Industry and Space'.

Speakers from the European Commission will provide detailed insights into the call topics, evaluation and award processes. Attendees will have the opportunity to pose questions about new developments and learn how to draft successful proposals.

Under the pillar II of Horizon Europe, Cluster 4 focuses on Digital, Industry and Space, aiming to deliver on the following 6 Destinations aligned with the Strategic Plan:

- Climate neutral, circular and digitised production
- Increased autonomy in key strategic value chains for resilient industry
- World leading data and computing technologies
- Digital and emerging technologies for competitiveness and fit for the Green Deal
- Open strategic autonomy in developing, deploying and using global space-based infrastructures, services, applications and data
- A human-centred and ethical development of digital and industrial technologies

The event is virtual and all sessions will be livestreamed on this platform.

For more information: <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/9ds9jXc5ca1xdrdJ5dEGI/overview>

Other International funding

National funding

Four research projects launched for NGF-Call AiNed ELSA Labs (28 March 2025))

Source: website NWO news <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/four-research-projects-launched-for-ngf-call-ained-elsa-labs>



NWO has funded four research projects within the NGF-Call AiNed ELSA Labs. Artificial Intelligence (AI) is developing at breakneck speed and bringing about profound changes worldwide. This leads to a variety of ethical (E), legal (L), societal and economic (S) aspects (A). Responsible AI development requires not only technological advances, but also social embedding and exploiting economic opportunities. The four assigned projects focus on addressing these challenges.

The four assigned projects deal with different AI applications. They range from the adaptation of AI in tech industry and mobility to the legal, ethical and societal implications of AI in healthcare. They look not only at the added value of AI, but also at the challenges. Each project focuses on developing responsible and fair AI solutions.

Purpose of the Call

The purpose of the Call AiNed ELSA Labs is to acquire knowledge and insights that contribute to methods, techniques and tools for realising human-centric AI. Here, human-centric AI means AI in the service of people and the public good. The AiNed ELSA Labs focus on research based on specific public and/or private cases in the four chosen application areas whose findings contribute to the above-mentioned goal. In the project proposal for an ELSA Lab, it emerges that ELSA aspects and technology are studied in conjunction, AI takes place based on public values and human rights, and frameworks and guidelines for the development of human-centred AI are tested and (re)developed.

For more information about the assigned projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/four-research-projects-launched-for-ngf-call-ained-elsa-labs>

Call open: KIC Future Plastics (27 March 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-kic-future-plastics>



The Dutch Research Council (NWO) is making seven million euros available for 'KIC Future Plastics: development of safe plastics for a sustainable future'. This will enable researchers and companies to conduct joint research into sustainable, safe and environmentally friendly plastics and its implementation in the current plastics chain.

Current plastic production is based on fossil raw materials and is associated with a lot of waste, environmental damage and health damage due to, for example, microplastics. Therefore, there is a need for new plastics that are biobased or CO₂-based polymers that are biodegradable. In addition, they are reusable and easy to integrate into the current plastics chain. They also have a reduced impact on the environment and health. The challenge here is to prevent harmful leakage into the environment, including in the form of litter, microplastics or wear and tear. In addition to the technical aspects, the socio-economic aspect also needs to be addressed. Reducing leakage also requires a different form of consumer behaviour and business operations.

This call has been developed in conjunction with the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for the Circular Economy 2024-2027 (KIA CE) and focuses on the transition from fossil-based plastic chains to sustainable plastics. The aim is to solve both the technical and business challenges of new plastics. This call is therefore open to scientists from the natural sciences and technical sciences, as well as the social sciences and business studies. To ensure a good connection with practice, it is necessary to involve companies in the plastics chain in the proposal. These can be plastics producers, users and waste processing organisations.

In this context, 'plastics' is not limited to plastic, but also includes coatings, composites, paints and rubbers.

Meetings

For this call, it is important that both the natural-technical and socio-economic aspects are addressed, while also connecting with practical applications. Therefore, it is important that a consortium is formed between different parties. To support this, NWO is organising a matchmaking meeting on 13 May in Utrecht. Interested parties can meet each other here. You can register via the link. Attendance at the meeting is not compulsory, but it is recommended. In addition, NWO is also organising an online information session on 15 April. You can ask questions about this call here.

Budget

A total of seven million euros is available. NWO will fund a maximum of 70% of the project. The remaining 30% must be paid by (private) co-funding. At least 2 co-funders must be involved in the consortium. A minimum of 750,000 euros and a maximum of 2,000,000 euros can be requested per proposal.

Timeline

- **15 April 2025, online information meeting** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/meetings/information-session-kic-future-plastics>
- **13 May 2025, matchmaking meeting** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/meetings/matchmaking-event-kic-future-plastics>
- **24 June 2025 14:00, deadline for letters of intent**
- **16 September 2025 14:00, deadline for full proposals**

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-kic-future-plastics>

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/knowledge-and-innovation-covenant/kic-2024-2027/mission-2024-2027/future-plastics> and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/20250224_kic_future_plastics_ontwikkeling_van_veilige_kunststoffen_voor_een_duurzame_toekomst_call_for_proposals_final_v2.pdf

NWO supports initiative to give data the same status as publications (24 March 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-supports-initiative-to-give-data-the-same-status-as-publications>



The Dutch Research Council (NWO) has announced its support for Make Data Count, an initiative advocating for the recognition of research datasets as a primary scientific output. From 2025 to 2027, NWO will contribute €8,000 annually to the initiative.

Make Data Count is an initiative that argues research data should be treated with the same importance as scientific articles. Researchers are often recognised for their publications, but not always for the data they collect and share. Make

Data Count aims to change this, for example by measuring how often datasets are viewed, downloaded, and cited in other research.



Data is critical to research and society, but we lack an understanding of how data is used to drive policy, discovery and societal benefit. Make Data Count is an initiative that promotes the development of open data metrics to enable evaluation of data usage.

Make Data Count is developing tools to track how often research data is used and cited, presenting this information in a clear and accessible way. All data is freely available for anyone, both for people wishing to read the information and for computer systems working with it. Scientific archives, publishers, and platforms can use these systems to track this information in a consistent manner.

Website Make Data Count: <https://makedatacount.org/>

NWO's commitment to open science

NWO already supports a **range of initiatives that promote open science** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/open-science-infrastructure-support>. Many of these initiatives are non-profit and come from the scientific community itself, such as Make Data Count. With its support for Make Data Count, NWO aims to create a research environment where datasets are recognised and valued. This ensures that researchers receive the recognition they deserve, while making scientific research more transparent and effective.

NWO works on facilitating the transfer of top international researchers to the Netherlands (20 March 2025)

Source: website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-works-on-facilitating-the-transfer-of-top-international-researchers-to-the-netherlands>



The Dutch Research Council (NWO) is working on a new fund to facilitate the relocation of international top researchers to the Netherlands. The fund will enable scientists to continue their research at a Dutch research institution.

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science has asked the NWO to set up a programme for top international scientists who would prefer to work in the Netherlands. This was communicated to the House of Representatives by Minister Bruins. Minister Bruins: 'The world is changing. Tension is rising. We are seeing more and more scientists looking for a different place to do their work. I want more top international scientists to come here to do just that. After all, top scientists are worth a great deal to our country and to Europe.'

