



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 422 _ 30 May 2025

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

Table of Contents

Articles in Dutch are marked by the symbol ⚡

Latest Funding News	3
European Funding News: Horizon Europe	3
<u>New call to co-fund Brazilian-EU research partnerships under MSCA (29 May 2025)</u>	3
<u>MSCA opens €597.8 million call for Doctoral Networks (28 May 2025)</u>	3
<u>Horizon Europe review a missed opportunity to assess Widening, task force says (28 May 2025)</u>	4
<u>Data corner: UK shows early signs of Horizon Europe comeback (27 May 2025)</u>	5
<u>Research priorities for final years (2026-2026) of Horizon Europe start to fall into place (19 May 2025)</u>	5
<u>Commission invests €1.25 billion in researchers and invites them to 'Choose Europe for Science' (15 May 2025)</u>	6
European Funding News: FP10	8
<u>Canadian, Swiss, UK university groups call for early talks on FP10 association (29 May 2025)</u>	8

Ministers to hold Commission to account over independent FP10 (26 May 2025)	8
Widening programme should carry over into FP10, says MEP (22 May 2025)	9
NWO supports call for independent European investments in research and innovation (22 May 2025)	10
Von der Leyen speech on Competitiveness Fund sparks mixed reactions (22 May 2025)	11
Science Business: Leaked memo outlines plans for European Competitiveness Fund (22 May 2025)	11
'Self-standing' FP10 will be 'tightly connected' to European Competitiveness Fund, Von der Leyen says (20 May 2025)	12
Leaked Commission memo lays out plan for European Competitiveness Fund (19 May 2025)	13
Other International funding	14
Six projects with Dutch participation funded in European programme on sustainable use of seas (20 May 2025)	14
National funding	15
Thirteen Mosaic 2.0 research proposals granted (28 May 2025)	15
NWO awards 30 applications for Scientific Meetings and Consultations (28 May 2025)	15
Inspiring role models in the spotlight with NWO domain Science awards (27 May 2025)	16
Almost 1.8 million awarded for controlling wildfires (26 May 2025)	16
NGF: Strengthening the knowledge base for the high tech equipment sector (26 May 2025)	17
Cellular Agriculture - towards larger scale and lower cost (26 May 2025)	17
Pre-announcement: First NGF call on Immersive Experiences to open in 2025 (22 May 2025)	18
Regional funding	19
Internal Wageningen University and Research calls	20
Latest developments within R&I Policies	21
European Policy	21
From knowledge to cash: How to create more unicorns in Europe (28 May 2025)	21
Choose Europe for Science: EU comes together to attract top research talent (23 May 2025)	21
European Commission publishes annual Innovation Output Indicator (22 May 2025)	22
EIB to invest €70 billion in tech start-ups in coming years (22 May 2025)	23
ERAC work programme focuses on freedom of knowledge (22 May 2025)	23
Global policy	24
UK government sets out criteria for 10-year R&D funding (22 May 2025)	24
Nature: Researchers divided on AI use in writing publications (22 May 2025)	24
OECD report provides insight into the effect of climate measures on emission reduction (22 May 2025)	24
Plea: Develop a framework for measuring the effects of inclusive innovation (22 May 2025)	24
Bruegel: The EU's potential to attract US top scientists (22 May 2025)	25
ITIF: US falling behind in university research (22 May 2025)	25
National policy	26
American measures affect Dutch science (22 May 2025)	26
TNO launches TNO Ventures to stimulate innovation and growth of startups (22 May 2025)	26
Call deadlines	27
HORIZON Europe calls	27
Other related EC calls (European Partnerships, ERA-Net COFUNDs etc.)	32
Other international calls	33
National calls	34
Regional calls	37
About the Wageningen Grant Office	38
Contacts	38
Disclaimer	39
WUR is serious about data	39

Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe

New call to co-fund Brazilian-EU research partnerships under MSCA (29 May 2025)

Source: Website MSCA <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/new-call-to-co-fund-brazilian-eu-research-partnerships-within-msca-staff-exchanges-0>

The Brazilian National Council of State Funding Agencies has opened a call to co-fund projects that involve Brazilian entities funded through Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Staff Exchanges.

The scheme, which promotes to mobility of researchers, will enable Brazilian organisations to carry out joint research and innovation projects with European and international partners and to strengthen ties between Brazil and Europe.

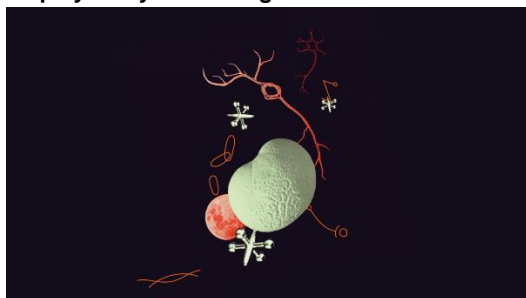
The 2025 call for MSCA Staff Exchanges will close on October 8.

More details here: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/new-call-to-co-fund-brazilian-eu-research-partnerships-within-msca-staff-exchanges-0>

MSCA opens €597.8 million call for Doctoral Networks (28 May 2025)

Source: Website MSCA <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-opens-eu5978-million-call-for-doctoral-networks>

Doctoral Networks implement doctoral programmes through partnerships of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond. The aim is to train highly skilled doctoral candidates and boost their employability in the long-term.



The 2025 call for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Doctoral Networks is open for submissions as of 28 May 2025 with a deadline to apply by **25 November 2025**.

This call will dedicate **€597.8 million** to fund over **150 projects** in all scientific fields and the training and skills development of more than **2000 doctoral candidates**.

MSCA Doctoral Networks <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks> implement doctoral programmes through consortia of organisations from different sectors across Europe and beyond, including

- higher education institutions
- research institutions and infrastructures
- private sector organisations, including industry, businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises
- public sector organisations, including national, regional, and local governments, agencies and museums
- other socio-economic actors

For more details on the composition of the consortia applying check the **scheme's page** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks?> and the **MSCA Work Programme** https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/wp-call/2023-2024/wp-2-msca-actions_horizon-2023-2024_en.pdf.

Selected networks expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer them research training, as well as transferable skills and competences relevant for innovation and their long-term employability. Participating institutions receive funding to develop excellent doctoral programmes allowing them to attract talent, boost their global visibility and foster cooperation with other sectors and countries.

Read full article here: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-opens-eu5978-million-call-for-doctoral-networks>

Horizon Europe review a missed opportunity to assess Widening, task force says (28 May 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/horizon-europe-review-missed-opportunity-assess-widening-task>

A lack of detailed data means the recent midterm review has little new to say about the effectiveness of Widening policies



MEP Eszter Lakos. Photo credits: Brigitte Hase / European Union

The European Commission's midterm review of Horizon Europe falls short in providing detailed data on Widening performance, according to an informal task force <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/meps-push-widening-become-mainstream-fp10> set up in the European Parliament. As such, the review offers few new insights into the Widening process and policies intended to close research and innovation gaps across the EU.

"[The midterm review] does not provide much added value because it's too general," said Eszter Lakos, an MEP from the European People's Party and founder of the Widening group, in an interview with Science|Business.

According to Lakos, the review fails to offer a detailed analysis of specific Widening instruments and does not adequately examine the interconnections between them. In particular, she noted that a thorough examination of the relationship between the Widening instruments and participation in the Framework Programme was missing. Ivana Didak, head of higher education policy at the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, echoed her concerns. "Although the evaluation mentions that the success rate of Widening countries has improved since Horizon 2020, it would be more useful to look into success per pillar, especially in the European Research Council and European Innovation Council," she told Science|Business.

The analysis showed that the share of funding received by the 15 Widening countries increased from 9% to 14% in the first three years of Horizon Europe, and that they were involved in 58% of collaborative projects, up from 47% under Horizon 2020. These results have been welcomed by the Widening community, albeit with [some reservations](#). "While the review identifies several well-known weaknesses, what we found lacking was a deeper analysis of these findings, particularly in terms of their implications and the potential solutions," added Orsolya Lugmayer, liaison officer at the Corvinus University of Budapest and another task force participant.

