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Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe and FP10

Invitation Information event Horizon Europe Cluster 4: Digital, Industry, Space – May 20 (6 May 2025)

Source: Newsletter Team IRIS RVO

European Commission info days Horizon Europe Cluster 4: Digital, Industry, Space

On May 13th and 14th, the European Commission is hosting two online information days to inform potential applicants about the funding opportunities of the 2025 calls for Cluster 4. These EC info days can be followed via the website of the organizer HaDEA:

https://hadea.ec.europa.eu/events/horizon-europe-info-days-cluster-4-2025-05-13_en

RVO information event to build on EC info days for Cluster 4

To further build on the sessions provided by the Commission, Team IRIS is pleased to invite you to our information event on **Tuesday 20 May 2025, 12:00 – 17:30**. The event will be held at **RVO The Hague, Prinses Beatrixlaan 2**. The event will partly be hosted in hybrid form with the plenary session accessible online. We presume that attendees will already have viewed the Commission's presentations. You can register via the following link until **May 12th 17:00**:

LINK TO REGISTRATION FORM: <https://english.rvo.nl/topics/horizon-europe/registration-form-horizon-europe-information-cluster-4-20-may>

The event will start with a walk-in lunch, followed by plenary and break-out sessions. During the plenary session, we will evaluate the outcomes of the previous round of HE calls, present a broad overview of changes for 2025, and discuss both the new calls and how they connect to other European programmes and initiatives. Afterwards, in-depth, in-person break-out sessions offer participants the opportunity to ask questions and discuss specific upcoming 2025 calls and topics with NCPs and each other. We will finish the event with a networking reception.

High-level agenda:

- Welcome and walk-in lunch
- Plenary (hybrid)
 - o Horizon Europe results
 - o What's new in 2025
 - o Successful proposals
 - o Working with RVO
- Deep dives (in-person)
 - o Detailed Topic discussion
 - o Discuss project fit
 - o Match with interested parties
- Networking reception

A detailed agenda will follow with the final confirmation of your registration. Please be aware that the capacity of the meeting rooms is limited, so in the final confirmation you will be informed whether you can attend on-site or online. In case of on-site attendance, please make sure to bring a legitimate ID (ID or passport).

Choose Europe for Science: ERC welcomes new budget for 'super grants' (5 May 2025)

Source: Website ERC <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/choose-europe-science-erc-welcomes-new-budget-super-grants>



The Scientific Council of the European Research Council welcomes the offer of substantial additional budget from the European Commission for the development of a new ERC funding instrument offering larger, longer-term grants. These 'super grants' were announced this morning by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in her speech https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_25_1130 at the Sorbonne, where, together with President Emmanuel Macron, she spoke at the "Choose Europe for Science" conference. The operational details of the new funding instrument are being developed by the Scientific Council and will be announced in due course.

The grants will follow the same principles as other ERC grants, i.e. projects will be selected on the basis of scientific excellence only, and will be for all areas of research and open to individual researchers of any nationality, working at or ready to move to a host institution in an EU Member State or a country associated to the EU R&I framework programme Horizon Europe.

In addition, last month, the ERC Scientific Council decided to double the additional funding available for grantees relocating to Europe. Researchers based in the USA or elsewhere in the world who wish to move to Europe could, since the establishment of the ERC in 2007, apply for up to €1 million beyond the usual maximum grant amount to set up a laboratory or research team. As of May, the ERC plans to increase this to up to an additional €2 million, as referred to by President von der Leyen in her speech today.

Dutch universities worried about EU focus on competitiveness (30 April 2025)

Source: Website UNL

<https://www.universiteitenvannederland.nl/files/publications/UNL%20Letter%20to%20Presidents%20of%20the%20EU%20Institutions.pdf>

Universities of the Netherlands is urging the European Commission to support a standalone Framework Programme 10, with a long-term approach to research and innovation investments that does not forget about fundamental research.

"We fear that in the next [multiannual EU budget], the EU's R&I investments will be mistakenly blended into the Competitiveness Fund and will be dominated by the EU's strategic priorities," **the letter**

<https://www.universiteitenvannederland.nl/files/publications/UNL%20Letter%20to%20Presidents%20of%20the%20EU%20Institutions.pdf> reads.

"It is precisely by transcending political agendas that R&I can best contribute to tackling societal challenges and help Europe remain one step ahead." Scientific autonomy and academic freedom are also prerequisites for industrial competitiveness, the Dutch universities warn.

Commission touts Horizon Europe's economic impact in interim evaluation (30 April 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/horizon-europe/commission-touts-horizon-europes-economic-impact-interim-evaluation>

Beyond the positive outlook, the midterm analysis highlights the main shortcoming of the research programme: insufficient funding



Photo credits: Fulvio Ciccolo / Unsplash

An in-house analysis by the European Commission on Horizon Europe paints an optimistic outlook for the EU research and innovation programme, as the **Brussels research bubble is wondering** <https://sciencebusiness.net/planning-fp10/fp10-meets-competitiveness-fund-we-can-have-both-says-commissioner> if the programme's successor will carry on in the same format or would be subsumed to a new European Competitiveness Fund.

Three years into the Horizon Europe programme, the Commission has allocated over €43 billion to more than 15,000 projects, which could – at least in theory – contribute to the EU's future economic growth. “*Horizon Europe stands at the heart of European competitiveness and innovation strength*,” the Commission said in a statement today. To support its focus on competitiveness, the Commission has also tried to estimate the economic impact of the investment and has reached the conclusion **that every euro spent in Horizon Europe so far could generate up to €11 in GDP gains by 2045.**

Beyond the encouraging trends, if the Commission wants to fulfill its pledge to place Horizon Europe and its successor (FP10) at the core of the EU economy, it should allocate more money for research in the next multiannual budget. **At the moment, for every ten proposals evaluated as excellent, only three eventually get an EU grant due to insufficient funding.**

Mattias Björnmalm, the secretary general of the CESAER, told Science|Business that “*This situation is unacceptable and detrimental to Europe's competitiveness, innovation, prosperity and resilience.*” Research associations and MEPs have been advocating for a budget of €200 or 220 billion, but EU research commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva said that the **figures were unrealistic** <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/eu-budget/requests-eu220b-fp10-budget-not-realistic-zaharieva-says>.

The headline figures

The Commission notes that more than 80% of projects conducted by the European Research Council (ERC) under Horizon Europe have led to scientific breakthroughs or advances. On the other hand, the European Innovation Council (EIC) has awarded nearly €2 billion in grants to support over 700 start-ups and SMEs. The EIC Fund, its venture arm supporting deep-tech start-ups and scale-ups, has the potential to leverage up the €20 billion until 2027.

According to the evaluation report, **the public and private sectors have mobilised more than €10 billion in co-investment so far, twice as much as under Horizon 2020 at the same stage.** The contribution of associated countries to Horizon Europe, 19 to date, have also brought €4 billion between 2021 and 2024.

The Commission report shows that more **‘Widening’ countries are involved in collaborative projects in Horizon.** The so-called Widening countries are member states and associated countries that need additional policy and funding assistance to develop their research ecosystems and boost their participation in Horizon consortia. **These countries are now involved in 58% of all collaborative projects in Horizon Europe**, up from 47% under the preceding programme, Horizon 2020.

Also, the share of consortia led by women has increased from 24% to 31% in less than four years, while over half of the experts in advisory and evaluation panels are women.

The Commission's midterm evaluation of Horizon Europe is available here: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a3aa9b90-15c0-4ea7-b25e-9f4e29cfa740_en .