NWO is more than willing to take up the request and will work out the details together with the university umbrella organisation UNL, KNAW and other parties on short notice. The necessary financial resources must also be found. The aim is to arrive at a funding level that will enable the facilitation of a substantial number of top researchers and their research teams to continue their research in the Netherlands. The basic principle is that renowned scientists from across the full spectrum of scientific disciplines can apply for funding to enable them to work at a Dutch knowledge institution.

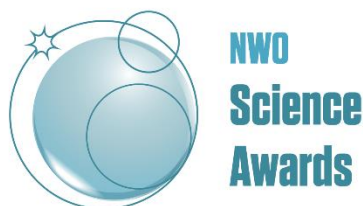
NWO contributes financially

The size of the fund has not yet been determined and is a challenge during this time of budget cuts in research. Because of the importance of continuing top-level research, retaining talent in the Netherlands and maintaining strategic autonomy for Europe and the Netherlands, NWO is aiming for a fund that can help dozens of researchers. Marcel Levi:

'The Netherlands' greatest economic asset is knowledge. There is a risk that the bright minds of tomorrow will no longer be trained here or will leave the field of science. We desperately need talent that wants to work here. For years, there has been a brain drain from Europe to other countries, and it wouldn't be a bad idea to reverse the roles. That is why we are pleased with the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science's initiative and why we, as NWO, are also happy to contribute financially to bringing top researchers and their teams here.'

Nominate candidates now for an NWO Domain Science award in 2025 (20 March 2025)

Source: website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nominate-candidates-now-for-an-nwo-domain-science-award-in-2025>



For the sixth time, the NWO Domain Science is awarding five prizes in the areas of societal impact, diversity & inclusion, team science and communication. You are able to nominate researchers who excel in these areas for one of the five special awards. Who will you nominate for an NWO Domain Science award in 2025?

Since 2020, the NWO Domain Science awards have been presented to scientists in the exact and natural sciences at all skill levels who have made an extra effort in their research to achieve social impact, team science, diversity or communication. The winners receive a cash prize, with which NWO intends to contribute to the continuation of their initiatives and achievement of their goals. The following awards are being presented:

Athena Award

The Athena Award is for outstanding female researchers who are thereby a role model for others.

More information and nomination form: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/athena-award>

Communication Initiative Award

The Communication Initiative Award rewards researchers for effective science communication initiatives that reach a wider audience.

More information and nomination form: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/communication-award>

Diversity & Inclusion Initiative Award

The Diversity & Inclusion Initiative Award is for (small-scale) initiatives that increase workplace diversity within the field.

More information and nomination form: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/diversity-inclusion-initiative-award>

Stairway to Impact Award

The Stairway to impact Award rewards researchers for taking steps towards impact on society.

More information and nomination form: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/stairway-to-impact-award>

Team Science Award

The Team Science Award rewards the most inspiring and successful team of researchers from different disciplines who have taken up a scientific challenge together, where their individual strengths and expertise demonstrably reinforce each other.

More information and nomination form: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/team-science-award>

Five public-private consortia launch research into solutions for antimicrobial resistance (18 March 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/five-public-private-consortia-launch-research-into-solutions-for-antimicrobial-resistance>



The Dutch Research Council (NWO) has awarded funding to five projects as part of the KIC call 'Antimicrobials for the preclinical pipeline'. In total, the consortia will receive 4,534,774 euros in funding from the NWO and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport (VWS). This will allow them to conduct research into new antimicrobial agents and accelerate the implementation of such alternatives for a maximum of six years. The consortia consist of researchers, doctors and partners working at international research institutes, hospitals, private companies and civil society organisations, among others.

About the call

Antimicrobials (including antibiotics) are of great value to healthcare. They are necessary for treating infections and play an important role in medical procedures such as chemotherapy and organ donation. The increasing resistance to these drugs is therefore something that will put great pressure on our healthcare system. NWO and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport jointly developed this call for proposals to stimulate the development of new antimicrobial agents and additional therapies against bacterial and fungal infections.

WUR is involved in two awarded projects:

WUR is coordinator of Iterative design of novel antimicrobial peptides with deep active learning and biosynthetic engineering - **prof. dr. M.H. Medema, Wageningen University and Research**

WUR is partner in Prioritising novel genomic and chemical space via federated learning and preclinical development (PRIORITY Led by Leiden University: **Marnix Medema** (Wageningen University), **Justin van der Hooft** (Wageningen University), **Daniel Probst** (Wageningen University)

For more information about the funded projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/five-public-private-consortia-launch-research-into-solutions-for-antimicrobial-resistance>

Final award for 3 National Growth Fund projects (18 March 2025)

Source: Website Rijksoverheid National Groeifonds

<https://www.nationaalgroeifonds.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/03/18/definitieve-toekenning-voor-3-nationaal-groeifondsprojecten>

3 National Growth Fund projects receive a final award of € 182.2 million. The projects have refined their plans and submitted additional information for a final award. These are the projects LLO Collective Low-skilled and Low-literate, Aviation in Transition and GroenvermogenNL. The cabinet has adopted the positive advice of the Advisory Committee. The cabinet also agrees to an amendment to the Quantum Delta NL project.

LLO Collective Low-skilled and Low-literate

The LLO Collective Low-skilled and Low-literate project receives a final award of € 42.9 million. This project develops regional training courses and a new way of recruiting low-skilled and low-literate people, so that they can more easily progress to vocational education or the labour market. **Read more about the LLO Collective Low-skilled and Low-literate project here:** <https://www.nationaalgroeifonds.nl/overzicht-lopende-projecten/thema-leven-lang-ontwikkelen/collectief-laagopgeleiden-en-laaggeletterden> (in Dutch).

Aviation in Transition

Aviation in Transition will receive a definitive award of €34.3 million. An award of €11.4 million will also remain conditional, with a decision moment in 2027. The project is aimed at making the Dutch aviation sector more sustainable towards climate-neutral Dutch aviation in 2050. **Read more about the Aviation in Transition project here:** <https://www.nationaalgroeifonds.nl/overzicht-lopende-projecten/thema-mobiliteit/luchtvaart-in-transitie> (in Dutch)

GroenvermogenNL

The GroenvermogenNL project will receive a definitive award of €105 million for pilots, demonstration projects and upscaling initiatives. Part of the previous award will remain conditional. The aim of GroenvermogenNL is to support and accelerate the transition to large-scale use of green hydrogen in Dutch industry. **Read more about the GroenvermogenNL project:** <https://www.nationaalgroeifonds.nl/overzicht-lopende-projecten/thema-energie-en-duurzame-ontwikkeling/groenvermogennl> (in Dutch)

Quantum Delta NL

Quantum Delta NL has proposed a reprioritisation and tightened programming. The cabinet has agreed to this. The changes include a focus on core activities and an improved governance structure. Quantum Delta NL focuses on strengthening the Dutch quantum ecosystem. Quantum technology is a key technology that enables radically new products and services. **Read more about the Quantum Delta NL project:** <https://www.nationaalgroiefonds.nl/overzicht-lopende-projecten/thema-sleuteltechnologieen-en-valorisatie/quantum-delta-nl> (in Dutch)

Dutch Research Agenda - Research along Routes by Consortia 2025 (NWA-ORC 2025) (18 March 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/dutch-research-agenda-research-along-routes-by-consortia-2025-nwa-orc-2025>

In the annual ORC funding round, consortia can submit thematic proposals that provide a joint expression of the breadth and innovative character of the NWA. The funding round is aimed at facilitating research that leads to scientific and/or societal breakthroughs.