Monica Dietl, executive director of the Initiative for Science in Europe, also criticised the lack of new insights in the report, and called the data too general and of no practical use.

"[The numbers cited] were already known before this report," she told Science|Business. "Member states have been receiving this data regularly, and many of the findings have been known for years."

Data corner: UK shows early signs of Horizon Europe comeback (27 May 2025)

Source: website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/r-d-funding/horizon-europe/data-corner-uk-shows-early-signs-horizon-europe-comeback>

After returning to the EU research programme in 2024, the UK is building momentum for a climb up the leader board

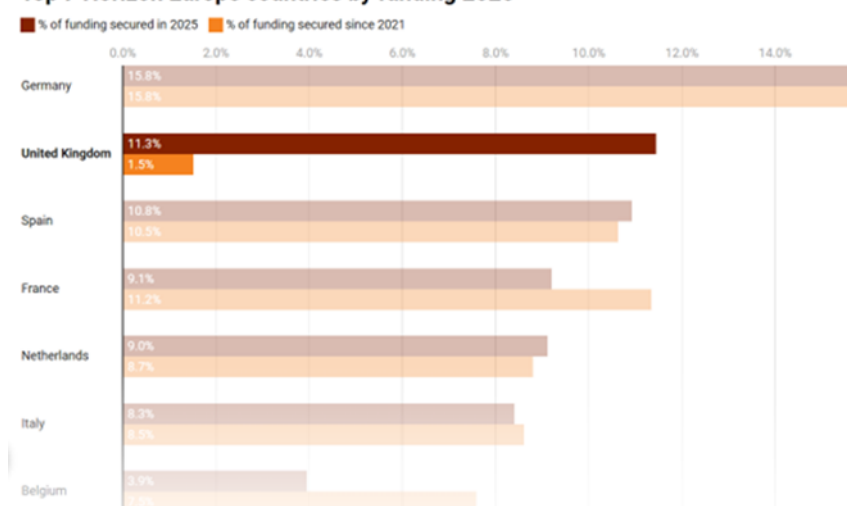


Photo credits: [weyo](#) / BigStock

The UK is making its way up the Horizon Europe leader board, despite a slow start after gaining full access to the programme in 2024.

Five months into 2025, the UK stands second in this year's Horizon country table. So far, UK-based researchers have secured €283 million in funding. That's 11.3% of the total grants signed under Horizon this year. The only country performing better is Germany, whose researchers have secured €395 million, or 15.8% of the funding.

Top 7 Horizon Europe countries by funding 2025



Source: European Commission - Created with Datawrapper

While this is a significant jump for the UK, from eighth place in the...

Research priorities for final years (2026-2026) of Horizon Europe start to fall into place (19 May 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/horizon-europe/research-priorities-final-years-horizon-europe-start-fall-place>

A dive into the calls for proposals that the Commission has outlined so far for Horizon Europe in 2026 and 2027



Photo credits: Erik Karits / Unsplash

The European Commission is not due to publish the Horizon Europe work programmes for 2026 and 2027 until the end of this year, but early drafts circulating in Brussels give plenty of detail about research priorities and likely calls for proposals. Here is what we know so far.

Cluster 1: health

Addressing the consequences of climate change on human health gains ground in the last two years of Horizon Europe, with more calls for proposals looking at ways to support health adaptation and build climate-resilient healthcare systems.

The Commission also emphasises the development of digital health solutions and technologies, including artificial intelligence, for topics ranging from predictive biomarkers of disease progression to biomedical research and regulatory testing, all the while tasking researchers to examine the harmful impacts of their use on the mental health of children and young adults.

Compared with 2025, [the 2026-27 draft work programme](#) for Cluster 1 offers more opportunities for scientists to identify areas for improving equal access to high-quality healthcare, such as public procurement of innovative solutions.

Cluster 4: digital, industry and space

[As in 2025, emphasis is given](#) to the circularity of production materials and chemicals. Researchers must also support the Clean Industrial Deal and the decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries. To do so, they are required to look into the development of innovative technologies and tools to explore, extract and process critical raw materials.

Echoing many other clusters, the use of AI in manufacturing is subject to several calls for proposals.

[When it comes to space](#), the focus remains on strengthening Europe's assets and giving it a competitive edge in global markets. However, calls with the EU's Earth observation service, Copernicus, no longer appear, either for monitoring carbon emissions or estimating the impact of fires on vegetation.

We lack a draft work programme on the digital calls for this cluster.

Cluster 5: climate, energy and mobility

Researchers will be asked to work towards increased understanding of the interactions between climate, human and natural systems and of climate-related risks and extremes in order to strengthen citizens' preparedness.

In line with the EU's [digital and green transition](#), [proposals should address](#) the need to reduce Europe's reliance on third countries for raw materials, and help build next-generation batteries, increase flexibility and resilience in energy systems, and lower energy consumption in the real-estate and transportation sectors.

The official version of the programme is expected to include a pilot call in support of the Clean Industrial Deal.

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

[Cluster 6 will continue to fund](#) researchers seeking to improve global knowledge of [what drives biodiversity loss](#) on land and within deep sea ecosystems. The draft plans include, for example, a call dedicated to helping businesses integrate biodiversity considerations in decision-making, particularly SMEs and start-ups.

Work on environmentally friendly food production systems will look at increasing the resilience of crops against emerging plant pests, invasive alien species, ecosystem degradation and globalisation and climate-related hazards, among other emerging and future risks to plant health.

The need to better assess risks to nature preservation also gains prominence, with calls designed to strengthen tools to estimate risks linked to contaminants such as per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances and microplastics.

Finally, the EU's new competitiveness agenda is apparent in topics on the use of artificial intelligence and other innovative solutions to boost the agricultural and forestry sectors, and the rural economy.

Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area

The Widening programme seeks to reduce the research and innovation performance gap between richer and poorer EU member states and is [currently under review](#) by the Commission. [Leaked plans for the remaining years](#) of Horizon Europe [flesh out new initiatives](#), such as a Teaming Synergies call to develop thematic clusters and common strategies among Teaming Centres of Excellence, and a pilot for a research management and administrative support facility.

Commission invests €1.25 billion in researchers and invites them to 'Choose Europe for Science' (15 May 2025)

Source: Website EC https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1221

Europe is stepping up its ambition to cement the position of a global leader in research. New calls worth over **€1.25 billion in 2025** under the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) (MSCA) open doors for new talents. The funding will support cutting edge research and focus on developing research talent, fostering international collaboration, and connecting science with society, with targeted support for early career researchers and displaced Ukrainian scientists.

In her recent speech at **La Sorbonne** https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_25_1130,

President **von der Leyen** underscored Europe's ambition to be "*remain a continent where scientific freedom is protected, where research talent is nurtured, and where innovation can flourish*". The new funding round puts that vision into action, with a continued emphasis on building research capacity across Europe through MSCA's core programmes. It also introduces the 'Choose Europe for Science' pilot, which will position Europe as a leading destination for researchers by offering excellent working conditions and strong career prospects.

Investing in research careers and global collaboration

The Commission is announcing two new calls of funding that will open later this year:

- **The MSCA Doctoral Networks** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/doctoral-networks> (**€597.8 million**, 28 May-25 November): recruit and **train doctoral candidates** in academia and other sectors, including industry, businesses, and public administrations. The scheme also includes specialised Joint Doctorates Networks and Industrial Doctorates Networks.
- **The MSCA & Citizens** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/msca-citizens> (**€16.3 million**, 17 June-22 October): **brings science closer to the public** with the European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools activities, showcasing impact of research on citizens' daily life.

MSCA will also dedicate an **additional €10 million** to support displaced Ukrainian researchers through the **MSCA4Ukraine** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/european-commission-to-support-49-researchers-through-msca4ukraine> fellowship scheme.

