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Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe

The final version of the European Innovation Council (EIC) 2026 work programme has been approved (17 October 2025)

Source: Website EIC and newsletter RVO team IRIS

The final version of the European Innovation Council (EIC) 2026 work programme has been approved and will be officially published soon. The latest public draft version is available [hier](#). We would like to inform you about the most important changes to the programme and the information sessions.

EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges: a new two-phase funding instrument

A new experimental funding instrument will be introduced in 2026. The EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges are designed to stimulate risk-taking and market implementation of innovation. The call will be implemented in a two-phase system. The first phase (maximum €300,000 for a nine-month project) is open to all applicants with innovative solutions to the challenges. Only selected applicants from the first phase will be eligible for the second phase, which will take place in 2027 (maximum €2.5 million per project). **There are two challenges:** 1) Acceleration Physical AI: Embodied Intelligence for the Next Frontier of AI-Powered Robotics and 2) Translating Disruptive New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) into practice.

The deadline for submitting a first-phase application is the **end of February 2026**. Keep an eye on the EIC website for the final date.

Other interesting changes:

- The EIC Pathfinder budget has been increased to help projects progress further towards the proof-of-concept phase.
- To be eligible for EIC Transition funding, research results from Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020 research infrastructure are now eligible, in addition to results from EIC Pathfinder, ERC Proof-of-Concept, and Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe.
- There is a significant change in the EIC Accelerator assessment process due to a simplified format: the application form will be shortened and adapted, due diligence will be conducted on the full proposal before the jury interview, and the six application deadlines will be consolidated into three jury interview weeks per year.

Want to know more?

The EIC is hosting online information sessions. **You can register via this link** https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events_en

- **November 13** – General Information Day (9:30 AM – 5:00 PM)
- **November 14** – EIC Accelerator Challenges (9:30 AM – 1:00 PM)
- **November 17** – EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges (1:30 PM – 4:00 PM)

Food 2030 autumnal updates: upcoming events & more! (7 Oktober 2025)

Source: Mailing DG-RTD

European Mission Soil Week 2025

 When: **5-6 November 2025**

 Where: Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark

This third edition of the European Mission Soil Week, organised under the auspices of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU, comes at a pivotal moment for soil policy in Europe. The European Parliament and the Council of the

EU have reached a **provisional agreement** <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/04/10/soil-monitoring-law-council-reaches-deal-with-parliament/> on the Commission's proposal for an EU Soil Monitoring and Resilience Directive. This represents a major step toward advancing soil protection and restoration across the EU. The event will bring together once again stakeholders from policymakers, researchers, farmers and other land managers to financial institutions, businesses, philanthropies, and citizens to share knowledge and explore challenges and solutions for sustainable soil management. Through sessions, stands exhibition, and networking, it will foster collaboration, scale innovation, and advance the implementation of the Mission Soil across Europe.
Don't miss out! Register here: <https://www.europeanmissionsoilweek2025.eu/>

RefreSCAR 1st Hackaton: "Protein Value Chains: Global demand, Local challenges"

 When: **20-21 November 2025**

 Where: Vienna, Austria

RefreSCAR is launching its first hackathon to bring together innovators, researchers, SMEs, practitioners, and policymakers in a dynamic two-day event. The challenge: design practical and scalable solutions to strengthen Europe's protein value chains. The RefreSCAR project, funded under Horizon Europe, supports the **Standing Committee on Agricultural Research (SCAR)** <https://scar-europe.org/> in its mission to provide strategic policy advice and drive forward research and innovation agendas.

The RefreSCAR Hackathon will create a collaborative platform where diverse actors join forces to address pressing challenges in protein value chains. From sustainability pressures to regulatory gaps and market barriers, participants will work side-by-side to propose solutions that can contribute to resilient and competitive European food systems.

Find more information here and submit your application by 12 October: <https://scar-europe.org/home-scar/refrescar/1st-hackathon>

Danish Presidency events on "Boosting and mainstreaming the bioeconomy" and "Transformative governance for food systems and biodiversity"

 When: **2-3 December 2025**

 Where: University of Copenhagen, South Campus, Copenhagen, Denmark, and online

In the context of the Danish Presidency of the Council of the EU, the University of Copenhagen and the Danish Ministry for Green Transition, on behalf of the European Commission, will host two conferences focused on advancing the EU's green transition through bioeconomy, food systems, and biodiversity.