The aim of the NWA ORC 2025 call for proposals is to encourage research that is set up and carried out by interdisciplinary consortia that include representatives from the full breadth of the knowledge chain as well as relevant societal (public and/or private) partners, including citizens. The research will address so called wicked problems, focused on themes that are proposed by NWA-route networks and based on one or more of the 140 cluster questions.

The NWA-ORC 2025 round has three phases:

1. **Registration for collaborative workshops** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/meetings/collaborative-workshops-nwa-orc-2025> (required for main applicants)
2. **Participation in collaborative workshops**
Between 14 April and 14 May 2025, NWO will organise collaborative workshops with the aim of bringing together interested parties (researchers and public and/or private social parties) around a specific theme, combining research ideas (joining forces) and forming broad innovative consortia. You can register for the workshops via the NWO website.
3. **Submitting a proposal**
The deadline for submission of proposals via ISAAC is **3 February 2026, at 14:00:00 CET**.

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/dutch-research-agenda-research-along-routes-by-consortia-2025-nwa-orc-2025> and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NWAORC2025_Call%20for%20Proposals_EN.pdf

KIC Societal Earning Capacity: Connection, Synthesis and Knowledge Utilisation (18 March 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-societal-earning-capacity-connection-synthesis-and-knowledge-utilisation>

This top-up call calls for consortiums from the previous KIC Mission calls to request extra budget intended for connection, synthesis and knowledge utilisation from the knowledge that is gained during their research. This call hopes to contribute to bring together, integrate and make knowledge available in other contexts and has as its purpose to accelerate mission-driven innovation and to create Societal Earning Capacity.

The KIC Societal Earning Capacity Top-up Call: Connection, Synthesis and Knowledge Utilisation aims to contribute to bring together, integrate and make knowledge available gained from current and/or completed KIC projects. Its purpose is to accelerate mission driven innovation and to create Societal Earning Capacity. This gained knowledge is not always fully integrated outside certain consortiums and ecosystems. Knowledge about mission-driven innovation is also still often scattered.

This call is only open for current or completed projects from the following programmes:

- Mission-Driven Innovation Systems in a Regional Context KIC (2020);
- Collaboration in Mission-Driven Innovation KIC (2021);
- Realisation, Acceleration and Scaling-up of Mission-Driven Innovation KIC (2022)

When to apply

This Call for proposals has a specific lead time during which applications can be submitted continuously. During the term, three deadlines/collection times have been determined when applications will be assessed. Applications can be submitted continuously until January 21, 2027, before 2:00:00 PM CET.

The pick-up times are:

- January 23, 2025, before 2:00:00 PM CET
- January 22, 2026, before 2:00:00 PM CET
- January 21, 2027, before 2:00 PM CET (also closing date of this Call for proposals)

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-societal-earning-capacity-connection-synthesis-and-knowledge-utilisation> and

Regional funding

I3 Instrument Work Programme for 2025-2027 adopted (19 March 2025)

Source: Website EC EISMEA https://eismae.ec.europa.eu/news/i3-instrument-work-programme-2025-2027-adopted-2025-03-19_en

The European Commission has adopted the new Work Programme https://eismae.ec.europa.eu/document/download/313d6a29-8b31-45d0-add3-7fad4bb1796f_en for the **Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument** for 2025-2027, allocating €176 million.



The I3 Instrument's new three-year Work Programme will focus on scaling innovation, strengthening regional innovation ecosystems, and supporting interregional collaboration. With a budget of over €176 million, it will help innovation actors turn ideas into investment-ready projects. The I3 Instrument strengthens the EU's innovation ecosystems and promotes smart specialisation by helping regions develop innovation capacity and better integrate less developed regions into European value chains. It supports consortia of researchers, businesses, public administrations, and civil society, with small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) as key beneficiaries. Currently, 53 projects are in implementation, and more will be contracted in the coming months from the 2024 calls. Lessons learnt will be shared through the I3 Support Facility, which provides guidance and networking opportunities to stakeholders developing joint interregional investments.

The **next I3 Instrument calls** https://eismae.ec.europa.eu/programmes/interregional-innovation-investments-i3-instrument_en#ref-2025-calls, which will focus on investment projects, are planned for May 2025 and will be followed by a capacity-building call planned for October 2025.

Download Workprogramme here: https://eismae.ec.europa.eu/document/download/313d6a29-8b31-45d0-add3-7fad4bb1796f_en

Read full article here: https://eismae.ec.europa.eu/document/download/313d6a29-8b31-45d0-add3-7fad4bb1796f_en

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

‘EU should strengthen R&D collaboration with low- and middle-income countries’ (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

A group of knowledge institutions and umbrella organisations argue that the EU should strengthen its collaboration in the field of research, innovation and higher education with low- and middle-income countries. The organisations write this in a letter to the European Commission. “Research-driven international collaborations form the basis for sustainable, prosperous knowledge economies and are instrumental in tackling common challenges, including health threats, climate change and the digital transformation”, it reads.

News item The Guild: https://www.the-guild.eu/publications/statements/stakeholder-statement-on-research-innovation-and-higher-education-between-europe-and-lmics_march2025.pdf

Publication The Guild: <https://sciencebusiness.net/viewpoint/universities/viewpoint-innovation-and-collaboration-are-pillars-europes-cleantech>

‘Innovation and collaboration are the pillars of European leadership in clean technology’ (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

Universities and companies need to work together more intensively to address the dual challenges of competitiveness and climate. This is what TU/e President Robert-Jan Smits and Siemens Head of Strategy and Technology Relations Mirjam Storim state in an opinion piece on Science Business. According to Smits and Storim, European universities are a breeding ground for entrepreneurship and tech startups, but help is needed to help these companies scale up. “To make this happen, significant national and European support is needed, starting with innovation-friendly policies, less regulation and significant funding. Here too, ecosystems play an important role in helping startups expand into their markets,” they say. In addition, established industrial companies should not view startups as annoying competitors, but as potential future partners.

Opinion piece Science Business: <https://sciencebusiness.net/viewpoint/universities/viewpoint-innovation-and-collaboration-are-pillars-europes-cleantech>

Have your say on the new Strategy for European Life Sciences (26 March 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/towards-eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy_en

The Commission has launched a **call for evidence** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14592-EU-life-sciences-strategy_en to gather input for the upcoming Strategy for European Life Sciences. The strategy, announced by President Ursula von der Leyen in her **political guidelines**

https://commission.europa.eu/document/download/e6cd4328-673c-4e7a-8683-f63ffb2cf648_en?filename=Political%20Guidelines%202024-2029_EN.pdf and included in the **Competitiveness**

Compass https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_339, will identify key challenges and opportunities to speed up the safe development, deployment and uptake of innovations based on life sciences.