Supporting research talent across Europe

This complements three calls that have already opened this year:

- **The MSCA COFUND** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-opens-eu1018m-call-to-co-fund-doctoral-and-postdoctoral-programmes> (**€105.6 million**, **closes 24 June**): helps organisations create or **enhance their own doctoral training** and postdoctoral fellowship programmes. The aim is to attract and recruit talented researchers, developing their skills and advancing their careers.
- **The MSCA Staff Exchanges** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-opens-eu977m-call-for-staff-exchanges> (**€97.7 million**, closes 8 October): **funds R&I collaborative projects**, fostering international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary exchanges and knowledge sharing at all stages of the innovation chain.
- **The MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/msca-opens-eu4043-million-call-for-postdoctoral-fellowships> (**€404.3 million**, closes 10 September 2025): helps experienced researchers **acquire new skills, develop their careers and gain international, interdisciplinary, and inter-sectoral experience** by working abroad.

'Choose Europe for Science' supports researchers with long-term prospects

With a budget of **€22.5 million** in 2025, the 'Choose Europe for Science' pilot aims to strengthen research careers in Europe by funding postdoctoral programmes that go beyond project-based work. Organisations will receive funding for up to 36 months, followed by a two-year phase funded by the host institution. The goal is to create more stable career pathways for early career researchers, reduce precarity, and align research roles with long-term institutional strategies. Programmes are open to researchers from across the world, reinforcing Europe's ambition to attract and retain top talent while embedding research excellence into local R&I ecosystems.

Potential applicants can look out for relevant info sessions in the lead up to the call, which will open on **1 October**.

European Funding News: FP10

Canadian, Swiss, UK university groups call for early talks on FP10 association (29 May 2025)

Source: <https://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/news/joint-statement-future-eu-ri-framework-programme>

Maintaining a standalone Framework Programme is critical for associated countries to continue contributing to EU research and innovation and “the shared goals of economic growth and competitiveness,” according to UK’s Russell Group, U15 Canada and swissuniversities.

“Setting out a clear path to FP10 association ahead of time will enable partner countries like ours to make an informed, early decision about signing up – ensuring our universities would be ready to contribute to the new R&D work programmes from day one,” the leaders of the three groups said in a statement.

Read the full statement here: <https://www.russellgroup.ac.uk/news/joint-statement-future-eu-ri-framework-programme>.

Ministers to hold Commission to account over independent FP10 (26 May 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/fp10/ministers-hold-commission-account-over-independent-fp10>

Research ministers welcome Commission’s commitment to a standalone FP10, and call for collaborative research to have a central role



From left to right: European commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation Ekaterina Zaharieva (left) and Polish State Secretary, Ministry of State Assets, Marcin Kulasek. Photo credits: European Union

EU research ministers have welcomed Ursula von der Leyen’s confirmation that Framework Programme 10 will remain a standalone programme, and pledged to hold the Commission president to her word after meeting on May 23 to discuss the recently released interim evaluation of Horizon Europe.

“*The devil is in the detail*,” said Poland’s science minister Marcin Kulasek, who chaired the meeting. Looking ahead to the Commission’s detailed proposals for future EU financial instruments, due this summer, he promised the Council would “*scrutinise them and negotiate them thoroughly*.”

Von der Leyen brought an end to months of uncertainty last week when she said the EU’s research and innovation programme would remain independent, but she added it would be “tightly connected” to the European Competitiveness Fund.

During Friday’s meeting, ministers reiterated their support for an independent programme, which they called for in [March’s Warsaw Declaration](#). “It’s absolutely indispensable for the Framework Programme to be maintained in the next [Multiannual Financial Framework], and this has to be linked to the Competitiveness Fund, even though we don’t yet know what the details are,” Spanish science minister Diana Morant said during the debate.

Ministers particularly stressed the need to continue supporting collaborative research in FP10. The [interim evaluation](#) published earlier this month found that 81% of funding so far has gone to collaborative projects, primarily in Pillar 2 of the programme, but the Commission remains tight-lipped about how these will be supported in FP10. Member states were clear that additional funding for the European Research Council (ERC) and the European Innovation Council (EIC) should not come at the expense of Pillar 2. “The ERC and the EIC are very important instruments, but the main source of added value is the transnational collaboration piece [of the programme],” Ireland’s science minister, James Lawless, said during the discussion.

“Supporting and enhancing cooperation must remain at the core of European research and innovation,” agreed Finland’s minister of economic affairs, Wille Rydman, while Spain’s Morant called Pillar 2 a “powerful tool of global science.” Member states agreed on the need to accelerate the participation of companies in the Framework Programme, particularly SMEs, which can play a key role in transforming research into innovative products.

They want to see support across the full value chain from fundamental research to innovation and scaling up. “Europe cannot be strong in industry and innovation without being strong in science,” said Danish science minister Christina Egelund.

Widening programme should carry over into FP10, says MEP (22 May 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/widening-programme-should-carry-over-fp10-says-mep>

Eszter Lakos argues for continued relevance of Widening and questions other gaps in Commission’s Competitiveness Fund plans



MEP Eszter Lakos, of the European People’s Party. Photo credits: Philippe Buissin / European Union

Hungarian MEP Eszter Lakos, a prominent voice on Widening in the European Parliament, has spoken out against the apparent marginalisation of the policy in plans for the next research Framework Programme.

“I really don’t see innovation and research programmes without Widening,” she told Science|Business. Not only is Widening a political issue, she said, with strong backing from the states that benefit, but it aligns with the European Commission’s new focus on competitiveness.

“Competitiveness is not just about supporting the best of the best,” she said. “It’s also the economics, the strength of the continent, of the EU together. And for that you also need the Widening instruments, whatever they will be.”

Lakos is a European People’s Party MEP who sits on the Parliament’s research committee. In January, she launched an informal Parliamentary task force focused on the Widening programme, which addresses disparities in research and innovation performance across Europe.

The aim of the task force is to ensure that the Widening principles are embedded across all areas and funding instruments of Horizon Europe’s successor, FP10.

Widening is a contentious issue, with some EU states who do not benefit calling for its discontinuation. For instance, [Denmark](#) and [Finland](#) have argued in position papers that FP10 should no longer allocate funds to Widening. Even Estonia, which does benefit, has mixed feelings about the programme on the grounds that it creates a second class of countries in Horizon.

Fresh questions about the future of the Widening programme have arisen because it was absent from a chart detailing the structure of the proposed European Competitiveness Fund leaked earlier this month. The structure appears to bring several EU funding programmes together under a new governance structure, and while many Horizon Europe clusters are present, Widening is not.

Lakos is not alone in expressing concern. Anne Besnier, rapporteur on plans for FP10 at the European Committee of the Regions, has warned that a territorially-blind Competitiveness Fund or future FP10 risks undermining the local impact of innovation.

She argued that only a place-based approach can unlock the full potential of innovation ecosystems and ensure meaningful contributions to the European Research Area. “Under a new Competitiveness Fund, the financing of fundamental research and Widening measures would most probably suffer substantially,” she said in a statement. Since the chart was leaked, Commission’s president Ursula von der Leyen has said that the next Framework Programme for research and innovation will remain independent but “tightly connected” to European Competitiveness

Fund. However, she said nothing about the role of Widening in this new arrangement, nor the other programmes that were absent from the chart. These include the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), research infrastructures and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions.

Missing in action

Rumours about the possible scrapping of the EIT have circulated for some time, and its omission from plans for the Competitiveness Fund only heighten concern. While aware of criticisms directed at the institute, Lakos sees the EIT as a valuable asset.

"The EIT is a very complex instrument, but it has its strengths and added value at the European level, especially in creating pan-European ecosystems that are truly connected and organically organised," she said.

More reading here: <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/widening-programme-should-carry-over-fp10-says-me>

NWO supports call for independent European investments in research and innovation (22 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-supports-call-for-independent-european-investments-in-research-and-innovation>



Knowledge is hugely important for Europe: European investment and cooperation in knowledge help address societal challenges or cross-border problems and facilitate knowledge sharing.

The European Commission is working on a new proposal for the distribution of European money within the EU for the period 2028 to 2034, the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). To this end, NWO, together with other Dutch knowledge organisations united in Neth-ER, stresses the importance of European investment in research and innovation.