UK and Switzerland to gain access to 'strategic' Horizon Europe calls (30 April 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/horizon-europe/uk-and-switzerland-gain-access-strategic-horizon-europe-calls>

Researchers in some associated countries will have access to funding for quantum and space projects in 2025



Photo credits: Graham Holtshausen / Unsplash

Researchers and companies in the UK, Switzerland and other countries associated to Horizon Europe are set to have access to a greater number of calls in strategic areas like quantum and space, under the [2025 Horizon work programmes](#) pre-published last week.

The UK gained access to over 95% of Horizon calls when it associated to the programme in 2024, but the European Commission has previously excluded non-member states from some sensitive calls for quantum and space technologies deemed crucial for the EU's technological independence.

"Thanks to this welcome news, the opportunities for British researchers and businesses working in quantum, space, and beyond are only set to grow," said UK science minister Lord Patrick Vallance in a statement.

Switzerland has also been approved for access to strategic calls in both Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme. Swiss entities were previously excluded from these calls.

Switzerland will have full access to calls in artificial intelligence, quantum, communication and network technologies, and space sensitive research topics. However, "access to certain calls for proposals in the field of space within Horizon Europe is currently still being clarified," the Swiss state secretariat for education, research and innovation [notes](#).

Since restrictions were [first mooted in Brussels in 2021](#), scientific relations with the UK and Switzerland have improved, with both countries now de-facto back in Horizon Europe. Science|Business has asked the Commission to explain it has taken a more relaxed approach during this work programme.

With the return of Donald Trump to the US presidency souring transatlantic ties, it could be that Brussels wants to improve relations with trusted neighbours, one science diplomat, who wished to remain anonymous, speculated. On May 19, the UK and EU are holding a major summit in London, designed to further repair relations after years of Brexit-related bickering.

Earlier this month, Switzerland's Federal Council [approved an agreement](#) allowing Swiss association to Horizon Europe, the Euratom atomic research programme and the Digital Europe Programme.

The deal is expected to be formally signed in November, but Swiss researchers have been allowed to apply for most Horizon Europe calls since the beginning of the year under a transitional agreement.

MSCA Choose Europe: the fund to bring scientists to the EU (30 April 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/msca-choose-europe-het-fonds-dat-wetenschappers-naar-de-eu-moet-brengen>

The European Commission publishes the concept for the new MSCA Choose Europe programme. This initiative aims to make the EU more attractive for talented researchers. The calls are expected to open on 1 October.



€22.5 million to attract talent

The European Commission publishes the concept for the new MSCA Choose Europe programme as part of the updated work programme 2023-2025. This programme enables organisations to apply for EU funding for the recruitment of researchers. With this initiative, the EU wants to attract young talent and prevent brain drain. The EU wants to allocate €22.5 million to this end. For researchers, the programme should lead to more career security, among other things. The calls are expected to open on 1 October.

Attracting and retaining researchers: this is how Choose Europe works

The initiative consists of two phases. In the first phase (24 to 36 months), organisations receive an EU grant of €6,700 per month per recruited researcher. In phase two (24 months), organisations must retain the researchers and offer them an attractive salary. The organisation must also maintain a Career Development Plan together with the researcher. This plan describes the research objectives and the career development of the researcher. An organisation can receive up to €3.5 million in EU funding for the first call. To be eligible, an organisation must hire at least three researchers.

Context

The Heitor report introduced the idea of the MSCA Choose Europe programme. It is being revived in the Union of Skills. The fourth pillar of this initiative focuses on attracting talent from outside the EU. In early April, EU Commissioner Zaharieva called for the EU to be made more attractive to US scientists. The Choose Europe programme can play an active role in this.

Additional budget matching Horizon Europe (30 April 2025)

Source: Staatscourant Nr. 14917 30 april 2025

The subsidy ceiling for 2025 in the context of the Subsidy scheme matching Horizon Europe (SMHE) has been increased.

The scheme sets a ceiling amount of €72 million per year for the calendar years 2023 to 2029. This amount has already been increased to €76,304,840 per year for the period 2024 to 2029. In addition, the subsidy ceiling for the years 2025 to 2029 has been increased again by €3,678,000 as a result of an adjustment to the wage and price order, which means that a total amount of €79,982,840 per year is available for those years.

The subsidy ceiling for 2025 will now be increased once by an amount of €2,181,551.40, which means that a total amount of €82,164,391.40 will be available for subsidy provision in 2025.

About the scheme

The aim of the Horizon Europe Matching Subsidy Scheme is to promote science and innovation by stimulating and facilitating the participation of publicly funded Dutch knowledge institutions in the European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation Horizon Europe

Horizon work programmes for 2025 show clear shift to competitiveness (28 April 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/horizon-europe/horizon-work-programmes-2025-show-clear-shift-competitiveness>

An official pre-publication of draft documents outlines €7.2 billion in calls for proposals backed by simpler administration



Photo credits: [artjazz](#) / BigStock

Starting this year, Horizon Europe will double down on the EU's competitiveness agenda and pivot towards simpler administration rules, according to draft work programmes pre-published this week <https://research-and->

innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-work-programmes_en#pre-publication-of-work-programme-2025 by the European Commission. The shift in priority is apparent from the first sentence: “Europe’s competitiveness – and its global leadership in becoming a clean and digital economy – depends on a new age of invention and ingenuity.”

This is just the first step in a push for simpler, more competitiveness-focused programming in 2026 and 2027, the last two years of Horizon Europe, the draft documents suggest.

It can also be read as a preview of the direction research and innovation funding may take under the next multiannual EU budget, which will be set out by the Commission this summer. As things stand, the next EU research programme will [likely be folded into](#) a broader EU mega-fund for competitiveness.

As for 2025, the pairing of green and digital transformations continues to be the key goal, but with a strong competitiveness flavour. This time, the Clean Industrial Deal, the bloc’s new plan for securing global competitiveness through net-zero innovation, will be a key policy driver.

The new work programme also introduces a new quality seal for projects that get high scores but fail to secure funding due to limited budgets. The Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Seal will be awarded to projects that meet any of the STEP objectives, which cover digital, clean and biotechnologies. Much like the Horizon Seal of Excellence, the hope is that the Commission’s mark of approval will help projects get funding elsewhere.

Meanwhile, there is a dedicated work programme for the New European Bauhaus, the Commission’s policy for green, innovative and aesthetic urban renewal. This addition to Horizon Europe has been [a long time coming](#).

The plans foresee the creation of eight new public-private partnerships in 2025 to federate member state research efforts and encourage industry participation. These cover topics such as raw materials, innovative materials, solar photovoltaics, forests and brain health.

Simpler is better

The Commission is also hoping to simplify how money is allocated under Horizon Europe, with the changes introduced for 2025 a likely foretaste of bigger changes in the years to come.

First and foremost, this year’s work programmes are shorter and less prescriptive than before. This gives applicants more freedom to define their expected pathways and leaves fewer administrative boxes to tick.

Second, there are fewer calls expecting to fund just one winning project. This way, grantees are not competing over a single grant and each project does not have to cover every single aspect of a topic.

Third, there are more two-stage calls in which applicants first submit a short summary proposal before being asked to submit a full proposal. This saves time for those that do not make it past the first stage. This year, there will 29 two-stage topics.

Fourth, more lump-sum funding, lifting the requirements for beneficiaries to report how they spent each euro of their grant. Not everyone [sees lump sums as a simplification](#), but this year more than 35% of the budget will be spent this way. And the percentage will keep climbing in the coming years, with the Commission aiming for at least 50% of calls to be lump-sum by 2027.

Fifth, the Commission has revised the rules for a few of the extra requirements for projects, such as the “do no significant harm” principle and the check on the robustness of AI tools.

The Commission had also wanted to simplify the requirements [for gender action plans](#), which each Horizon Europe institutional beneficiary must hold. But the member states pushed back, leaving the changes to be agreed for the next work programme in 2026.