Life sciences encompass **the study of living systems**, ranging from **cells** and **microorganisms** to **plants, animals, humans** and **entire ecosystems**. They play a pivotal role in many sectors, including **human and animal health** as well

as **food and agriculture**. This is why they are key to supporting Europe's green and digital transitions and to developing high-value technologies, which help tackle the most pressing challenges and enhance the health and well-being of citizens and of the planet.

The upcoming strategy will set out how to advance life sciences-based innovation across Europe by tackling key barriers and unlocking new opportunities for growth and impact. Moreover, the strategy will aim to strengthen the generation of European knowledge in life sciences, which is essential for breakthroughs to emerge.

Overall, the strategy aims to help increase the EU's prosperity, improve its preparedness, security and strategic autonomy, accelerate and enable the digital and green transitions, and sustain the quality of life and well-being of Europeans.

Designing the strategy together

The call for evidence gathers the views of stakeholders including experts and of the general public, and provides them with an opportunity to help design the Strategy for European Life Sciences in a collaborative, transparent and inclusive way.

The call for evidence https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14592-EU-Life-sciences-strategy_en is available on the Commission's 'Have your Say' portal in all official EU languages and will close on 17 April 2025.

European Commission concludes public consultation on the EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy (26 March 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/european-commission-concludes-public-consultation-eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy-2025-03-26_en&pk_campaign=rtd_news

The European Commission has concluded its public consultation on the forthcoming EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy. During the 4 weeks of consultation open in the **"Have your Say"** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14530-EU-Start-up-and-Scale-up-Strategy_en portal, the exercise attracted 589 responses from stakeholders across 36 countries, with the highest participation from Belgium (115), **the Netherlands (64)**, and Germany (64).

Based on a preliminary assessment, key areas highlighted by respondents include:

- **Access to finance:** calls for easier access to funding and simplified application processes.
- **Regulatory and bureaucratic burdens:** proposals to reduce red tape and facilitate cross-border operations.
- **Access to markets:** suggestions to improve startup participation in public procurement and IP transfer.
- **Access to talent:** need for better recruitment conditions and support for diverse entrepreneurs.
- **Access to infrastructure and services:** proposals to enhance access to research facilities, innovation hubs, and accelerators.

Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, said:

"The insights gathered from this consultation will inform our efforts to create a more supportive environment for startups and scaleups, driving innovation and competitiveness across the EU."

Next steps

The Commission is now analysing the feedback, alongside ongoing input from the new "European Startups and Scaleups Forum", the EIC Board, the EIC Forum and various national agencies and bodies. The final EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy will be presented at the end of May 2025.

More information

Towards an EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/towards-eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy_en

Patent Index 2024: European innovation remains robust amid global economic uncertainties (25 March 2025)

Source: Website EPO <https://www.epo.org/en/news-events/press-centre/press-release/2025/1352247>

- **Computer technology takes the lead for the first time**
- **Surge in AI and battery inventions**
- **Leading countries of origin are US, Germany, Japan, China and R. of Korea**
- **Samsung new top applicant, ahead of Huawei and LG**
- **Unitary Patent system gains momentum with over 28 000 requests in 2024**

- **Nearly a quarter of all patent applications from Europe filed by a small company, one in four include a woman inventor**

Munich, 25 March 2025 – Companies and inventors from around the world filed 199 264 patent applications at the European Patent Office (EPO) last year, according to the *Patent Index 2024* published today. The high level of patenting activity was on a par with the previous year (2023: 199 452, -0.1%), following three years of significant growth. Patent applications from Europe, including all 39 EPO [member states](#), rose by 0.3%, while those from outside Europe fell slightly (-0.4%).

“Despite political and economic uncertainties, European companies and inventors filed more patents last year, underlining their technological prowess and their continued investment in R&D,” said EPO President António Campinos. *“The EPO’s patent data is a clear roadmap for industry, policy, and investment priorities. As the Draghi and Letta reports warn, to stay competitive globally, Europe must enhance its innovation ecosystem and do more to help inventors scale up and commercialise their inventions, especially in critical areas such as green technologies, AI and semiconductors.”*

Computer technology takes the lead

Computer technology, which includes areas of AI such as machine learning and pattern recognition, was the leading field for the first time, with 16 815 patent applications in 2024. **Electrical machinery, apparatus, energy** posted the strongest growth last year (+8.9% on 2023), driven by advances in clean energy technologies, particularly battery innovation (+24.0%). Meanwhile **digital communication**, which encompasses inventions related to mobile networks, saw a 6.3% decrease.

Read full article here: <https://www.epo.org/en/news-events/press-centre/press-release/2025/1352247>

Publication EPO Patent Index 2024: <https://www.epo.org/en/about-us/statistics/patent-index-2024>

European Council calls on Commission to simplify policy frameworks (21 March 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/europese-raad-roept-commissie-op-tot-versimpeling-van-beleidskaders>

Simplifying policy frameworks plays a key role in strengthening European competitiveness, the European Council states in its conclusions of the recent European summit. It calls on the Commission to significantly reduce the administrative burden for all parties in these policy frameworks.



European Council calls for simplification

The European Council calls on the Commission to simplify its framework programmes, as set out in **the conclusions of the European summit** <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/03/20/european-council-conclusions-20-march-2025/>. Defence and security were central to the meeting, but the European Council also discussed strengthening European competitiveness. It sees 2025 as a crucial year to take steps in the field of competitiveness. Simplifying the policy frameworks plays a key role in this, in particular by reducing the administrative burden for the organisations involved. The European Council proposes to reduce this burden by at least 25% for applicants.

Context

The European Council also discussed the **new Multiannual Financial Framework** that will come into effect in 2028, but does not elaborate on this in the Council conclusions. The Commission is expected to present its proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework in July, which will provide more clarity on the new framework programme, among other things.

Driving European Competitiveness Through Health Research: The Guild's Call to Action (20 March 2025)

Source: Website The Guild <https://www.the-guild.eu/news-and-blog/2025/driving---european-competitiveness-through-health-.html>

The Guild underscores the importance of health research in maintaining the EU's global competitiveness and the well-being of its citizens. We look forward to the EU's forthcoming initiatives, including the Life Sciences Strategy, the EU Biotech Act, the Pharmaceutical Reform's finalisation, and the European Health Data Space implementation. Addressing challenges such as fragmented health systems and skills shortages requires strong investment in research and skills, and this strategic commitment should be reflected in the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) and the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10).

In our statement, we advocate for the EU to invest in skills for future health research. Universities play a key role in equipping the next generation of health professionals and researchers with the necessary skills. Therefore, the EU must address the funding gap to maintain global competitiveness by overcoming national funding disparities and supporting innovation ecosystems. This is essential not only for Europe's competitiveness but also to positively impact national health systems and contribute to the population's healthy life expectancy.