The European Commission's new Multiannual Financial Framework will determine how European money will be distributed over the period 2028-2034. Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has already said it will put research and innovation at the heart of the European economy. There is also a strong emphasis on European competitiveness. Therefore, there is a proposal within the EU for a new fund to promote competitiveness. Research would fall under this fund. There are concerns within the Dutch knowledge sector about whether this is a good idea. Three questions and answers about this plan:

1. What is going on?

Over the past decades, the European Union has had several framework programmes for research. The most recent programme is Horizon Europe: with this programme, the European Commission promotes science and innovation in Europe. This programme runs until 2027. The EU's new Multiannual Financial Framework looks at a new programme for research and innovation. The proposal now is to create a broad fund for Europe's competitiveness, which would include research. The Dutch knowledge field is concerned that this would swallow up the entire budget for (scientific) research and innovation in this broader fund for competitiveness. This could facilitate cuts in research.

The knowledge institutions are voicing their concerns through a longer-running campaign. Neth-ER, the association for representing the interests of the Dutch knowledge field in Europe including NWO, is the initiator of this campaign. Among other things, it calls attention to investments in research and innovation, and the doubling of budgets for a new 'Horizon programme'.

More about the campaign: <https://doubleknowledge.eu/>

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-supports-call-for-independent-european-investments-in-research-and-innovation>

Von der Leyen speech on Competitiveness Fund sparks mixed reactions (22 May 2025)

Source: Website Science|business <https://sciencebusiness.net/fp10/von-der-leyen-speech-competitiveness-fund-sparks-mixed-reactions>

While many welcomed the Commission's commitment to a standalone Framework Programme, concerns remain about implementation

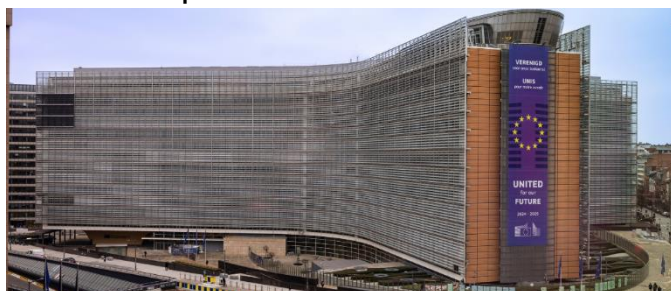


Photo credits: Lukasz Kobus / European Union

The next EU Framework Programme for research and innovation, FP10, will be “self-standing” yet “tightly connected” to the new Competitiveness Fund. These words, pronounced by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen on May 20, have been welcomed by many, although questions about their practical meaning remain.

After months of uncertainty surrounding the structure of the European Competitiveness Fund, von der Leyen confirmed the research and innovation programme's independence while also emphasising its close alignment with the mega-fund. However, the feasibility of combining autonomy with tight integration remains unclear.

For Gregor Majdič, rector of the University of Ljubljana, the idea is somewhat contradictory. “I don't see how it could be completely self-standing and closely connected to these areas in the Competitiveness Fund,” he said. European People's Party MEP Christian Ehler echoed this concern. “The devil is in the details. Self-standing can mean a lot of different things and certainly is not safeguarding the budget,” he told Science|Business. However, it was “clearly a step in the right direction,” he said.

According to Majdič, a major issue is that a tight connection between the research Framework Programme and the Competitiveness Fund **could limit research freedom and hinder innovation**, in particular from blue-sky research. “Real breakthrough innovations only arise from ideas that are not predetermined. If [the framework] is linked too narrowly, I'm worried this will not increase European innovativeness and long-term competitiveness,” he told Science|Business. “We are lagging behind and [in this proposal] I don't see real progress that we need in Europe.”

In contrast, **KU Leuven's rector Luc Sels sees the idea of a tight connection between a self-standing research programme and the Competitiveness Fund as potentially beneficial, if read in the logic of a research-to-innovation pipeline.**

“That can only be a step forward and help avoid deep ‘valleys of death’ between research and application,” he said to Science|Business.

And while more information was needed on von der Leyen's “true intentions,” he added that the direction of travel was positive. “I do interpret this as a commitment to maintain FP10 as a standalone programme.”

Read full article here:

Science Business: Leaked memo outlines plans for European Competitiveness Fund (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

The European Commission has discussed the possibilities of bundling the next Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (R&I) with other funding instruments in the new European Competitiveness Fund. This is according to Science Business, based on a leaked memo from Commission President von der Leyen. The memo was reportedly discussed last week during a preparatory debate on the EU's next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). According to the memo, **existing programmes such as Horizon Europe and the Digital Europe Programme would lead to 'fragmented and incomplete' support.** This would lead to overlap, gaps and divergent rules that create complexity for users, especially SMEs. "It is therefore essential to **bundle the instruments of existing programmes** and scale them up into a true European Competitiveness Fund, which offers coherent support throughout the investment process," the memo reads. Last Tuesday, von der Leyen stressed in a speech that **Horizon Europe will remain an independent programme, but with a strong connection to the fund.** "It is an excellent brand – the most renowned research programme in the world. But it will be closely linked to our Competitiveness Fund. We need a seamless transition from fundamental research to applied research, from start-ups to scale-ups."

Article Science Business: (see next article)

Publication Science Business: <https://sciencebusiness.net/sites/default/files/inline-files/Orientation%20Debate%20Note%20on%20MFF%20Science%20Business.pdf>

Speech Von der Leyen: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/nl/speech_25_1284

'Self-standing' FP10 will be 'tightly connected' to European Competitiveness Fund, Von der Leyen says (20 May 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/fp10/self-standing-fp10-will-be-tightly-connected-european-competitiveness-fund-von-der-leyen-says>



European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen. Photo credits: Alexis Haulot / European Union

The new European Competitiveness Fund would provide a "seamless flow" from research to commercialisation. The next Framework Programme for research and innovation is set to remain independent but would still contribute to the European Competitiveness Fund, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen said during a speech on May 20.

"Our Framework Programme Horizon Europe will stay as a self-standing programme," von der Leyen said at the annual EU budget conference. She praised the track record of the Framework Programme as an "outstanding brand" and "the most renowned research programme worldwide" but added that it needed to be "tightly connected" to the European Competitiveness Fund.

The fund would "offer support for the investment journey of a project, from an idea to the market, from research to start-up, scale-up and global manufacturing," Von der Leyen said.

"Horizon Europe has financed groundbreaking research that has won 33 Nobel Prizes over the last 40 years. We want this success story to continue," she added.

Her comments come after months of uncertainty around the structure of the European Competitiveness Fund, which is expected to pull together EU investments in critical sectors, such as artificial intelligence, space, cleantech, biotechnology and defence.

According to a leaked briefing note <https://sciencebusiness.net/sites/default/files/inline-files/Orientation%20Debate%20Note%20on%20MFF%20Science%20Business.pdf> presented by Von der Leyen at a preparatory meeting on the EU's next multiannual budget last week, existing programmes – such as Horizon Europe, Digital Europe, the European Defence Fund and others – are "fragmented and incomplete" and plagued by overlaps, gaps and varied rules that create complexity for users, particularly SMEs.

As a result, the Commission wants to "join and scale up the tools of existing programmes to become a true European Competitiveness Fund, providing coherent support along the investment journey," the document read.

Von der Leyen echoed this view during her speech: "We need a seamless flow from fundamental research to applied research to start-ups to scale-up." However, despite saying that Horizon Europe would remain "self-standing" in this new structure, she did not offer further details on how that would be implemented.

This issue of whether the Framework Programme would remain independent has been stirring up the EU research policy community since last year. MEPs and research lobbies have been urging the Commission to maintain FP10, which is set to succeed Horizon Europe in January 2028, as a standalone programme.

But a **leaked structure** <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/fp10/brussels-rumour-mill-churns-out-new-scenario-fp10> for the Competitiveness Fund added more confusion as it appeared to scatter the research programme's clusters across five thematic pillars and pair them with other programmes.

Budget negotiations

Von der Leyen's speech is a political starting point for very difficult negotiations ahead.

The EU's next long-term budget is due to start in 2028 but, until then, the Commission needs to put forward a written proposal and convince the European Parliament and member states of a complete overhaul of the structure of the EU budget and how it can help breed advanced technologies and innovations.

"Our current budget was designed for a world which no longer exists," Von der Leyen said. "It is simply impossible to determine today where innovation will lead us by the end of the next budgetary cycle. Our budget of tomorrow will need to respond fast."