Finally, a pilot of blind evaluations will continue. In the last few years, the Commission [has been toying with the idea](#) of asking applicants to not disclose their identities in the first stage of two-stage evaluations to help avoid bias.

Winners and losers: what has changed in the 2025 Horizon Europe work programmes? (28 April 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/horizon-europe/winners-and-losers-what-has-changed-2025-horizon-europe-work-programmes>

Official drafts of Horizon Europe's [2025 work programmes](#) have been published by the European Commission, detailing changes in topics and budgets compared with earlier versions shared by Science|Business over the past few months. Here are some of the most striking changes, including the influence of stronger research ties between the EU and India.

Cluster 1: health

The estimated budget for this cluster amounts to €843.79 million, up from €803.19 million in [a December draft](#). This is mainly due to an additional €40 million that has been allocated to two-stage calls addressing intellectual disabilities, mental and brain disorders, and the impacts of micro- and nanoplastics on human health. Together these topics will receive a total of €210 million.

Meanwhile, a new topic has been added on improving recognition and treatment of under-researched diseases, such as autism and lower back pain. This has been allocated €30 million.

Cluster 2: culture, creativity and inclusive society

As in [the March draft](#), the total estimated budget for the whole cluster stands at €362.80 million, with calls for proposals addressing topics ranging from [autocratic movements](#) to the role of artificial intelligence in the creative industries.

Cluster 3: civil security for society

An earlier draft for Cluster 3, [circulated in December](#), signalled a hike in funding for cybersecurity research, but neither the calls nor the additional budget in this area are included in this official release.

The overall budget is €247.83 million, a slight increase compared with the €244.08 million stated in the leaked draft. New topics include humanitarian demining and robotics for high-risk disaster response.

Cluster 4: digital, industry and space

The budget decreases from the €1.62 billion stated in [an October draft](#) to €1.57 billion, mainly due to reductions in funding for calls related to climate neutrality, critical raw materials, robotics and standardisation and knowledge valorisation.

Cluster 5: climate, energy and mobility

The total budget for this cluster, which wasn't indicated in previous drafts, is €1.23 billion.

The April 2024 version of this work programme included placeholders for joint topics with India, which the EU has since invited [to consider joining Horizon Europe](#). The two trade partners agreed at the time to cooperate on "exceptional coordinated calls" on the recycling of electric vehicle batteries, marine plastic litter and waste-to-renewable hydrogen. The final topic is confirmed in this cluster, while marine plastic litter is covered in Cluster 6. Cooperation with India on battery recycling has yet to appear.

Meanwhile, several calls have been added to this draft, such as supporting smart energy systems, the use of carbon capture in replacing fossil fuels, and the circular transformation of the EU's automotive industry. Finally, a call for proposals targeting the detection of maritime litter and pollution policies for ships has been moved to Cluster 4.

Cluster 6: food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment

The estimated budget stands at €967.70 million, in line with [February draft plans](#) and down from [a version circulating in October 2024](#).

Under this cluster, a call for proposals initially addressing the cumulative impacts of marine pollution on marine organisms and ecosystems will now be limited to collaborations with partners in India.

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

Compared with [an October version](#) of the work programme, the estimated budget rises from €194.00 million to €214.50 million. The European Excellence Initiative, which aims to improve the visibility of Europe's higher education institutions, will receive an additional €20 million.

Pre-publication of Horizon Europe work programme 2025 (25 April 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/horizon-europe-work-programmes_en#pre-publication-of-work-programme-2025

The 'main' Horizon Europe work programme 2025 and the amended Horizon Europe 'main' work programme 2023-2025 have been pre-published.



These drafts have not been adopted or endorsed by the European Commission. Any views expressed are the preliminary views of the Commission services and may not in any circumstances be regarded as stating an official position of the Commission.

The adoption of the Horizon Europe 'main' work programme 2025 and the amended Horizon Europe 'main' work programme 2023-2025 is planned for May 2025.

Pre-published work programme 2025 parts:

- **General introduction:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/88368da6-fd77-4d76-8ef5-331d35b8b7e1_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-introduction-pre.pdf
- **Research infrastructures:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/dd9604e5-b71f-42f4-a250-d43981485697_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-infrastructures-pre.pdf
- **Cluster 1 'Health':** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/889d60c2-3cfb-4d94-8e17-8ebdd238b0c3_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-cluster1-pre.pdf
- **Cluster 2 'Culture, creativity and inclusive society':** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4a0e522f-0293-45f7-bb95-226d6172ba8c_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-cluster2-pre.pdf
- **Cluster 3 'Civil Security for Society':** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/4a081985-7a3b-41a7-9382-208cb717e196_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-cluster3-pre.pdf
- **Cluster 4 'Digital, Industry and Space':** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/6a5f3b9a-9a7c-4ec9-8e81-22381f5a9d11_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-cluster4-pre.pdf
- **Cluster 5 'Climate, Energy and Mobility':** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/64e1031e-7814-4c11-ab14-a22b1f5236c2_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-cluster5-pre.pdf
- **Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment':** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/02934842-298b-4226-a965-02be347e5c1c_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-cluster6-pre.pdf
- **European innovation ecosystems:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/1c306673-1596-4097-89d7-abce45ae6ddd_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-eie-pre.pdf
- **Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/3877f4de-cb14-4311-b4b0-cd1b805f25d4_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-widera-pre.pdf
- **EU Missions:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f50fd524-1af2-4e76-86be-b5983228cd02_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-missions-pre.pdf
- **New European Bauhaus Facility:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/917d690d-1b41-47b4-978a-d9f577b17b53_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-neb-pre.pdf
- **General Annexes for 2025:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/9d9a75d4-6da8-4902-95c4-34a4de01ebe5_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-annexes-pre.pdf

The amended parts of the work programme 2023-2025 have also been pre-published:

- **Amended Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA) 2023-2025:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/d611f152-96d1-4fad-8dd6-8b65daabb4cc_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2025-msca-pre.pdf

- **Amended General Annexes 2023-2025:** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/f9d09dc8-410d-41bb-8fbc-ebd22c377b2d_en?filename=ec_rtd_he-wp-2023-25-amended-annexes-pre.pdf

Horizon Europe Cluster 4: Digital, Industry, Space Information Sessions by the European Commission (25 April 2025)

Source: Team Iris RVO

The long-awaited work programmes for Horizon Europe in 2025 are in the final stages of preparation and expected to be published late April/early May. **On 13 and 14 May** <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/9ds9jXc5ca1xdrdJ5dEGl/overview>, the European Commission is hosting two online information days to inform potential applicants about the funding opportunities of the 2025 calls for Cluster 4. Registration for the EC event will be published shortly on <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/9ds9jXc5ca1xdrdJ5dEGl/overview>.

Horizon Europe Cluster 4: Digital, Industry, Space Information Sessions by RVO | 20 May 2025

To further build on the sessions provided by the Commission, Team IRIS is pleased to invite you to our information event on **Tuesday 20 May 2025, 12:00 – 17:00**. The event will be held at **RVO The Hague, Prinses Beatrixlaan 2**. The event will partly be hosted in hybrid form with the plenary session accessible online. Keep an eye on your inbox for the invitation with a registration link.

ERC to fund €1.8 million initiative to bolster support for applicants and grantees across Europe (25 April 2025)

Source: Website ERC <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/erc-fund-eu18-million-initiative-bolster-support-applicants-and-grantees-across>



The new project aims to improve the quality of support that the National Contact Points (NCPs) provide to researchers applying for European Research Council (ERC) grants. The €1.8 million mERCury 'coordination and support action' is planned to run from 2025 to 2028 and bring together 23 NCPs from EU member states and associated countries.

The network of NCPs is the main structure to provide guidance, practical information and assistance on all aspects of participation in Horizon Europe, including the ERC.