To address the needs of an ageing population, it is critical that policymakers prioritise collaborative fundamental research in future funding programmes to complement the industry's investment in applied research. Early-stage research is vital to addressing societal needs and driving scientific advancements. Enhancing collaboration between academia and industry across the entire research pipeline and fostering early-career research is essential to driving economic growth while improving the healthcare system.

Read the statement: https://www.the-guild.eu/publications/statements/the-guild_statement-on-health-research_march2025.pdf

Research and technology organisations want a bigger role in European strategy for startups and scale-ups (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

EARTO responds positively to the European Commission's initiative to develop a comprehensive European startup and scale-up strategy. This is stated by the umbrella organisation of European Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) in response to a consultation by the Commission. The umbrella organisation argues that RTOs play an important role in transforming groundbreaking research into innovations that can enter the market. "Their unique positioning between fundamental research and industrial application enables them to effectively bridge the gap between scientific discovery and commercial viability", it states. EARTO emphasises that this is particularly important for deeptech startups, which, unlike traditional digital startups, struggle with intensive R&D, high expenditure and long development cycles.

EARTO publication: <https://www.earto.eu/wp-content/uploads/EARTO-Response-to-EC-Consultation-on-Startup-Scaleup-Strategy-Final.pdf>

Europe scrambles to help researchers escape Trump (20 march 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/international-news/europe-scrambles-help-researchers-escape-trump>

US researchers may soon have several options to flee the government crackdown on science. Meanwhile, Trump's restrictions are hitting some in Europe



Photo credits: hafteh7 / Pixabay

EU science ministers are calling on the European Commission to stand ready to welcome US researchers threatened by Donald Trump's ongoing tightening of restrictions on US science and provide them with concrete opportunities to pursue their work.

In a letter <https://sciencebusiness.net/sites/default/files/inline-files/Letter%20to%20Commissioner%20Zaharieva.pdf> addressed to research commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva on Wednesday and seen by Science|Business, 13 governments asked the EU to show solidarity and welcome “brilliant talents from abroad who might suffer from research interference and ill-motivated and brutal funding cuts.”

“The current international context reminds us that freedom of science can be put at risk anywhere and at any time,” they wrote. While the new US administration is not named in the letter, the implication is clear.

Since his return to the White House, Trump has been looking to limit support to academia. From ordering massive layoffs within federal science agencies, to terminating grants in certain research areas, to taking unprecedented control over university affairs, he has sparked as much outrage as distress within the US research community, which is now looking east for other options.

The letter, signed by France, the Czech Republic, Austria, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Estonia, Latvia, Spain, Slovenia, Germany, Greece and Lithuania, calls on the EU to secure dedicated funding through existing tools such as the European Research Council and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), “together with a dedicated immigration framework.”

“The Union of Skills’ initiative could be an excellent opportunity to coordinate our actions at national and regional levels,” they added, provided that it is carried out within the limits of the current Multiannual Financial Framework ceilings. Finally, the signatories proposed holding a conference on the issue with EU research ministers and commissioners in the coming weeks.

Universities mobilise

Meanwhile, European universities and research institutions have already started to mobilise. With its Safe Place For Science programme, launched earlier this month, **France’s Aix-Marseille University** hopes to raise up to €15 million and offer an employment contract to some 15 researchers over three years. While all nationalities are eligible to apply, the candidates must have been based in the US for a minimum of two years. According to university president Éric Berton, the call has so far been answered by more than 100 scientists, mainly American. We are studying all requests, paying attention to the level of urgency and nature of the situation of the candidates,” he told Science|Business. “We would then like to be able to ‘keep’ these researchers within our university, if they wish to stay.”

Each selected scientist will receive a research budget of between €600,000 and €800,000, Berton said. The university, which in the past accommodated 25 researchers from Ukraine, Yemen, Afghanistan and Palestine, has begun to work with local institutions to assist potential newcomers with relocation and issues such as visas and employment for spouses and partners.

“We want to be a small beacon of hope for [American researchers] in the name of a Europe of knowledge, and to tell them that science cannot be censored,” Berton explained. “This is not an incentive to leave the US but an opportunity for those who can no longer work ‘normally’ to join a scientific framework that promotes freedom and academic excellence.” **The Université Paris-Saclay** has also joined the effort with the announcement that it will deploy PhD contracts and fund stays of various durations for American researchers. Other options for hosting them include the Avenir research chairs for highly qualified international scientists and the Chateaubriand fellowship, which is open to PhD candidates enrolled in higher education in the US.

In neighbouring Belgium, **the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB)** has just opened **12 postdoctoral positions for international researchers, and more particularly US scholars**, who will be granted €2.5 million as part of the MSCA programme. It is also collaborating with its francophone sister university, the Université Libre de Bruxelles, to attract American professors.

Recommended readings

- [Viewpoint: as the US sinks, Europe must rise for global science](#)
- [Europe could be a ‘haven’ for US researchers, says ERC president](#)

Meanwhile, Ruben Puylaert, the spokesperson for Universities of the Netherlands, said that Germany, Sweden and the UK had also launched programmes to support US scientists. He now wishes to see his country follow suit, “both out of solidarity with scientists for whom academic freedom is under pressure and for reasons of an enlightened self-interest.”

Science Business: Research and development barely mentioned in European defence plans (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

There seems to be little attention for research and development in the first plans to increase European defence capabilities, writes Science Business. Commission President von der Leyen recently outlined the plans for ReArm Europe. This plan should mobilise 800 billion euros for European defence. The Commission will present the full proposal later this month, but so far little is known about the role of research and development. The European Council also emphasises in its conclusions 'the importance of continued support for research, innovation and development through the European Defence Fund (EDF)', but has not yet mentioned many concrete ambitions. Frederik Erixon of the think tank European Centre for International Political Economy argues that the EU needs to catch up in the field of defence R&D. "The future type of wars that we're talking about require a completely different type of capability in terms of flexibility, agility, adaptation, constant innovation, and if we don't have that, a lot of these investments just won't be able to deliver the capabilities that we need," Erixon told Science Business.

Article Science Business: <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/eu-budget/eu-urged-not-forget-about-defence-rd>

Approval for six new European AI factories (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) has selected six new proposals for AI factories. Austria, Bulgaria, France, Germany, Poland and Slovenia will host the new factories. Approximately €485 million will be made available for this, combined from national and European investments. During the AI Action Summit in Paris, Commission President von der Leyen announced that she wants to mobilize €200 billion in investments in European AI in the coming years. The first seven projects were selected in December. The Netherlands is not participating in the projects so far. Minister Beljaarts has previously indicated that he wants to commit to the arrival of an AI factory in the Netherlands.

Press release EuroHPC: https://eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/eurohpc-ju-selects-additional-ai-factories-strengthen-europes-ai-leadership-2025-03-12_en

News release European Commission: <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/second-wave-ai-factories-set-drive-eu-wide-innovation>

Research and technology organisations want a bigger role in European strategy for startups and scale-ups (20 March 2025)

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EARTO responds positively to the European Commission's initiative to develop a comprehensive European startup and scale-up strategy. This is stated by the umbrella organisation of European Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) in response to a consultation by the Commission. The umbrella organisation argues that RTOs play an important role in transforming groundbreaking research into innovations that can enter the market. "Their unique positioning between fundamental research and industrial application enables them to effectively bridge the gap between scientific discovery and commercial viability", it states. EARTO emphasises that this is particularly important for deeptech startups, which, unlike traditional digital startups, struggle with intensive R&D, high expenditure and long development cycles.