Leaked Commission memo lays out plan for European Competitiveness Fund (19 May 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/fp10/leaked-commission-memo-lays-out-plan-european-competitiveness-fund>



European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen. Photo credits: Alexis Haulot / European Union

The new mega-fund would merge programmes that are “successfully contributing to competitiveness”. EU Commissioners have discussed the possibility of bundling the next Framework Programme for research and innovation with other funding instruments under the European Competitiveness Fund, according to a leaked briefing note <https://sciencebusiness.net/sites/default/files/inline-files/Orientation%20Debate%20Note%20on%20MFF%20Science%20Business.pdf> presented by European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen at a preparatory meeting on the EU's multiannual budget.

On May 14, the College of Commissioners, led by von der Leyen, held an orientation debate on the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF).

During the meeting, it appears that a document dated May 11 outlining the key elements of the next MFF was circulated under the authority von der Leyen and budget commissioner Piotr Serafin. The note was seen by Science|Business on May 16.

The content of the leaked document corroborates a chart obtained last week by **Science|Business** <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/fp10/brussels-rumour-mill-churns-out-new-scenario-fp10> detailing the proposed structure of the European Competitiveness Fund.

The fund appears to be intended as a new governance framework to consolidate several EU funding programmes, including the successor to Horizon Europe. Stéphane Séjourné, the Commission's executive vice-president for prosperity and industrial strategy, **has also confirmed** that the Competitiveness fund would include research and innovation programmes.

However, the European Parliament, member states and research lobbies have opposed the idea and call instead for a “standalone” research programme.

Read full article here: <https://sciencebusiness.net/fp10/leaked-commission-memo-lays-out-plan-european-competitiveness-fund>

Other International funding

Six projects with Dutch participation funded in European programme on sustainable use of seas (20 May 2025)

Source: website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/six-projects-with-dutch-participation-funded-in-european-programme-on-sustainable-use-of-seas>



The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) has announced the final list of 24 research and innovation projects recommended for funding, including six projects with Dutch participation. These six projects will receive a total of over 2.2 million euro from NWO.

The awards come from SBEP's second joint transnational call called 'Unified paths to a climate-neutral, sustainable, and competitive blue economy: engaging civil society, academia, policy, and industry'. This call aims to support transnational research and innovation related to one of the four priority areas below:

- Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs) at regional sub-basin scale
- Blue economy sectors and development of marine multi-use infrastructures
- Planning and managing sea uses at the regional level
- Blue bioresources

Awarded projects with Dutch participation

Below are the titles of the six projects receiving funding from NWO. More information about the projects can be read on the SBEP website <https://bluepartnership.eu/news/partnership-decides-first-batch-co-funded-projects>. Wageningen is partner in one project;

1. **Enhancing algal biomass consumer acceptance for food markets (AlgFlavor)**
2. **Developing hybrid multifunctional foreshore infrastructure that optimises environmental and blue economy benefits (BLUESHORES)**
3. **Cell-cultured octopus production through sustainable marine biomassvalorization (SEANERGIES)**
Dutch applicant: Joao Garcia (Wageningen University & Research centre)
4. **Harmonised ocean data sets for blue sustainable eutrophication enagement of the North-East Atlantic Ocean and Baltic Sea (CodeBlue)**
5. **Coastal Corrosion Risk Management through Digital twin model for aSustainable Blue Economy (CORRASBlue)**
6. **Biocatalytic refining of seaweed carbohydrates for producing higher-value, polymer precursors (SEABIOCAT)**

About Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP)

Sustainable Blue Economuy Partnership (SBEP) is an European Partnership under Horizon Europe. The partnership includes 74 institutions from 30 countries and the European Commission. SBEP enables research and innovations that contribute to the transition towards a climate-neutral, sustainable and productive Blue Economy around the North Sea, Baltic Sea, Mediterranean Sea, Black Sea and the Atlantic Ocean.

More information about SBEP: <https://bluepartnership.eu/>

National funding

Thirteen Mosaic 2.0 research proposals granted (28 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/thirteen-mosaic-20-research-proposals-granted>



Thirteen PhD candidates can start their PhD research with the support of a Mosaic 2.0 grant. The PhD scholarship programme focuses on the underrepresented group of graduates with a non-Western migration background in the Netherlands. The subject of the PhD research is completely free; any research topic is eligible. The topics of the granted projects are therefore very diverse. For example, research is being conducted into improving the design of rocket engines and into understanding and preventing trauma transfer from parent to child within refugee families in the Netherlands.

NWO considers a healthy research culture to be a prerequisite for world-class science. After all, a healthy research culture ensures that talent is given room to flourish and that collaboration is encouraged. However, there is currently still inequality in science, and Dutch researchers with a non-Western migrant background are underrepresented in science as a whole. The Mosaic 2.0 PhD scholarship programme is therefore aimed at supporting this group of researchers. The aim of the programme is to promote an inclusive working environment within Dutch knowledge institutions. Read the story of PhD candidate Lorelie Tummers, who previously received a Mosaic 2.0 grant: What is it like to grow up as an adopted child of colour in a white Dutch family? <https://www.nwo.nl/en/cases/what-is-it-like-to-grow-up-as-an-adopted-child-of-colour-in-a-white-dutch-family>

Update on Mosaic 2.0

Earlier this year, NWO announced that Mosaic 2.0 would continue in a modified form <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/mosaic-20-promotional-grant-programme-continues-in-modified-form>. NWO is currently working hard to make this happen. Discussions are being held with various external parties and NWO is asking Mosaic 2.0 applicants for feedback via a survey. The knowledge, insights, experiences and wishes of the intended target group are of great importance in this process. In this way, NWO aims to present a renewed programme that is well aligned with the scientific field and this group of researchers. The first round of the renewed programme is expected to open in 2026.

For overview granted projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/thirteen-mosaic-20-research-proposals-granted>

NWO awards 30 applications for Scientific Meetings and Consultations (28 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-awards-30-applications-for-scientific-meetings-and-consultations>



The aim of this programme is to facilitate academic networks and collaboration in the (inter)national context within the natural and physical sciences, including collaborations with other scientific domains, by means of scientific meetings and consultations. The programme supports the exchange of research and ideas as well as the formation of research communities.

Via this low-threshold instrument, researchers can request support for the organisation of scientific meetings as well as consultations for the formation of new (cross-domain) teams and consortia.

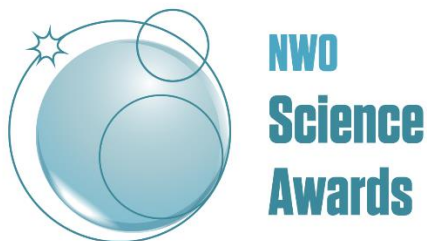
The NWO Domain Science Board decides multiple times per year on the submitted applications. Applications can be submitted continuously.

Visit the funding page <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/scientific-meetings-and-consultations> for more information

For overview 30 applications: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-awards-30-applications-for-scientific-meetings-and-consultations>

Inspiring role models in the spotlight with NWO domain Science awards (27 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO news <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/inspiring-role-models-in-the-spotlight-with-nwo-domain-science-awards>



This year, the NWO Domain Science (ENW) presents the NWO domain Science awards for the sixth time. In previous years, many winners have already received the awards. Why does the NWO Domain Science find it so important to award these prizes? And what does this recognition mean for winning researchers and initiatives?

The five prizes are awarded to exact and natural scientists of all levels, who make an extra effort for societal impact, team science, diversity or communication in their research. Winners will receive a cash prize, which NWO intends to use to help continue their initiatives and achieve their goals. Nominations for the 2025 awards are currently open. In the past five years, many exceptional researchers and initiatives have already passed at the NWO domain Science awards.

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/inspiring-role-models-in-the-spotlight-with-nwo-domain-science-awards>

Almost 1,8 million awarded for controlling wildfires (26 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/almost-18-million-awarded-for-controlling-wildfires>



In the latest round of the programme 'Use of space infrastructure for Earth observation and planetary research' (GO), €1,799,906 has been granted. The awarded project belongs to the theme of interdisciplinary Earth and Environmental Science with use of Atmospheric Instrumentation in Space in which the Netherlands has an important involvement.