The overarching goal of *mERCury* is to enhance, professionalise and harmonise the quality of services provided by ERC NCPs – the key intermediaries offering guidance to applicants navigating the highly competitive ERC funding. The project sets out to improve consistency in service standards and widen access to underrepresented countries.

The project targets four main groups: new or less experienced NCPs, those based in 'widening' countries or regions with historically low participation rates; all ERC NCPs more broadly, and the grant applicants and policymakers.

With three objectives, mERCury will:

Improve and harmonise NCP services by providing tailored training, identifying and sharing good practices, and creating an AI-powered knowledge-sharing platform;

1. Build capacity among newcomer and Widening country NCPs through mentoring, twinning schemes, and tailored onboarding support;

2. Strengthen national and local support to applicants, notably by offering practical tools, workshops, and a “train the trainer” approach to enhance institutional guidance for ERC hopefuls.

A strong emphasis will be placed on levelling the playing field. For instance, at least 60% of participants in capacity-building events will be drawn from widening countries or less experienced NCPs. The project will also run stakeholder workshops, publish guidelines, and deliver at least seven open-access training events for applicants – with a target of 70% participation from widening countries.

Viewpoint: Europe’s research community needs more clarity (and respect) (24 April 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/fp10/viewpoint-europes-research-community-needs-more-clarity-and-respect>

The European Commission should clear the air of growing rumours about the future of EU research and innovation policy



Florin Zubașcu, executive editor at Science|Business. Photo credits: Jeroen Vanhecke

Since Ursula von der Leyen started her second mandate at the helm of the European Commission, one thing has become abundantly clear: the EU needs to focus its efforts on defence and competitiveness so it can protect itself from Russian aggression, while churning out cutting edge technologies and innovative products and services that can compete with the US and China.

Inevitably, for the EU research and innovation bubble, that focus will translate into more investments in dual-use R&D and a Framework Programme that puts more emphasis on industrial collaboration and close-to-market innovations. There’s no end in sight for the war in Ukraine, while the US is unilaterally destroying the global trade system. Therefore the need to act on all fronts – including in science and technology – is perfectly reasonable.

But what’s not reasonable is the Commission’s secrecy about how the new geopolitical realities are shaping the structure and scope of its research and innovation funding. Instead, stakeholders are being kept in the dark and drip-fed rumours about [dismembering FP10](#) and folding it into a new European Competitiveness Fund, [limiting the independence](#) of the European Research Council.

There is also much confusion about how the top brass in the Commission plans to allow dual-use projects in a Framework Programme that is civilian by law.

The rumours started when [an internal Commission memo](#) dated September 2024 was leaked to lobbyists and journalists in Brussels. The document revealed a scenario in which FP10 would be dismembered and its research and innovation schemes amalgamated into the European Competitiveness Fund. The goal was to concentrate and streamline EU efforts to resuscitate innovation, productivity and economic growth.

The main grievance behind this proposal was that the Commission’s programmes lack “strategic steer” and are too complex, which makes it difficult for industry to benefit from EU funding. The document also bemoaned the limited flexibility for reallocating funds, too many rules, gaps and overlaps, delays in access to funding and a lack of common governance.

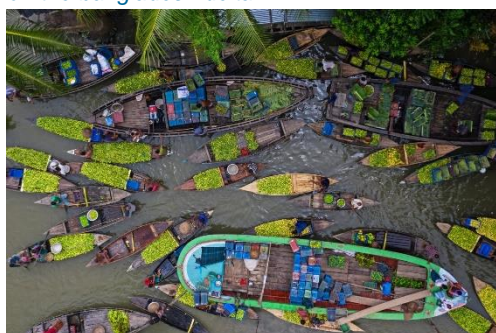
The killer problem: managing all these programmes has become too cumbersome for the Commission. So, at least in theory, the goal would be for the Commission to deliver its programmes more efficiently with fewer resources. The Commission has never confirmed or denied the existence of such plans. After all, its official policy is not to comment on “leaks and rumours,” even if some of its staff are not shy when it comes to spreading them.

After months of confusion and speculation, Ekaterina Zaharieva, EU commissioner for start-ups, research and innovation, added to the bonfire by saying that “*we can have both*” <https://sciencebusiness.net/planning-fp10/fp10-meets-competitiveness-fund-we-can-have-both-says-commissioner> a Competitiveness Fund and a standalone FP10. While she wanted to reassure the research community that FP10 will continue as a standalone programme, Zaharieva also said the debate on the structure of the Competitiveness Fund is still ongoing inside the Commission.

Other International funding

Four Bangladeshi-Dutch consortia to start Living Labs research on the Bangladesh delta (2 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/four-bangladeshi-dutch-consortia-to-start-living-labs-research-on-the-bangladesh-delta>



These grants were awarded within the Dutch Research Agenda programme 'ADM-LAB: Living Labs for Adaptive Delta Management in Bangladesh'. The consortia will focus on the many challenges facing the Bangladeshi Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna delta region. These include water salinisation and increasing climate risks in an area that is urbanising rapidly.

Bangladeshi and Dutch researchers, research institutes and civil society organisations will conduct research using the Living Labs methodology. They will also collaborate with (local) authorities, farmers and the population to develop sustainable solutions and technologies.

In addition, the four consortia will start work on a knowledge management project in a second phase of the programme. The aim of this is to develop an effective interface for (knowledge) interactions between science, policy and practice in the field of adaptive delta management in the Netherlands and Bangladesh.

This programme is financed in collaboration with the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

WUR is co-applicant in three of the granted projects:

1. Adaptive Delta Management for Climate Resilient Agriculture and Food Security in South-West and South-Central Coastal Bangladesh - Dr Ektear Uddin, Patuakhali Science and Technology University; **Co-applicants:** Khulna University, **Wageningen University & Research**
2. Facilitating Livelihoods through Advancing Smart Habitats in Peri-Urban Bangladesh (FLASH) - Prof. Dr Mohammad Shahjahan Mondal, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; **Co-applicants:** Universiteit Utrecht, **Wageningen University & Research**
3. Coast-Water-Solutions: Co-creating Appropriate Technologies and Strategies for Sustainable Water System Management in the Ganges-Brahmaputra-Meghna mega-delta of Bangladesh - Prof. Dr Kazi Matin Uddin Ahmed, University of Dhaka; **Co-applicants:** **Wageningen University & Research**, Technische Universiteit Delft, Bangladesh Agricultural University, Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Institute of Water and Flood Management, Universiteit Utrecht, IRC Wash

For more information about awarded projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/four-bangladeshi-dutch-consortia-to-start-living-labs-research-on-the-bangladesh-delta>

Next COST Open Call closes 21 October 2025: 6 months to go (30 April 2025)

Source: Website COST <https://www.cost.eu/open-call-countdown-2025/>

The countdown has officially started, our Open Call 2025 for new COST Action proposals closes in six months on 21 October 2025 at 12.00 (noon) CEST.

A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic for four years. Open to all science and technology fields, including new and emerging ones, COST Actions are also bottom-up meaning you can propose a network based on your own interests or ideas.

The funding a COST Action receives covers the expenses of networking activities and can be used to fund events, Short-Term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, communication activities, and virtual networking tools. A COST Action has an estimate budget of €125,000 in its first year and €150,000 per year for the other three years.

Participants are invited to submit a proposals that contributes to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. Multi- and interdisciplinary proposals are encouraged. The Open Call Action proposal submission, evaluation, selection and approval (SESA) procedure is fully science and technology-driven and will ensure a simple, transparent and competitive proposal evaluation and selection process, reflecting the bottom-up, open and inclusive principles of COST.