EARTO publication: <https://www.earto.eu/wp-content/uploads/EARTO-Response-to-EC-Consultation-on-Startup-Scaleup-Strategy-Final.pdf>

Global policy

International research community concerned about US government questionnaire (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

A growing number of researchers in Australia, the European Union, the United Kingdom and Canada with US funding are receiving a questionnaire from the US government. Nature has written about this. The researchers are asked, among other things, whether their research institution collaborates with 'communist, socialist or other parties that espouse anti-American views' and whether the projects relate to, for example, diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), climate or 'gender ideology'. Knowledge associations state that the questionnaire 'threatens academic freedom and undermines scientific progress'. According to Nature, the questionnaire is being handled differently. For example, many European university associations are said to advise their researchers not to fill out the list. Some Australian universities are said to do so, because of their greater dependence on US research funding.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-00850-5>

OECD outlines policy options for responsible development of immersive technologies (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

Anticipatory policies and international cooperation are crucial in shaping human-centred and values-based development and the use of immersive technologies. This is stated by the OECD in a paper on the technologies, such as augmented reality (AR), digital twins and virtual worlds. The paper examines, among other things, the potential advantages and disadvantages of the technologies and related policies. It also outlines case studies of possible applications, such as for remote care and education for people with disabilities.

OECD publication: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/an-immersive-technologies-policy-primer_cf39863d-en.html

OECD article: <https://www.oecd.org/en/blogs/2025/03/10-steps-for-policymakers-to-advance-immersive-technologies.html>

Opinion: Ten-year funding helps achieve R&D goals (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

There is enough evidence to suggest that ten-year budgets have a positive effect on the success of research programmes. This is what Grace Gottlieb and Matt David of University College London state in an opinion piece for Times Higher Education. Gottlieb and David mention the British National Quantum Technologies Programme as a good example. This programme was set up in 2014 with 1 billion pounds of funding. The programme has since produced hundreds of PhD students and dozens of start-ups. An advantage of ten-year programmes is that they can retain research talent for the sector and drastically reduce the administrative burden. However, 'stage gating' is used to make adjustments in the meantime. The current British Labour government has made such multi-year programmes an important part of its policy, although it is still unclear on which themes exactly ten-year budget certainty is being chosen.

Opinion piece Times Higher Education: <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/ten-year-budgets-can-boost-national-rd-aims-and-reduce-precarity>

US: Trump budget cuts and measures force universities to take 'drastic measures' (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

The Trump administration's budget cuts are already forcing US academic institutions to take drastic measures, Nature reports. Across the country, institutions are responding, including hiring freezes, travel restrictions and a moratorium on salary increases. Universities are also considering layoffs or unpaid leave. "The academic model that universities relied on to conduct their research, fund their students, fund PhDs — all of this is in crisis, because a lot of it was funded in one way or another by federal grants," says Aseem Prakash, a political scientist at the University of Washington. Dozens of institutions are also being hit with targeted measures and federal investigations. For example,

\$400 million in federal funding has been cut off to Columbia University “because of the school’s continued inaction to protect Jewish students from discrimination.”

Nature article: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-00849-y>

Issues: Dismantling science in the US bad for innovation (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

In the US, the scientific system that has ensured progress in many areas for years is being dismantled at a rapid pace. This is what Issues writes in a publication. For example, it points out that an incorrect image has arisen that innovation is the property of the private sector. The article shows that public investments have made innovations possible, including through cardinal programs such as the Manhattan Project, Project Apollo or the Cancer Moonshot. In addition, the government has invested in 'scientific bureaucrats', for example at the National Institute of Health, who ensured that innovations with regard to public health could enter the market in a regulated manner. According to Issues, this group will soon be consigned to the trash bin. The consequences of this will be "earth-shaking and profound", it says. And also - ironically - bad for innovation.

Publication Issues: <https://issues.org/government-innovators-scientist-bureaucrats-aviles-forum/>

OECD: Proactive portfolio management in mission-driven innovation policy (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

Mission-driven portfolio management is a crucial component of the success of mission-driven innovation policy. This is stated by the OECD in a report. This involves developing and managing a consistent and tailor-made set of diverse projects and activities that together contribute to the realisation of the mission objectives. This approach requires flexible and adaptive processes. The researchers warn that this can often conflict with 'the rigid structures and practices that characterise public administration'. The report offers guidelines and recommendations for the development, management and monitoring of this approach.

OECD publication: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/proactive-portfolio-management-in-mission-oriented-innovation-policy_1ee956a5-en.html

OECD outlines approach for area-based climate policy and actions (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

Action is needed at all levels to achieve the global climate goals. In a report, the OECD outlines the possibilities for area-based climate policy and actions. This is policy that is adapted to the specific circumstances and challenges of areas. The challenges and opportunities are examined in four policy areas: supporting the transition of companies and workers to net zero; investing in climate-resilient infrastructure; stimulating climate innovation; and improving financing for area-based climate action. The researchers also outlined a framework for area-based climate action by local governments.

OECD Publication: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/a-place-based-approach-to-climate-action-and-resilience_fafbf518-en.html

Merics: Risks of China's innovation fund (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

The success of DeepSeek has given China extra motivation to invest in future technologies and to invest heavily in them. This can be read in the Merics analysis. According to the think tank, the focus is mainly on technologies that can be used in the longer term, such as quantum computers, biotechnology and the next generations of AI and wireless networks. However, Merics has doubts about the strategy of attracting private investors with 'seed money' via the announced large government fund. The fund uses an investment horizon of 20 years and the result could be that public investments crowd out private investments instead of strengthening them. "The success of DeepSeek has fueled Beijing's hunger to invest heavily in future technologies. Although it is presented as a stimulus for tech start-ups and the private sector, the new support fund could actually drive private investors away," says analyst Jeroen Groenewegen-Lau.

Merics analysis: <https://merics.org/en/merics-briefs/chinas-national-peoples-congress-2025>

National policy

Cabinet wants fund to attract international top scientists to the Netherlands (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

Minister Bruins has asked NWO to set up a defined and targeted financing instrument within its existing financing possibilities in the very short term to attract international top scientists in fields that are of obvious importance to the Netherlands. In doing so, the Netherlands is following the example of a number of other European countries. "The national research funders (NWO and ZonMw), institutions and research institutes are joining forces to attract international scientific top talent. I will remain closely involved in the development of the instrument to ensure that this is achieved as soon as possible," writes Bruins. HOP has interviewed NWO chairman Marcel Levi about the fund to be set up.