Natural fires have dire consequences for ecosystems, air quality and climate. The assigned project will bring together Dutch satellite data, computer models and field research to map the global effects of wildfires. These insights will help improve fire forecasts and develop risk management strategies.

Purpose of the Call

GO's overarching goal is to support the substantial use of space infrastructure for scientific research in the broad GO themes of Earth observation and planets (and other objects) within our solar system.

For this new GO round, space infrastructure and scientific research are delineated. It concerns space-atmosphere instruments with significant Dutch involvement. The research concerns interdisciplinary scientific issues at the interface of atmospheric research and one or more other (sub-)disciplines of Earth and environmental sciences such as land, water and ice.

With this call, NWO and NSO aim to achieve even better use of Dutch investments in satellite atmospheric instruments, and to strengthen the interaction between the various sub-disciplines in Earth observation and Earth and environmental sciences.

The funded project is led by WUR

INFLAMES: Unraveling wildfires from space to society

Main applicant: **Dr Folkert Boersma (Wageningen University and Research)**

Co-applicants: Dr M. de Graaf (KNMI), Dr G.B. Koren (Utrecht University), Dr O.P. Hasekamp (SRON), dr. N.A.J. Schutgens (VU Amsterdam), dr. M.J.M. Penning de Vries (University of Twente), prof. dr. P.M. van Bodegom (Leiden University)

NGF: Strengthening the knowledge base for the high tech equipment sector (26 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-strengthening-the-knowledge-base-for-the-high-tech-equipment-sector>

To stimulate the development of a new generation of hightech equipment, 10.6 million euros is available for research. The future-proof hightech equipment is targeting sustainability, digitisation, healthcare and technology sovereignty of The Netherlands. This Call <https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/2025-03-21%20NGF%20NXTGEN%202025%20ENV2.pdf> is the second call of the NXTGEN Hightech programme, which is financed in the context of the National Growth Fund.

The purpose of this Call for proposals is to make room for academic research within a number of prioritized key technologies relevant to multiple application domains in the scope of the National Growth Fund programme NXTGEN Hightech. In addition, it offers the opportunity for new parties (both companies and knowledge institutions) to contribute to knowledge development within the NXTGEN Hightech programme

The deadline for submitting proposals is 11 September 2025, at 14:00:00 hours CEST

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-strengthening-the-knowledge-base-for-the-high-tech-equipment-sector> and <https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/2025-03-21%20NGF%20NXTGEN%202025%20ENV2.pdf>

Cellular Agriculture - towards larger scale and lower cost (26 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.

This call aims to address key topics needed to cost-effectively and successfully produce at scale. Specifically, we seek research proposals that focus on advances in process and/or product technology and biology and fall within one of the two research lines: (A) precision fermentation, (B) cultured meat & sea food. A proposal should focus on and be limited to the topics indicated in the Call for proposals (see paragraph 2.1).

To facilitate consortium formation, at 25 June 2025 a matchmaking meeting is organised, for which interested parties can register. The registration form as well as more information about the meeting can be found on the corresponding website. The matchmaking meeting is optional and therefore not a mandatory part of the application procedure.

When to apply

Matchmaking meeting (optional): 25 June 2025.

Deadline for submitting proposals: 13 November 2025, by 14:00:00 CET.

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/cellular-agriculture-towards-larger-scale-and-lower-cost>

Download call for proposals here: https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/ngf_ca_call_for_proposals_nl.pdf

Pre-announcement: First NGF call on Immersive Experiences to open in 2025 (22 May 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-first-ngf-call-on-immersive-experiences-to-open-in-2025>



Immersive Experiences (IX) are one of the driving forces behind the third digital transition. They encompass a mix of sensory experiences created by a combination of digital and physical means. In other words: a world in which the digital and physical worlds converge. The National Growth Fund programme Creative Industries Immersive Impact Coalition (CIIC) is laying the foundation for the Netherlands to become a leader in IX. The first call within the CIIC programme is expected to open this year: CIIC-Start for exploratory applied research into IX, developed in cooperation with CLICKNL.

The CIIC-Start call funds research into the effective elements of IX applications. This applied exploratory research into the effectiveness of IX applications can cover the entire IX process: from the phase prior to the experience to the phase after the experience. In these projects, researchers from universities of applied sciences (UAS) and universities can collaborate with IX creators and users. The projects within this call focus on short-cycle research questions that can be quickly built upon.

IX has various applications. For example, Virtual Reality technologies can be used for different training purposes. Think of surgeons practising their skills or students learning to present in front of a virtual audience. However, IX can also be used to allow people to experience things that are unfamiliar to them, such as neurodiversity. The research within CIIC-start contributes knowledge about the elements of IX that have an effect on the person undergoing the experience. More knowledge about this will lead to methods for determining the effectiveness of IX applications. With this knowledge, we can stimulate innovation in the field of IX applications and ensure that IX creators and users can deploy it effectively.

Budget

Researchers at universities of applied sciences (UAS) and/or universities will be able to submit proposals for this call. The research will be carried out by a consortium of research organisations and practice partners, including IX creators and users. A maximum of €50,000 in funding is available per project. A total of €1 million is available.

About the National Growth Fund programme CIIC

The aim of the NGF programme CIIC is to increase the capacity to realise immersive experiences and to enable the industry and creators to capitalise on opportunities and safeguard the public interest. CIIC stimulates and supports collaboration between IX creators, users and researchers and strengthens the innovation ecosystem.

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-first-ngf-call-on-immersive-experiences-to-open-in-2025>

Regional funding

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

From knowledge to cash: How to create more unicorns in Europe (28 May 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/van-kennis-naar-kassa-zo-moeten-er-meer-unicorns-ontstaan-in-europa>

The commercialisation of research results in Europe must be more efficient and effective. This is stated by the Commission in its new startup and scaleup strategy with plans to retain startups and scaleups in Europe. For example, it will launch a Lab to Unicorn Initiative. The Commission will also support startups in gaining access to research infrastructures.

Choose Europe to start up and scale up

The commercialisation of research results must improve in Europe. This is evident from the **new startup and scaleup strategy** <https://neth-er.eu/media/2G5J2L2X2N/docs/startupandscaleupstrategy.pdf>. With the strategy, the Commission wants to retain startups and scaleups in Europe and attract more (venture capital) investments to Europe. In the strategy, the Commission presents a laundry list of upcoming initiatives to ensure this. As a predecessor of the Innovation Act, it indicates that industry must have better access to research and technology infrastructures. The act will include a definition and basic principles for developing regulatory sandboxes, including cross-border sandboxes. There will also be a definition of startups, scaleups and innovative companies.

Innovation at a gallop

To better support academic institutions, such as universities, in commercialising their research, the Commission will launch a Lab to Unicorn Initiative. This initiative should ensure that more unicorns are created and maintained in Europe. It will include a blueprint for royalty, share and turnover distribution for academic institutions. It will also provide guidance on state aid rules and clarify the conditions under which universities and research organisations can grant intellectual property rights.

Read full article here: <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/van-kennis-naar-kassa-zo-moeten-er-meer-unicorns-ontstaan-in-europa> (in Dutch)

Choose Europe for Science: EU comes together to attract top research talent (23 May 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/choose-europe-science-eu-comes-together-attract-top-research-talent-2025-05-23_en&pk_campaign=rtd_news

The European Union is stepping up to become the world's most attractive destination for researchers and innovators, offering them attractive careers as well as excellent working and living conditions.

At today's Competitiveness Council, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation Ekaterina Zaharieva presented a snapshot <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4bc445a1-3784-11f0-8a44-01aa75ed71a1/language-en> of the more than 60 regional, national, and EU funding and support schemes that help researchers advance their careers in Europe.

The consolidated **Choose Europe for Science** package, compiled by the Commission and now available on the EURAXESS platform <https://euraxess.ec.europa.eu/>, highlights billions of euros worth of opportunities for researchers

at every stage of their careers. These range from competitive grants and mobility schemes to tenure-track positions, fellowships for researchers at risk, and career development support in all 27 Member States.