For more information: <https://www.cost.eu/open-call-countdown-2025/>

€16.2 million national additional co-funding for AI, data, cloud, digital skills and cybersecurity innovations (30 April 2025)

Source: Website RVO <https://www.rvo.nl/nieuws/162-miljoen-extra-voor-ai-data-cloud-digitale-vaardigheden-en-cyberveiligheid-innovaties> (in Dutch)

The European Commission recently approved the new budget of €1.7 billion for the Digital Europe Programme (2025–2027). This programme supports innovative projects in the field of AI, data, cloud, cybersecurity and digital skills. To further stimulate participation by Dutch parties, **the Ministry of Economic Affairs is making €16.2 million available in national co-financing, of which €1.85 million is specifically allocated to cybersecurity projects..**

The additional funding is a supplement to the EU contribution, allowing companies, knowledge institutions and governments to be reimbursed for a larger share of their project costs.

The Netherlands is leading the way

Dutch entrepreneurs and knowledge institutions currently receive the most funding from the Digital Europe programme of all 27 EU countries. In 2024, this amounted to 11.7% of the total, worth around €46 million. National co-financing strengthens this position and contributes to a strong digital economy in the Netherlands.

Going the extra mile for an innovative digital economy

The government's ambition is to be among the European top 3 in the use of digital technologies by SMEs by 2030. To achieve this, more investments are needed in technologies such as AI, cloud, data and cybersecurity. Digital innovations play an important role in reducing risky dependencies on other countries, strengthening the digital economy and increasing cybersecurity.

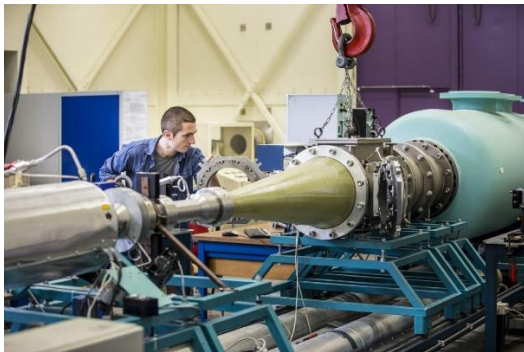
Work programmes 2025-2027

The European Commission recently published the new Digital Europe work programmes. Check out the **work programmes** <https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/digital-europe-programme/digital-europe/calls-hoofdwerkprogramma-2025-2027> and discover for which topics you can apply for funding.

National funding

In April 2025, six new research projects can start within the Open Technology Program (2024 round) (6 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/in-april-2025-six-new-research-projects-can-start-within-the-open-technology-program-2024-round>



Six application-oriented projects can start with funding from the Open Technology Programme from NWO's Applied and Engineering Sciences domain (AES). NWO is supporting these application-oriented projects with more than 4.9 million euros. The industry and other organisations are adding another amount of over 478,000 euros.

Granted projects include topics such as:

- Consumers are less accepting of plant-based alternatives due to their inferior sensory properties compared to traditional dairy products. The HARMOny project aims to improve this by developing dairy alternatives with plant-based 'lipid droplets' (LDs) that mimic 'milk fat globules' (MFGs), which are important for mouthfeel and texture (Project: Harvesting Milk Fat Globules from Oilseeds (HARMOny)).
- In order to achieve greater efficiency in public transport systems with on-demand services, the FlexMobility project is designing public transport networks that combine traditional bus routes with fixed schedules and on-demand services in a parallel and user-oriented manner (Project: Design of Mixed Flexible-Fixed Public Transport Networks (FlexMobility)).
- The latest biotechnology, self-developed AI-driven computational chemistry and Google's AlphaFold are being used to develop powerful piezo1 inhibitors that could potentially reduce sickle cell anaemia (Project: New methods for drug discovery in sickle cell disease targeting Piezo1).

Three of the granted projects are led by WUR researchers

1. Harvesting Milk Fat Globules from Oilseeds (HARMOny) – **Lead applicant:** dr. C.V. Nikiforidis, Wageningen University & Research (21997); **Co-applicant(s):** Wageningen University & Research – prof. dr. M.S. Stieger, dr. F.S.R. Ruggeri, dr. S.R. Deshpande, Technische Universiteit Delft – dr. O.M. Moulτος
2. COre-based PYrrolizidine alkaloid synthesis for Contaminant Annotation and Tracking (COPY-CAT) - **Lead applicant** dr. G.I.J. Salentijn, Wageningen University & Research (22106); **Co-applicant(s):** Wageningen University & Research – dr. F. Miloserdov, dr. L.R. Righetti
3. WATER RESURFACE – Enabling WATER reuse in cardboard recycling by RESolving SURFace Active Chemicals Effects in anaerobic treatment - **Lead applicant** dr. D. Sudmalis, Wageningen University & Research (22119); **Co-applicant(s):** Wageningen University & Research – dr. ir. L.M.C. Sagis, dr. M. Habibi

For more information about the granted projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/in-april-2025-six-new-research-projects-can-start-within-the-open-technology-program-2024-round>

Venture Challenge Fall Round 2025 now open (6 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/venture-challenge-fall-round-2025-now-open>



NWO has opened the fall round of the Venture Challenge. This programme is for entrepreneurial Life Sciences & Health and MedTech researchers. Over a period of eight to ten weeks, they will receive guidance in developing their business plan and setting up their company. For this round, the Ministry of Economic Affairs (EZ) has increased the budget, allowing six additional teams with a specific focus on MedTech innovations to participate. This means that a total of twelve teams can participate in this round. For this call, NWO is collaborating with the top sectors Life Sciences & Health (Health-Holland) and High Tech Systems and Materials (Holland High Tech).

Call for proposals: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/venture-challenge-fall-2025> and <https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Brochure%20Venture%20Challenge%20Fall%202025%20EN%201.pdf>

Objective of the call

With its mission-driven innovation policy, the Dutch government wants to use the innovative power of the top sectors to tackle major societal challenges. In doing so, the Dutch government also aims to strengthen the Netherlands' competitive position. This can be achieved, for example, by using scientific research to tackle societal issues. However, many scientific discoveries never make it to market. This is due to the fact that researchers often lack the knowledge and experience to make their product market-ready or to set up a commercial organisation.

The Venture Challenge programme offers a solution. In the coaching programme, researchers work with professionals, such as business coaches and experts, to develop a well thought out business case. This prepares the researchers for a successful start of their business.

NWO call in preparation: Cellular Agriculture - towards larger scale and lower cost (1 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/cellular-agriculture-towards-larger-scale-and-lower-cost>

Cellular Agriculture is a technology to produce animal products merely using animal cells and micro-organisms, without the actual animal. This call is part of the National Growth Fund Project Cellular Agriculture and aims to reduce costs and scale up this technology.. Specifically, in the research lines precision fermentation and cultivated meat. Research proposals for this call should address advancements in process and/or product technology and biology.

Closing date full application: 13 November 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.)

For more information about the research programme: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/national-growth-fund/cellular-agriculture>

NWO KIC Call in preparation: Consumer behaviour for a circular system transition (1 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/consumer-behaviour-for-a-circular-system-transition>

The transition to a circular economy needs fundamentally new ways of consumer behaviour. A more sustainable society already enjoys considerable support, but targeted interventions are needed to stimulate actual behavioural change (at the systemic level).

The transition to a circular economy requires fundamentally different consumption patterns. Although there is already considerable support for a more sustainable society, targeted interventions are needed to stimulate actual behavioural change (at the systemic level). The aim of this Call for proposals is to gain insight into effective interventions, measures and strategies that promote circular consumer behaviour, based on state-of-the-art research on systemic transitions,

behavioural change and the circular economy. This Call for proposals focuses on research that analyses, designs and applies interventions. The interaction between behavioural, systemic and cultural factors is central to this.