Letter to Parliament from Minister Bruins: <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/1a0d2f84-686e-4025-8668-22a6155cb33b/file> (in Dutch)

Press release from the Central Government: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/03/20/nederland-start-fonds-om-plek-te-bieden-aan-internationale-topwetenschappers> (in Dutch)

News release from NWO: <https://www.nwo.nl/nieuws/nwo-werkt-aan-overstap-internationale-toponderzoekers-naar-nederland> (in Dutch)

Interview with HOP/U-Today: <https://www.utoday.nl/news/75364/nwo-wil-alleen-topwetenschappers-hierheen-halen> (in Dutch)

KNAW: Academic freedom in the Netherlands under pressure (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

The KNAW is once again calling attention to ways in which academic freedom can be better protected and will further analyse the threats to academic freedom. The KNAW points out that various national and international reports show that academic freedom in the Netherlands is under pressure. For example, the Netherlands, together with Hungary, Austria, Lithuania and Poland, is in the group of member states in which the protection of academic freedom has deteriorated significantly between 2013 and 2023. The KNAW will publish a position paper on this subject this summer.

KNAW news item: <https://www.knaw.nl/nieuws/academische-vrijheid-nederland-onder-druk> (in Dutch)

Rathenau Institute: More control needed on directors of our genes (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

Research policy should pay more attention to epigenetic editing: technology that modifies the operating system of our DNA. This is stated by the Rathenau Institute in the report 'Regie over onze genes' (Regulation of our genes). The report examines how far the technology has come and what social consequences it could have. "Scientists working on this technology often point out that you do not modify the DNA code itself. This would make it safer. But there are still many uncertainties and fundamental questions that need to be answered before you can apply this technology in a socially responsible manner," says researcher Michelle Habets of the Rathenau Institute.

Publication Rathenau Institute: <https://www.rathenau.nl/nl/gezondheid/meer-regie-nodig-op-regisseurs-van-onze-genen> (in Dutch)

ESB: What can the Netherlands learn from the innovation policy of neighbouring countries? (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

While R&D intensity in the Netherlands has been below the EU average since 2017, Belgium, Denmark and Germany have succeeded in increasing investments in R&D. In an analysis for the economics journal ESB, Jasper

van Kempen, Carine van Oosteren and Thijmen van Bree analyse what makes the policy in these countries successful, and what the Netherlands can learn from this. "The experiences of Denmark, Germany and Belgium show that three factors are crucial for the success of R&D policy: firstly, stable, multi-year financing that offers companies and knowledge institutions long-term security; secondly, a broad social consensus on the importance of R&D; and thirdly, an infrastructure that allows R&D-intensive companies to collaborate with public institutions", it says. Furthermore, researchers point out that the Netherlands has historically been less successful in attracting private R&D investments. The cuts in research and innovation could further worsen this situation.

Publication ESB: <https://esb.nu/consistent-innovatiebeleid-leidt-tot-meer-private-rd/>

ESB: Dutch R&D policy for companies lacks focus (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

Much Dutch R&D policy is filled in with untargeted fiscal measures and subsidies. Although there is no evidence that targeted R&D policy is more or less effective than untargeted R&D policy, more targeted financing would be sensible. This is what Marcel de Heide argues in the economics journal ESB. "By generating more volume in research activities in a specific technology field with public funds, it can be prevented that others run off with the spoils. That risk is real; in a winner-takes-all economy, the knowledge created by losers has no value to them and will eventually be copied and applied by the winner", it says. At the same time, De Heide emphasises that this additional financing should not be at the expense of the budget for generic instruments, as the Netherlands is already failing to achieve its current R&D targets. Furthermore, De Heide advocates, among other things, sharp choices on a certain number of specific themes, a portfolio approach and consistent policy choices.

Publication ESB: <https://esb.nu/nederlands-rd-beleid-voor-bedrijven-kent-te-weinig-focus/>

NOS: Universities increasingly strict on knowledge security (27 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 27 March 2025

Dutch universities have rejected hundreds of international collaborations and applications from foreign researchers in recent years due to risks in the field of knowledge security. This is according to the NOS, based on a survey among ten universities. Institutions are now responsible for assessing the risks themselves. In 2022, a national Knowledge Security Desk was established to support this. The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science is working on a legal screening obligation for foreign researchers or master students. The ministry expects to publish the first version of a bill soon. In another article, the NOS writes about the approach of countries such as China, Iran and Russia to obtain sensitive Dutch knowledge. Security advisor Guido van Diermen states that Dutch universities are targets of unfriendly intelligence services on a daily basis. These services are said not to be afraid to put pressure on researchers or even blackmail them. Earlier this year, the AWTI wrote a position paper on knowledge security, based on the AWTI advisory report 'Knowledge in conflict' from 2022.

NOS article: <https://nos.nl/artikel/2560912-universiteiten-wijzen-honderden-buitenlandse-onderzoekers-en-samenwerkingen-af> (in Dutch)

NOS article: <https://nos.nl/artikel/2561004-drugs-in-je-koffer-afpersing-landen-doen-alles-voor-wetenschappelijke-kennis> (in Dutch)

AWTI position paper: <https://www.awti.nl/documenten/publicaties/2025/01/22/position-paper-kennisveiligheid-vraagt-om-een-lerende-aanpak> (in Dutch)

AWTI advisory report: <https://www.awti.nl/documenten/adviezen/2022/11/29/index> (in Dutch)

Minister Bruins wants more control and cooperation on education provision (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

In an extensive policy letter, Minister Bruins outlines his priorities for further education, research and science. According to Bruins, the system will have to deal with a number of social developments, including a decreasing number of students as a result of demographic developments and the stagnating growth of labour productivity. That is why he wants to make strategic choices, so that the system remains qualitatively good and accessible. The minister wants to work towards a different relationship between government and knowledge sector, in which the government steers on strategic choices via system instruments instead of temporary programmes and projects. Furthermore, Bruins wants to legally regulate that educational institutions will jointly steer the education provision, from local to national level. HOP has written about the letter and reactions from the sector.

Letter to Parliament Minister Bruins: <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/00824f51-a38b-4b6b-9134-9296eb3e7f65/file> (in Dutch)

Press release Central government: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/03/14/kabinet-wil-samenwerking-en-regie-op-onderwijsaanbod> (in Dutch)

Article HOP/U-Today (policy letter): <https://www.utoday.nl/news/75335/bruins-gaat-hoger-onderwijs-dwingen-tot-samenwerking> (in Dutch)

Article HOP/U-Today (reactions): <https://www.utoday.nl/news/75337/reacties-op-beleidsbrief-bruins> (in Dutch)

Invest-NL, Techleap and TNO join forces on tech entrepreneurship (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

Invest-NL, Techleap and TNO have announced a strategic alliance. The parties want to work together to bring tech-related innovations to the market faster, to help startups scale up better and to make them competitive. The parties start with the theme Compute; innovations in quantum, semiconductors and photonics. Other themes will be addressed at a later stage. "Technology and innovative entrepreneurship are increasingly part of the global geopolitical game. This collaboration ensures that we can make joint choices in supporting tech entrepreneurs in strategic sectors that make a difference for the Netherlands," says Constantijn van Oranje, Special Envoy at Techleap.