Commissioner **Zaharieva** said:

“Europe is choosing science, and we are making the case for science to choose Europe. Funding and support are available at European, national and regional level. We are bringing everything together in one place so that international researchers can become active players on team Europe.”

The announcement is part of the **EU's Choose Europe** https://commission.europa.eu/topics/research-and-innovation/choose-europe_en initiative. Launched earlier this month by President von der Leyen in Paris, the campaign promotes Europe's values-driven research environment and high living standards, backed by a new EUR 500 million package for 2025-27 to make Europe a magnet for researchers.

To further strengthen this ambition, the Commission is proposing a new call for **European Research Area (ERA) Chairs** worth EUR 230 million under the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026–27. If endorsed by Member States, the call would more than double the budget of the previous round and could support up to 120 top researchers and research managers working in countries lagging behind in research and innovation performance.

At the EU level, the Commission is working to put in place **new funding opportunities** for global research talent:

- **additional support of EUR 2 million** per researcher as part of **ERC Advanced Grants** to cover eligible relocation and start-up costs, including personnel expenses, equipment, and access to large facilities
- under the soon-to-be-launched **ERC Super Grant** initiative, grants of a seven-year duration will be offered
- the **MSCA Choose Europe for Science Pilot**, launched on 15 May, offers extended postdoctoral fellowships and encourages institutions to provide longer-term employment opportunities to attract and retain top research talent globally with a budget of **EUR 22.5 million**

Joining forces for new ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27

Further demonstrating their commitment to supporting research careers and creating the right framework conditions for researchers in the EU, Member States' ministers also adopted the **European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2025-27** today.

In the year of the **25th anniversary** of ERA, the new agenda builds on the achievements of the **first edition covering 2022-24** https://commission.europa.eu/system/files/2021-11/ec_rtd_era-policy-agenda-2021.pdf. Translating strategic priorities into concrete actions, it aims to further improve coordination of research and innovation (R&I) policies at all levels and to put in place the so-called **fifth freedom, a single market for research, innovation and technology**.

The ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27 aims to:

- enhance EU competitiveness and ensure our strategic autonomy by coordinating dedicated investments and reforms in R&I
- strengthen EU excellence and impact in R&I, its global scientific leadership and attractiveness to global talent by streamlining research career paths, facilitating researchers' mobility and knowledge sharing across Europe, and promoting access to cutting-edge infrastructures, and
- enhance the EU's sustainable development and societal impact through the coordination of R&I efforts in industrial transformation and synergies with other policies

The ERA Policy Agenda 2025-27 outlines long-term policies such as open science, research infrastructures and research careers, and highlights concise, policy-driven and goal-oriented joint actions. They address current challenges including artificial intelligence in science, research security and science for policy.

European Commission publishes annual Innovation Output Indicator (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

The European Commission has published the report ‘Tracking country Innovation Performance: The Innovation Output Indicator 2024’ (IOI). This IOI measures the ability of Member States to reap economic benefits from their innovations. Among other things, it looks at the extent to which innovative ideas reach the market, create knowledge-intensive jobs and increase a country's technological capabilities. Sweden, Ireland and Germany score highest. The Netherlands is in sixth place. The EU is outperforming Canada, Australia and China, but lags behind the US, South

Korea and Japan. The report warns that the EU's performance is growing at the same or lower rates than its main economic partners. The report also includes a Regional IOI. Of all the regions in the EU, North Brabant is in 15th place, and North Holland in 23rd.

Publication EU: <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/923d0196-3133-11f0-8a44-01aa75ed71a1/language-en%201,25%20miljard%20euro%20voor%20MCSA-acties%20in%202025>

EIB to invest €70 billion in tech start-ups in coming years (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

The European Investment Bank (EIB) plans to provide €70 billion in start-up financing by 2027 to close the investment gap between the EU and the US. The EIB expects the initiative to encourage private investors to participate in projects, which could generate around €250 billion in investments for the European tech sector. "This is the largest programme ever to exclusively support European innovation and technological leadership," EIB President Nadia Calviño said in an interview with Handelsblatt. The EIB wants to finance research projects and companies 'from idea to IPO'.

Press release EIB: <https://www.eib.org/en/press/news/president-calvino-tech-firms-innovators-handelsblatt>

ERAC work programme focuses on freedom of knowledge (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

The European Research and Innovation Area Committee (ERAC) has revised its work programme for 2025-2026. Neth-ER has written about the programme's priorities. According to ERAC, the fifth European freedom – the free movement of knowledge – should be at the heart of the European strategy for research and innovation. Other priorities include strengthening the alignment of R&I with the industrial sector, the Lisbon target of investing 3% of GDP in R&I, and better coordination and simplification of policy and funding.

Revised ERAC work programme: <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-8540-2025-INIT/en/pdf>

Article Neth-ER: <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderzoek/erac-039-039-vrij-verkeer-van-kennis-kan-niet-zonder-de-industrie-039-039-> (in Dutch)

Global policy

UK government sets out criteria for 10-year R&D funding (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

UK Science Secretary Vallance has set out the criteria for R&D activities to receive long-term funding over a period of 10 years. By setting the longer-term criteria, the government aims to provide certainty for research organisations, which should help attract private investment. "While specific funding will be set in the coming weeks, it could mean, for example, that research organisations working on areas such as antimicrobial resistance or the development of quantum computers – complex issues that can take years to develop and understand – will be given a longer timeframe to increase their chances of finding truly valuable solutions and improving lives," it reads.

Press release UK government: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-to-set-new-ten-year-budgets-for-rd-funding>

Nature: Researchers divided on AI use in writing publications (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

Researchers are strongly divided on the use of AI in science. This is evident from a Nature survey among more than 5,000 researchers. The researchers were questioned on the basis of various scenarios about which applications they consider ethically acceptable for AI in writing and reviewing manuscripts. Many respondents consider it acceptable to use generative AI in editing or translating papers. Opinions differ widely on, for example, the question of whether and how the use of AI should be reported.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-01463-8>

OECD report provides insight into the effect of climate measures on emission reduction (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

Research by the OECD shows that the various policy instruments for climate policy in various sectors such as agriculture, industry, the built environment, mobility and energy demonstrably ensure emission reduction. "The analysis suggests that most policy measures are effective in reducing emissions, with a median annual effect of -5%", it says. "The effect is almost equally distributed across policy categories and sectors." The article further explains the effects of each policy measure per sector, with special attention to the measurable effect of the ETS emissions trading system. According to the researchers, the results should form the basis for further research and policy measures.

OECD Publication: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/the-effects-of-climate-policies-on-emissions_ec1f7f0d-en.html

Plea: Develop a framework for measuring the effects of inclusive innovation (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

In order to achieve inclusive innovation, it is important to measure the effects properly. This is written by a collective of Northern Irish researchers, also authors of the book 'Inclusive innovation'. They call for the development of a framework to measure the inclusiveness of innovation. Inclusive innovation is defined as the pursuit of innovation with social and environmental objectives in a local context. "Despite the growing awareness of the need to promote inclusiveness in innovation, comprehensive methods to assess the impact of these initiatives are still lacking. And without clear evidence that they are achieving their intended goals, there is a risk that interest and investment will wane, especially in the current geopolitical climate", it says. This should include looking beyond economic indicators such as jobs and patents.

Article Global Policy Journal: <https://www.globalpolicyjournal.com/blog/16/05/2025/we-need-better-framework-measuring-inclusive-innovation-efforts>

Bruegel: The EU's potential to attract US top scientists (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

There is no doubt that the current scientific climate in the US has an impact on the 'life decisions' of academics. But it is difficult to predict exactly how big the consequences will be. Nevertheless, think tank Bruegel made an attempt and looked at figures from the past. "All other things being equal, a researcher with at least one degree obtained abroad has shown a tendency to move in the past. This can be interpreted as an indicator of potential future international mobility", according to Bruegel, who also indicates that this already concerns significant numbers with regard to the EU. "To benefit from this, the EU must increase its attractiveness and create a competitive, open and well-funded research environment", writes the think tank. According to Bruegel, an important point of attention in this regard is the salary. In the EU, salaries for top researchers are many times lower than in the US.