Foreseen Deadline: Closing date full application **11 November 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.)**

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/consumer-behaviour-for-a-circular-system-transition>

NWO KIC Call in preparation: Biochemical diversity (1 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-biochemical-diversity>

This call focuses on harnessing the immense biochemical diversity (e.g. in plants and microbes) as a basis for alternative and sustainable solutions. Examples include natural crop protection agents, UV absorbers, nutrients, or even building blocks for biopolymers.

The objectives are twofold:

1. To unravel biosynthetic processes, such as the structure-function relationship of biochemical molecules, for a better understanding of their biological roles and specific applications, and
2. To apply this biosynthetic knowledge to make products available on a sufficiently large scale via biotechnology.

To realize this potential, it is essential to develop and implement new technologies. This requires technological advancements in four key areas to address scientific questions more efficiently:

1. Effective sampling,
2. Structure determination,
3. Function analysis,
4. Biosynthesis research

Closing date full application: 12 February 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.)

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-biochemical-diversity> and

Pre-announcement call for grants 'Research readiness for pandemic preparedness' (1 May 2025)

Source: Website ZonMw <https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/nieuws/vooraankondiging-subsidieoproep-research-readiness-voor-pandemische-paraatheid>



At the end of May 2025, ZonMw will open a new grant round within the Pandemic Preparedness Knowledge Programme. This round focuses on strengthening the 'research readiness' pandemic preparedness in the Netherlands: better preparing research networks and infrastructures to respond quickly and effectively during a pandemic or health crisis.

Research readiness includes preparations in the cold phase, such as removing legal obstacles to data exchange, drawing up collaboration protocols and recording responsibilities. This contributes to efficient execution and scaling up of research in the event of outbreaks of infectious diseases or other health crises.

Who is the call for proposals intended for?*

Within this grant round, funding is available for strengthening demonstrably existing (research) networks, with the aim of improving the research infrastructure that contributes to pandemic preparedness and preparation for future health crises. Public or private legal entities established in the Netherlands can apply for a grant.

Budget and duration*

The maximum amount to be requested per subsidy application is €650,000,- with a maximum duration of 36 months. The total available budget in this subsidy round is €5,200,000,-.

Read full article here: <https://www.zonmw.nl/nl/nieuws/vooraankondiging-subsidieoproep-research-readiness-voor-pandemische-paraatheid>

Over €21 million awarded for projects in scientific infrastructure (29 April 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/over-eu21-million-awarded-for-projects-in-scientific-infrastructure>



NWO has honoured five proposals within the call 'Research Infrastructure (RI): national consortia'. With this, NWO is investing over 21 million euros in projects for innovative scientific infrastructure. These investments will be used to develop high-quality equipment, data collections and software.

The research programme RI is designed to fund infrastructure that enables innovative science. With investments from this research programme, NWO strengthens the scientific infrastructure that Dutch knowledge institutions make available to the entire research community. To this end, scientists from all over the Netherlands work together to realise new facilities, sometimes also with international partners.

About the research programme

NWO received 35 proposals for the RI programme. The proposals were assessed by an independent advisory committee of scientists from different disciplines. The committee assessed the proposals based on various criteria, such as scientific quality and societal impact, and visited several consortia to receive clarification on the application. Five of the 35 projects received grants. The NWO contribution awarded ranged from about €2.9 million to over €4.8 million.

For more information about the Assigned projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/over-eu21-million-awarded-for-projects-in-scientific-infrastructure>

Grant for urgent research into avian flu in Polar wildlife (29 April 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/grant-for-urgent-research-into-avian-flu-in-polar-wildlife>



The global outbreak of avian flu is spreading rapidly in Antarctica, causing deaths of seabirds and seals. The epidemic is also taking its toll in the Arctic. The Netherlands Polar Programme (NPP) has provided the Polarflu project with one-off urgent funding of €500,000 for research into this outbreak. The project investigates how the bird flu virus spreads among different species of wild birds.

High pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) is causing unprecedented mortality in poultry, domestic and wild animals. The virus has spread from poultry to wild bird populations, where it has adapted to infect these birds and further spread to other species, and even back to poultry. Wild birds are therefore both carriers and victims of the virus. Around Antarctica, the virus has been spreading between islands and colonies since 2023, where it mainly affects skuas, cormorants and seals. Penguins are spreading the disease to other continents - possibly even Australia, which is

bird flu-free for now. Skuas in Arctic divisions are also dying from bird flu. Especially in the polar regions, where there are relatively fewer pathogens, animal species are often less resistant and the ecological damage is greater.

About Polarflu

The aim of the Polarflu research project is to better understand how the H5 HPAI virus spreads and affects wild birds in the Arctic and Antarctic. These are divisions home to large populations of seabirds and marine mammals, but are still under-researched due to their remote location. The Polarflu research project will provide important insights into how the H5 HPAI virus spreads and evolves in wild bird populations in these regions, as well as the level of immunity to the virus within these populations. In addition, the project will have a societal impact by helping to protect wildlife in these divisions and assess potential risks to bird health over the next four years.

The consortium includes applicants from Erasmus MC and Wageningen University & Research, with partners at the Arctic Centre (University of Groningen) and eight different Icelandic research institutions. Logistically, the proposal leans on access to ships from the Alfred Wegener Institute (strategic partner of the NPP) and Dutch cruise operator Oceanwide Expeditions. Erasmus MC researchers have already participated in an international expedition in Antarctica in 2024 and can sample there in 2025 and 2026 with the Polarflu project. The Groningen and Icelandic partners provide access to Arctic samples.

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/grant-for-urgent-research-into-avian-flu-in-polar-wildlife>

Regional funding

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

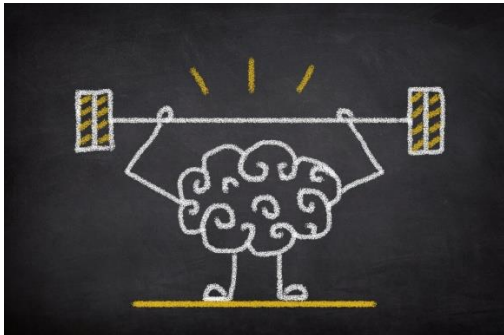
Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

Neth-ER calls for greater EU investment in knowledge under the next MFF (30 April 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/overige/neth-er-calls-for-greater-eu-investment-in-knowledge-under-the-next-mff>

Neth-ER has submitted responses to three public consultations of the European Commission on the future Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Through these contributions, Neth-ER advocates for the interests of the Dutch knowledge community in the next EU budget. The core message? Invest in Europe's most vital resource: knowledge.



Invest in knowledge

Neth-ER has submitted responses to **three of the seven consultations** https://taxation-customs.ec.europa.eu/news/public-consultations-eus-next-long-term-budget-mff-2025-02-25_en#:~:text=The%20public%20consultation%20for%20the,effective%20and%20strategic%20EU%20budget. issued by the European Commission on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). With these submissions, Neth-ER actively represents the Dutch knowledge sector in shaping the EU's future long-term budget.

The consultations addressed include:

- **EU funding for competitiveness:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14521-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-competitiveness/public-consultation_en
- **EU funding for cross-border education, training and solidarity, youth, media, culture, and creative sectors, values, and civil society:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14523-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-cross-border-education-training-and-solidarity-young-people-media-culture-and-creative-sectors-values-and-civil-society/public-consultation_en
- **EU funding for the single market, and cooperation between national authorities:** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14525-EUs-next-long-term-budget-MFF-EU-funding-for-the-single-market-and-cooperation-between-national-authorities/public-consultation_en

In all three submissions, Neth-ER calls for strong investment in Europe's biggest strategic asset: **knowledge** <https://neth-er.eu/onderwijs/-hoe-dan-ook-moet-er-m-r-geld-naar-kennis-simpelweg-omdat-dat-de-enige-grondstof-is-die-we-hebben-in-europa-jurgen-rienks-neth-er->. Investing in education, research, and innovation is essential to boosting Europe's competitiveness and strengthening its strategic autonomy.