The first conference on the 2nd of December will mark a key moment for the launch of the new EU Bioeconomy Strategy. The strategy aims to unlock the full potential of bio-based innovation, enabling Europe to lead in regenerative, circular, and sustainable growth. This high-level conference will explore how to **boost and mainstream the bioeconomy** through science, innovation, and governance.

The second conference on the 3rd of December will focus on **transformative governance for food systems and biodiversity**, bringing together European leaders and change agents.

More on the bioeconomy conference here: <https://bioeconomy.ku.dk/conference-2nd-december/>

More on the food and biodiversity conference here: <https://bioeconomy.ku.dk/conference-3rd-december/>

EU Agri-Food Days 2025: Securing Europe's Food and Agriculture

 When: **15-17 December 2025**

 Where: Brussels, Belgium, and online

This three-day event will offer you the opportunity to network with EU agri-food stakeholders, farmers, civil society, academia and policymakers. Be at the heart of discussions about the latest policy trends, challenges and opportunities in the EU agri-food sector. This year's programme includes sessions on how the proposed CAP post-2027 ensures food security, agri-food sector resilience to cope with global challenges, consumers' role in driving sustainable farming practices, how strategic research and innovation (R&I) support competitive and resilient food security, and more. The EU Agri-Food Days conference also features an exhibition on research projects, key agricultural data portals and funding opportunities.

Keep an eye on this webpage to remain informed on the event: https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/eu-agri-food-days_en

Horizon Europe WP 2026-2027 info days - Cluster 6 "Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment"

 When: **22-23 January 2026**

 Where: Charlemagne Building, Brussels, Belgium, and online

Are you interested in R&I funding opportunities in the areas of food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment? Join the Horizon Europe Cluster 6 info days on 22 and 23 January 2026 to learn more about the topics of

the forthcoming Work Programme 2026! This year's edition will be hybrid, hosted in Brussels and streamed online. The event covers:

- Insights into the policy context
- A 'key-to-success' session focused on guidance and tips for quality proposals
- Pitches for each of the topics from the Work Programme 2026.

The full programme and the link to follow the web streaming will be available here: <https://research-innovation-community.ec.europa.eu/events/2s2Xz6DhSgsazEcBuxo0Pm/overview>

€22.5 million Choose Europe for Science call offers researchers long-term careers in Europe (3 October 2025)

Source: Website MSCA <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/choose-europe-for-science-science-2025-call>

The new initiative is designed to make research careers in Europe more attractive by offering excellent working conditions and long-term prospects.



The 2025 call for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) **Choose Europe for Science** <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/actions/choose-europe-for-science?> is **open as of 1 October 2025**.

With an **indicative budget of €22.5 million**, this pilot scheme aims to make European research careers more appealing by providing stable employment and high-quality working conditions.

It addresses precarity in the research sector, helping Europe retain talent within its borders and attract top researchers from around the world.

The call is open to applications in **any scientific field**, demonstrating the MSCA's commitment to excellence and innovation across disciplines.

A new approach to research careers

The Choose Europe for Science call tests a new model in the MSCA. Host organisations will not only receive EU funding to employ postdoctoral researchers but also commit to hiring them beyond the EU-funded phase of the project. They will also provide concrete long-term prospects following the fellowship, ensuring more stable career pathways. Besides this, the scheme will spread MSCA best practices for high-quality recruitment, training and working conditions across participating institutions.

Key features of the call

The call is open to a single entity based in an EU Member State or [Horizon Europe Associated Country](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf#:~:text=For%20the%20Euratom%20Research%20and%20Training%20Programme%20%28Council,applies%20to%20legal%20entities%20established%20in%20these%20countries.,) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf#:~:text=For%20the%20Euratom%20Research%20and%20Training%20Programme%20%28Council,applies%20to%20legal%20entities%20established%20in%20these%20countries., with the option to include Associated Partners.

Each beneficiary may receive up to €3.5 million. Projects must recruit at least 3 postdoctoral researchers for a **period of up to 5 years**. **The MSCA will co-fund the first 2 or 3 years**, depending on the host institution's choice, while the host organisations are expected to continue employment for an additional 2 years.