News item Holland High Tech: <https://hollandhightech.nl/nieuws-agenda/nieuws/invest-nl-techleap-en-tno-ondertekenen-samenwerking-voor-versnelling-innovatie-en-ondernemerschap-in-nederland> (in Dutch)

News item TNO: <https://www.tno.nl/nl/newsroom/2025/03/invest-nl-techleap-tno-ondertekenen/> (in Dutch)

More and more researchers at universities of applied sciences (20 March 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 20 March 2025

Since 2022, universities of applied sciences have been receiving extra funding for research. This has strengthened existing lectorates and made them better embedded in the Dutch knowledge landscape, concludes the Rathenau Institute's 2023 Monitor for Applied Research. According to the monitor, the extra resources are mainly used to strengthen existing lectorates. It is also noticeable that universities of applied sciences are increasingly collaborating with companies, institutes, universities and other organisations, both nationally and internationally. However, it does appear that starting practice-oriented researchers sometimes feel undervalued and lack connection, facilities and funding.

Publication Rathenau Institute: <https://www.rathenau.nl/nl/werking-van-het-wetenschapssysteem/steeds-meer-onderzoekers-bij-hogescholen> (in Dutch)

News item VH: <https://www.verenighogescholen.nl/actueel/actualiteiten/praktijkgericht-onderzoek-in-hbo-helpt-economie-steeds-beter> (in Dutch)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 28 March 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	
HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-DEV (5 topics)	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025, and Foreseen Deadline: 18 September 2025
HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-EOSC (5 topics)	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025, and Foreseen Deadline: 18 September 2025
HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-SERV (4 topics)	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025, and Foreseen Deadline: 18 September 2025
HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-TECH (4 topics)	Foreseen opening: 6 May 2025, and Foreseen Deadline: 18 September 2025
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): 16 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) 16 September 2025
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-DISEASE-02-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s): 16 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) 16 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) 16 September 2025
Destination - Maintaining an innovative, sustainable, and competitive EU health industry	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-IND	Foreseen opening: 22 May 2025 Deadline(s) 16 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 2025	
HORIZON-MISS-2025-CLIMA <i>Adaptation to Climate Change Mission</i>	Foreseen opening 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline 24 September 2025 <i>(HORIZON-MISS-2025-01-CLIMA Adaptation to Climate Change Mission)</i>

HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER <i>Cancer: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission</i>	Foreseen opening 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline 16 September 2025 <i>(HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission)</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN <i>Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission</i>	Foreseen opening 7 May 2025 and foreseen deadline 24 September 2025 <i>(HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission)</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2025-04-CIT <i>Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission</i>	Foreseen opening 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline 4 September 2025 <i>(HORIZON-MISS-2025-04-CITIES Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission)</i>
HORIZON-MISS-2025-05 Call - <i>Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission</i>	Foreseen opening 6 May 2025 and foreseen deadline 30 September 2025 <i>(HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL Call - Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission)</i>
WIDERA 2025	

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 28 March 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/	
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 <u>Water for Circular Economy</u> 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.futurefoodspartner-ship.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.facejpi.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 **28 March 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
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 Full applications 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	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 **28 March 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

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
15-04-2025	Deadline for registration collaborative workshops for the NWA Call 'Digital technology and work: understanding the impact and human-centred deployment of applications' The deadline for registering for the collaborative workshops is 15 April 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-digital-technology-and-work and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-digital-technology-and-work and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/EN%20Call%20for%20Proposals%20Dig%20Tech%20and%20Work%2020250228_final.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 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
22-04-2025	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
22-04-2025	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
01-05-2025	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
06-05-2025	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
06-05-2025	New: Deadline Submitting expressions of interest for participation in Sandpit for NWA call Knowledge development ecological effects of wind farms on sea. The deadline for submitting an Expression of Interest for participation in the Sandpit is Tuesday 6 May 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST; The Sandpit will take place from Monday 8 September 2025 up until and including Friday 12 September 2025. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-research-to-gain-knowledge-about-the-ecological-effects-of-offshore-wind-farms and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-knowledge-development-ecological-effects-of-wind-farms-on-sea and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20WPE%20final%2026-2-2025%20ENG%20def%20%282%29.pdf
08-05-2025	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
13-05-2025	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
27-05-2025	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
03-06-2025	Deadline for submission Full proposals for fourth call Faculty of Impact . The deadline for submitting proposals is Tuesday 3 June 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
12-06-2025	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
24-06-2025	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
24-06-2025	NEW: Deadline submission Statements of Content for call Future Plastics: Development of safe plastics for a sustainable future . Tuesday 24 June 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST Deadline statements of intent . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/future-plastics-development-of-safe-plastics-for-a-sustainable-future and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/20250305%20KIC%20KIC%20Future%20plastics_development%20of%20safe%20plastics%20for%20a%20sustainable%20future.pdf
10-07-2025	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 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://groenvermogen.nl/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
11-09-2025	Deadline Submitting Full Proposals for NWA call Knowledge development ecological effects of wind farms on sea . The deadline for submitting the proposal is Thursday 11 September 2025, before 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-research-to-gain-knowledge-about-the-ecological-effects-of-offshore-wind-farms and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-knowledge-development-ecological-effects-of-wind-farms-on-sea and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20WPE%20final%2026-2-2025%20ENG%20def%20%282%29.pdf
16-09-2025	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
16-09-2025	NEW: Deadline submission Full Proposals for call Future Plastics: Development of safe plastics for a sustainable future . Tuesday 16 September 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST

	Deadline proposals. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/future-plastics-development-of-safe-plastics-for-a-sustainable-future and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/20250305%20KIC%20KIC%20Future%20plastics_development%20of%20safe%20plastics%20for%20a%20sustainable%20future.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	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
22-01-2026	NEW: Deadline submission proposals for KIC Societal Earning Capacity: Connection, Synthesis and Knowledge Utilisation This Call for proposals has a specific lead time during which applications can be submitted continuously. During the term, three deadlines/collection times have been determined when applications will be assessed. Applications can be submitted continuously until January 21, 2027, before 2:00:00 PM CET. January 22, 2026, before 2:00:00 PM CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-societal-earning-capacity-connection-synthesis-and-knowledge-utilisation
03-02-2026	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
03-02-2026	Deadline submission Full proposals Dutch Research Agenda - Research along Routes by Consortia 2025 (NWA-ORC 2025). Closing date full application 3 February 2026 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/dutch-research-agenda-research-along-routes-by-consortia-2025-nwa-orc-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NWAORC2025_Call%20for%20Proposals_EN.pdf
21-01-2027	NEW: Deadline submission proposals for KIC Societal Earning Capacity: Connection, Synthesis and Knowledge Utilisation This Call for proposals has a specific lead time during which applications can be submitted continuously. During the term, three deadlines/collection times have been determined when applications will be assessed. Applications can be submitted continuously until January 21, 2027, before 2:00:00 PM CET. January 21, 2027, before 2:00:00 PM CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-societal-earning-capacity-connection-synthesis-and-knowledge-utilisation

Regional calls

This list is a selection of regional calls. The list was compiled on 28 March 2025. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
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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 EFFE East Netherlands Test and demonstration projects priority 1 (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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