Want to know more? **Read our one-pager** <https://neth-er.eu/media/9l6Y7G2Y5U/docs/onepagerconsultatie2.pdf>.

European Parliament says 'no' to competitiveness fund (28 April 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/parlement-zegt-nee-tegen-het-concurrentiefonds>

MEPs believe the proposed Competitiveness Fund is not suitable for boosting competitiveness. In a recent report on the MFF, they argue for a new instrument that attracts investment through proven financing mechanisms. The Parliament also stresses the need for more funding for research and innovation, as well as for defence.



Parliament calls for new investment approach

In a recent report on the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), MEPs consider the proposed Competitiveness Fund to be unsuitable for attracting investment. They call for a new, targeted instrument that uses proven funding programmes such as InvestEU and the Innovation Fund. Instead of merging all these instruments under a broad umbrella, Parliament calls for the development of a single, specific instrument based on the successes of these programmes. Central to this alternative is the use of so-called EU-backed de-risking. This means that the EU uses instruments that reduce investment risks. This risk reduction encourages both public and private parties to invest more. Finally, Parliament reminds the Commission that the Treaty obliges the EU to adopt a research framework programme. According to them, this is not guaranteed in the current proposal.

More investment needed in innovation and defence

In addition to their criticism of the Competitiveness Fund, MEPs also stress the importance of more funding for research and innovation. They believe that the upcoming MFF and at national level should have sufficient resources to finance all high-quality projects. This is important to achieve the target of 3% of GDP in R&D investments by 2030. Parliament also points to the shortage of European defence capabilities. They call for a substantial increase in the European Defence Fund (EDF) and for joint EU loans to support defence investments. In doing so, Parliament emphasises that additional defence spending should not detract from other expenditure.

Consultation on the Strategy for European Life Sciences receives wide response (28 April 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/consultation-strategy-european-life-sciences-receives-wide-response-2025-04-28_en&pk_campaign=rtd_news

The European Commission has concluded its public consultation on the forthcoming Strategy for European Life Sciences. The call for evidence, open for four weeks on the “**Have your Say**” https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14592-EU-life-sciences-strategy_en portal, attracted 794 responses from 28 countries in total: 20 EU countries, with the **highest participation** from **Spain, Belgium, Germany**, the **Netherlands** and **Austria**; and 8 non-EU countries, with the highest participation from the United Kingdom, United States and Switzerland.

Participants in this call for evidence included EU citizens as well as a wide range of stakeholders including academic and research institutions, non-governmental organisations, companies, business associations and public authorities.

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, food and feed, and agriculture.

Based on a preliminary assessment, key cross-sectoral areas highlighted by respondents include challenges and opportunities related to:

- Translation and uptake of scientific and technological advancements
- Funding and investments
- Regulatory environment and Intellectual Property (IP) rights
- Talents and skills development

- Infrastructures and services, including data and artificial intelligence
- Greening research and industrial sectors
- Societal engagement and trust in science

Sector-specific areas highlighted by respondents include health, **food and environment**. In particular, a high number of replies to this call for evidence focused on the need to further support research into Neurodegeneration with Brain Iron Accumulation (NBIA), a group of rare nervous system disorders.

Next steps

The Commission is now analysing the feedback alongside input received from other sources, including national bodies and agencies. The strategy, announced by President Ursula von der Leyen in her [political guidelines](#) 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. It is expected to be adopted in the summer 2025.

For more information: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/towards-strategy-european-life-sciences_en

Commission seeks input on the future European Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures(25 April 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/commission-seeks-input-future-european-strategy-research-and-technology-infrastructures-2025-04-25_en&pk_campaign=whatsnew_newsletter

The European Commission has launched a call for evidence https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14582-European-strategy-on-research-and-technology-infrastructures_en to gather input from researchers, policymakers, industry leaders and all other interested stakeholders for the upcoming European Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures.

The Strategy will ensure that researchers, innovators and industry in Europe have access to these cutting-edge facilities and services that support scientific and technological excellence and industrial competitiveness. It will enhance the sustainability, accessibility and effectiveness of Europe's Research and Technology Infrastructures, ensuring that they remain at the forefront of scientific and technological advancements.

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

"Europe's research and technology infrastructures are the foundation of our innovation ecosystem. We invite researchers, policymakers, industry leaders and all interested parties to share their insights and help shape the future of these infrastructures, to achieve EU prosperity and industrial leadership."

The Strategy will tackle challenges faced by these two types infrastructures, as well as issues specific to **research infrastructures** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/our-digital-future/european-research-infrastructures_en and **technology infrastructures** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/research-area/industrial-research-and-innovation/technology-infrastructures_en. It will include measures to improve coordination between national and EU-level investments, boost cross-border collaborations as well as collaborations between research and technology infrastructures, maximise the potential of digitalisation and artificial intelligence, and improve access conditions to their users.

By addressing these challenges, the Strategy will strengthen Europe's competitiveness, prosperity, and strategic autonomy, while accelerating its green and digital transition. It will contribute to other research and innovation initiatives, including the future **EU Startups and Scaleups Strategy** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/jobs-and-economy/towards-eu-startup-and-scaleup-strategy_en. Moreover, strengthening research and technology infrastructures is part of the **Commission's priority** https://commission.europa.eu/priorities-2024-2029/competitiveness_en to safeguard and boost Europe's prosperity and competitiveness and a priority under the **European Research Area** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/our-digital-future/european-research-area_en. Designing the Strategy together

The **call for evidence** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14582-European-strategy-on-research-and-technology-infrastructures_en will gather the views of stakeholders, including research and innovation

experts, providing them with an opportunity to help design the European Strategy on Research and Technology Infrastructures. It will be open in all official EU languages until 22 May 2025.

Read full article here: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/commission-seeks-input-future-european-strategy-research-and-technology-infrastructures-2025-04-25_en&pk_campaign=whatsnew_newsletter

Global policy

US set to close office responsible for global science and technology deals (30 April 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/international-news/us-set-close-office-responsible-global-science-and-technology-deals>

As Trump marks his first 100 days, the Office of Science and Technology Cooperation is set for elimination, the latest in a whirlwind month for US science



Photo credits: Varavin88 / BigStock

Cuts at the US Department of State could eliminate the office that negotiates science and technology agreements, including with Europe, throwing into confusion the future of global research cooperation with Washington and access for US scientists to international facilities.

Three people who work for the State Department have told Science|Business that the office, which oversees nearly 60 agreements and more than 2,000 sub agreements, is set to be eliminated. *"No other office can negotiate these science and technology agreements,"* said one official, who wished to remain anonymous. If the office does close, *"it puts the US at a huge disadvantage when it comes to international research and development."*

The cuts are the latest in a fusillade that Donald Trump has fired against the country's scientific and academic establishments in his first 100 days in office – on the theory that these institutions are wasteful, un-American and "woke". At present, it's impossible to say how many of these budget cuts, grant suspensions and firings will actually withstand ongoing court challenges and Congressional review. But already, science advocates say, the damage has been considerable – especially in biomedical research.

At a Congressional hearing 30 April, US Senator Patty Murray, a Democrat from Washington state, said Trump has so far ordered a **halt to about 800 biomedical research grants worth more than \$1 billion**, and aims to cut **\$21 billion, or 55%, from the National Institute of Health's budget in the next fiscal year beginning in October**. Trump, she said, *"has taken a wrecking ball to our biomedical research enterprise."*

The State Department cut, though not yet generating big headlines, is emblematic of the wider Trump approach. Last week, Secretary of State **Marco Rubio announced cutbacks** <https://www.state.gov/building-an-america-first-state-department/> at the department to end what he called a *"sprawling bureaucracy"* that is *"more beholden to radical political ideology than advancing America's core national interests."*

Although Rubio wants to cut back the department, there's been no public confirmation yet that the OSTC will be axed. *"The Secretary has tasked each Under Secretary with formulating specific reorganization and workforce optimization plans within 30 days,"* a State Department spokesperson said in a statement.