Article Bruegel: <https://www.bruegel.org/analysis/how-much-research-talent-could-europe-grab-us>

ITIF: US falling behind in university research (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

The US is investing much less in universities than other countries, warns the American think tank Information Technology and Innovation Foundation (ITIF). "If policymakers want to strengthen American competitiveness, they should significantly increase federal funding for university research, not reduce it," it says. ITIF points out that the country has already fallen in the OECD rankings over the past decade. Further cuts would make this worse. It also warns that states and businesses cannot compensate for the cuts.

ITIF publication: <https://itif.org/publications/2025/05/16/america-is-falling-behind-on-university-research/%20%C2%A0%C2%A0/>

National policy

American measures affect Dutch science (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

The measures taken by US President Trump are already having consequences for Dutch researchers. This is evident from a survey conducted by the HOP press agency, NU.nl, the Investico platform and De Groene Amsterdammer. The survey was conducted among more than two hundred scientists from twelve universities and interviews were conducted with forty researchers. A third of the respondents say they are already experiencing effects, such as the cessation of collaboration with American scientists or the disappearance of research funding. A number of researchers also indicate that certain datasets and/or software are no longer available.

Article HOP/U-Today: <https://www.utoday.nl/news/75564/trumps-aanval-op-de-wetenschap-doet-ook-in-nederland-pijn> (in Dutch)

TNO launches TNO Ventures to stimulate innovation and growth of startups (22 May 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 22 May 2025

TNO has launched TNO Ventures: a new initiative to bring technology to the market faster. TNO Ventures wants to stimulate the further development and scaling up of innovative technologies and will focus on strategic investments in startups that originated outside TNO. TNO Ventures is a participant in 12 Dutch early-stage investment funds, including DeepTechXL, Innovation Industries and PhotonVentures. "With TNO Ventures, we support spin-offs and startups through the 'valley of death' so that promising innovations can scale up more often and faster from research to broad practical application. In addition to our technological expertise, including due diligence, we ensure the availability of facilities such as labs and cleanrooms and IP guidance from TNO," says director of TNO Ventures Hans Boumans.

News item TNO: <https://www.tno.nl/en/newsroom/2025/05/tno-launches-tno-ventures-accelerate/>

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 30 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	10 November 2025 17.00 Brussels time (<i>MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2025-SE-01	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)	18 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-EOSC (5 topics)	18 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-SERV (4 topics)	18 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-INFRA-2025-01-TECH (4 topics)	18 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time

Cluster 1 HEALTH	
Destination - Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-STAYHLTH-two-stage	18 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) , 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (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	3 June 2025 17.00 Brussels time
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	24 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
Destination - Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-02-D2	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2	17 February 2026 17.00 Brussels time

Destination: Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-02-D3	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3	17 February 2026 17.00 Brussels time
Destination: Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D4	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time Deadline(s) 20 January 2026 17.00 Brussels time
Destination: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	
HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-D5	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	4 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time 20 January 2026 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV	17 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 2: Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 3: Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO	17 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time

HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 4 – Clean environment and zero pollution	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01 ZEROPOLLUTION	17 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01 ZEROPOLLUTION-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02 COMMUNITIES	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 7 – Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-03-GOVERNANCE	24 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
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	21 May 2025 17.00 Brussels time
EIC-Pathfinder-Challenges	29 October 2025 17.00 Brussels time
EIC Transition-2025	17 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time
EIC-Accelerator-2025	1 October 2025 17.00 Brussels time
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 Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	24 September 2025 (HORIZON-MISS-2025-01-CLIMA Adaptation to Climate Change Mission)
HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER Cancer: Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission	16 September 2025 (HORIZON-MISS-2025-02-CANCER Supporting the implementation of the Cancer Mission)
HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission	24 September 2025 (HORIZON-MISS-2025-03-OCEAN Supporting the implementation of the Restore our Ocean and Waters Mission)
HORIZON-MISS-2025-04-CIT Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission	4 September 2025 (HORIZON-MISS-2025-04-CITIES Supporting the implementation of the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission)
HORIZON-MISS-2025-05 Call - Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission	30 September 2025 (HORIZON-MISS-2025-05-SOIL Call - Supporting the implementation of the Soil Deal for Europe Mission)
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 30 May 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.futurefoodspartner-ship.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 **30 May 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
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%20Living%20Labs%20for%20Adaptive%20Delta%20Management%20in%20Bangladesh%20%20call%20for%20proposals%20UK.pdf
09-09-2025	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
30-10-2025	NEW: Foreseen deadline full proposals Biodiversity and agriculture in balance collaboration between NWO and the Brazilian science council CNPq . Closing date full application 30 October 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/biodiversity-and-agriculture-in-balance ?

National calls

This list is a selection of open national calls. The list was compiled on **30 May 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

03-06-2025	Deadline for submission Full proposals for fourth call Faculty of Impact . The deadline for submitting proposals is Tuesday 3 June 2025 14:00:00 CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/faculty-of-impact-opens-its-doors-for-the-fourth-time and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/safety-and-energy-transition and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/foi-2025_-_call_for_proposals_-_eng_-_publicatie.pdf
12-06-2025	Deadline for submission for research ideas for NWA Key Enabling Methodologies (KEMs) - The utilisation of Key Enabling Methodologies in complex societal transition issues . The deadline for the submission of proposals is 12 June 2025, before 14:00:00 CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-knowledge-development-and-application-of-kems-for-effective-policy and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-key-enabling-methodologies-kems-the-utilisation-of-key-enabling-methodologies-in-complex-societal-transition-issues and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20NWA%20Key%20Enabling%20Methodologies%20%28ENG%29_2.pdf
24-06-2025	Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2025 . 24 June 2025 by 14:00:00 CEST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-impact-explorer-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/impact-explorer
24-06-2025	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
24-06-2025	NEW: Deadline submission statement of intent for PhD Scholarships for Caribbean Researchers . The deadline for submitting statements of intent is 24 June 2025, before 17:00:00 CEST/11:00:00 AST . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-phd-scholarships-for-caribbean-researchers and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/caribbean-research-a-multidisciplinary-approach
01-07-2025	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	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
09-09-2025	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submitting full applications for second round of the 2025 Doctoral Grant for Teachers . The deadline for submitting an application is 9 September 2025, 14:00 (subject to change).
09-09-2025	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submission pre-proposals for Call Open Competition L . Closing date for pre-proposals 9 September 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-ssh-open-competition-l and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/sgw-open-competitie-l-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/open-competition-ssh
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
11-09-2025	NEW: Deadline submitting full proposals NGF: Strengthening the knowledge base for the high tech equipment sector: second call of the NXTGEN Hightech programme . The deadline for submitting proposals is 11 September 2025, at 14:00:00 hours CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ngf-strengthening-the-knowledge-base-for-the-high-tech-equipment-sector and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/2025-03-21%20NGF%20NXTGEN%202025%20ENv2.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	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
16-09-2025	NEW: Deadline submission Pre-proposals for PhD Scholarships for Caribbean Researchers . The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is 16 September 2025, before 17:00:00 CEST/11:00:00 AST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-phd-scholarships-for-caribbean-researchers and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/caribbean-research-a-multidisciplinary-approach
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	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
11-11-2025	NEW: Deadline for submission Full applications NWA Call 'Building blocks for integral policy on Planetary Health' . Closing date full application 11 November 2025 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-new-research-on-building-blocks-for-integral-policy-on-planetary-health and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/building-blocks-for-integrated-policy-on-planetary-health
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	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 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/ngf_ca_call_for_proposals_nl.pdf
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	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
03-02-2026	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submission Full applications for Call Open Competition L . Closing date full application 3 February 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-ssh-open-competition-l and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/sgw-open-competitie-l-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/open-competition-ssh

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
24-02-2026	NEW: Deadline submission Full proposals for PhD Scholarships for Caribbean Researchers . The deadline for submitting full proposals is 24 February 2026, before 17:00:00 CET/12:00:00 AST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-phd-scholarships-for-caribbean-researchers and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/caribbean-research-a-multidisciplinary-approach
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 **16 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 EFO 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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