"Following approval of those plans, the Under Secretaries will communicate how these Department-wide changes will affect specific bureaus and offices that report to them."

However, the three people, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they had been verbally told last week the OSTC was set for shutdown by July as part of the cuts. *"We were told that the office was being eliminated,"* said one official, *with the decision mandated from "high up"*.

National policy

Cabinet presents starter package to get permit granting going again (25 April 2025)

Source: Website Rijksoverheid <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/04/25/kabinet-presenteert-startpakket-om-vergunningverlening-weer-op-gang-te-brengen>

The cabinet is presenting a starter package to get the Netherlands out of lockdown. For example, the cabinet wants to introduce the arithmetic lower limit, present a new permit system and start a regional approach around the Veluwe and the Peel. In a letter to the House of Representatives, the cabinet announces the plans for all sectors, as a basis for getting permit granting going again. In order to get started right away, the plans include a starter package with, among other things, a scheme for extensification, voluntary termination and target management. €2.2 billion will be made available for this.

Minister Wiersma: *"We need to get permit granting going again. For me, realistic, feasible and sustainable plans are paramount, so that we can offer entrepreneurs the certainty they deserve. At the same time, I realize that we are going to ask a lot of entrepreneurs. It is good that we can start with the first measures and that there is a basis to build on, together with the parties involved."*

Measures to build on

The current permit system is no longer sustainable. Even sustainability is stalling, and recreational activities such as hiking are getting into trouble. That is why the government wants to present a new permit system after the summer that is based on a better insight into the state of nature and all associated pressure factors. The government is also looking at recalibrating Natura 2000 areas in the longer term.

In addition to adjustments to legislation and regulations, nitrogen reduction is also necessary. The government wants to achieve an emission reduction of 50% (*industry, mobility and construction*) and **42-46% (agriculture)** in 2035 compared to 2019. To achieve this, measures have been established that the government will build on in the coming weeks. All sectors contribute to this. For example, in industry, the government wants to focus on, among other things, further sustainability of waste incineration plants and intensifying the Approach to Peak Load Industry. For agriculture, the government is focusing on target management, natural attrition and additional deployment of resources around certain Natura 2000 areas, such as with agricultural nature and landscape management. And for mobility and construction, the government is considering making inland shipping and rail freight transport in the port of Rotterdam more sustainable, making road traffic more sustainable and area-specific trajectory controls around nitrogen-sensitive Natura 2000 areas.

Letter to Parliament Starter Package Netherlands from the Lock:

<https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/documenten/kamerstukken/2025/04/25/kamerbrief-startpakket-nederland-van-het-slot>

Read full article here: <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/04/25/kabinet-presenteert-startpakket-om-vergunningverlening-weer-op-gang-te-brengen> (in Dutch)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 7 May 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	Deadline(s): 10 November 2025 17.00 Brussels time (<i>MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2025-SE-01	Deadline(s): 8 October 2025 17.00 Brussels time (<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, 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 <i>Call - 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 25 April 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/	
European Partnership Water4All https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/	
European Partnership Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future (DUT) https://dutpartnership.eu/	
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) he deadline for full proposals is July 9, 2025 (13:00 CEST https://www.futurefoodpartnership.eu/
European Partnership Agroecology	Second co-funded call AgroEcology Partnership https://agroecology.ptj.de/call2?genericModule=callDocuments&action=download&id=955 is open

https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for pre proposal submission is 17 February 2025, 14:00h CET. (CLOSED) • Deadline for full proposal submission is 09 July 2025, 14:00h CEST.
Joint Technology Initiatives	
Joint Programming Initiatives	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy diet for a healthy life (HDHL): http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/ • Agriculture, food security and climate change (FACCE): http://www.faccejpi.com/ • Antimicrobial Resistance- The Microbial Challenge - An Emerging Threat to Human Health (JPI AMR): http://www.jpiamr.eu/ • Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik'EU): http://www.jpi-climate.eu/home • Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI-Oceans): http://www.jpi-oceans.eu/ • More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change (JPI MYBL): http://www.jp-demographic.eu/ • Neurodegenerative Disease/Alzheimer's (JPND): http://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/ • Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions (Urban Europe): http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ • Water challenges for a changing world (Water-JPI): http://www.waterjpi.eu/ • Cultural Heritage a Challenge for Europe (Cultural Heritage): http://www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu/

Other international calls

This list is a SELECTION of other international calls. The list was compiled on **7 May 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
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. eahttps://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
09-09-2025	NEW : Foreseen Deadline for Full Proposals INT - Global programs NWO-JST Japan call 2025 . Closing date full application 9 September 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/int-global-programs-nwo-jst-japan-call-2025 .
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 **7 May 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

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 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	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

01-07-2025	NEW: Deadline submission Full applications Venture Challenge Fall 2025 Closing date full application 1 July 2025 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/venture-challenge-fall-round-2025-now-open and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/venture-challenge-fall-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Brochure%20Venture%20Challenge%20Fall%202025%20EN%201.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/groenvermogen/hydrogen-and-green-electrons-for-specialities-and-fine-chemicals and https://groenvermogen.nl/en/event/information-meeting-groenvermogen-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
02-09-2025	NEW: Foreseen deadline Rubicon 2025 Round 2. Closing date full application 2 September 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/rubicon-2025-2
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	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
16-09-2025	NEW: Deadline for submission pre-proposals for Open Competition Domain Science–XL round 2025–2026. The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is Tuesday 16th September 2025, before 14:00:00 hours CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-competition-domain-science-xl-round-2025-2026
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
11-11-2025	NEW: Foreseen deadline for Full Proposals for NWO KIC Call Consumer behaviour for a circular system transition. Closing date full application 11 November 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/consumer-behaviour-for-a-circular-system-transition and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/knowledge-and-innovation-covenant/kic-2024-2027/mission-2024-2027/consumer-behaviour-for-a-circular-system-transition
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
13-11-2025	NEW: Foreseen deadline for Full applications Call Cellular Agriculture - towards larger scale and lower cost. Closing date full application 13 November 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/cellular-agriculture-towards-larger-scale-and-lower-cost
02-12-2025	Foreseen deadline for Full application call KIC Reducing health inequalities - technology for people in a lower social economic position. Closing date full application 2 December 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-reducing-health-inequalities-technology-for-people-in-a-lower-social-economic-position
02-12-2025	NEW: Foreseen Deadline for Rubicon 2025 Round 3. Closing date full application 2 December 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/rubicon-2025-3
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	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
12-02-2026	NEW: Foreseen Deadline for Full applications NWO KIC Call Biochemical diversity. Closing date full application 12 February 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-biochemical-diversity
09-06-2026	Deadline for submission Full-proposals for Open Competition Domain Science–XL round 2025–2026. The deadline for submitting full proposals is Tuesday 9th June 2026, before 14:00:00 hours CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/open-competition-domain-science-xl-round-2025-2026
21-01-2027	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 **7 May 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
From 01-03-2025 to 28-02-2026	Opening EFRO East Netherlands: Innovation projects priority 1 (a smarter East Netherlands): applications can be submitted from March 1, 2025 to February 28, 2026. The subsidy ceiling is € 11.7 million, of which € 10 million for activities that benefit Gelderland and € 1.7 million for activities that benefit Overijssel;
From 01-03-2025 to 28-02-2026	Opening 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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