Organisations applying to the call must demonstrate their commitment to long-term employment of researchers beyond the EU-funded period. Host institutions can include universities, research institutions or facilities, companies including SMEs, government or public institutions, museums, hospitals, NGOs, or any other eligible entity based in an EU Member State or [Horizon Europe Associated Country](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf#:~:text=For%20the%20Euratom%20Research%20and%20Training%20Programme%20%28Council,applies%20to%20legal%20entities%20established%20in%20these%20countries.,) https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/list-3rd-country-participation_horizon-auratom_en.pdf#:~:text=For%20the%20Euratom%20Research%20and%20Training%20Programme%20%28Council,applies%20to%20legal%20entities%20established%20in%20these%20countries.,

euratom_en.pdf#:~:text=For%20the%20Euratom%20Research%20and%20Training%20Programme%20%28Council,applies%20to%20legal%20entities%20established%20in%20these%20countries.

How to apply

Applications must be submitted by organisations via the [EU Funding & Tenders Opportunities Portal](#) by **3 December 2025, 17.00 CET**.

For more information: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/choose-europe-for-science-science-2025-call>

European Funding News: FP10

MEPs put Europe's innovation gap on FP10 agenda (16 October 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/research-and-innovation-gap/meps-put-europes-innovation-gap-fp10-agenda>

A recent debate in the European Parliament opened old wounds, as legislative work on Horizon Europe's successor gets started



Photo credits: European Union

Members of the European Parliament's industry and research committee have defended the need for a Widening programme in Horizon Europe after 2027, but also noted that member states should take more responsibility for lagging national R&D expenditures and make better use of EU structural funds.

At an event organised by committee member Eszter Lakos in the European Parliament, MEPs agreed that the impact of the Widening programme is limited and cannot make up for low national budgets and the poor use of EU funds dedicated to reducing development differences among countries and regions.

The Widening programme has been designed to help countries that joined the EU after 2004 improve their performance in EU research funding competitions, but also to encourage them to join broader European innovation networks and projects. While some countries have improved their performance, many are still lagging behind, as national R&D budgets have stagnated and governments failed to reform the structure and incentives in national research systems. As the EU is starting negotiations on the next iteration of Horizon Europe, due to start in January 2028, the Widening question is again on the table. However, MEPs agree that the programme will not solve the performance gap between older and newer member states.

Committee coordinator Christian Ehler, from the European People's Party (EPP) said cohesion funding and the European semester, which is the Commission's main tool for financial supervision in the member states, are "better tools" for incentivising countries to boost their R&D spending. "*Widening cannot fix low national investment,*" he said at the conference. Ehler also called for a "*mandatory quota*" for research and innovation in EU structural funds. "*Synergies between the European Regional Development Fund and Horizon Europe should be better captured,*" Lakos, also from the EPP group, said after the event. "*It is time to design mechanisms that are genuinely accessible, user-friendly and capable of delivering tangible results on the ground.*"

Also speaking at the event, EU research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva said the Widening programme is a "political commitment" that research and innovation can spread equally in Europe.

Zaharieva warned that the Widening programme alone cannot plug the continent's innovation gap. However, she said, "we cannot afford to leave parts of Europe behind" amid growing concerns that the overall competitiveness of the EU's economy is stalling.

Ivars Ijabs, a Renew MEP from Lithuania, pointed out that national R&D expenditure is "*rather low*" in newer member states and more "*structural funds should be dedicated to this goal.*"

This view was echoed by said Giorgos Ioannides, deputy permanent representative of Cyprus to the EU. “*Widening measures are not a panacea and need to be complemented by other efforts; we need national contributions and structural reforms,*” Ioannides said.

Cyprus will take over the rotating presidency of the Council of EU in January 2026 and will help steer negotiations on Horizon Europe among all 27 member states.

Who will negotiate?

In updated versions of the Commission’s proposal for the next Horizon Europe, the Council has **bracketed** the article referring to the Widening programme, indicating that an “ad hoc working party” on the next multiannual budget will examine the issue during high-stakes negotiations among member states. This would allow representatives of national finance ministries to weigh in on the Widening debate, an idea that Ehler opposes.

The debate on Horizon Europe and its Widening schemes should be steered by research ministers, he said, to avoid a negotiation setting led by “people who are usually not very familiar with this issue.”

Two tiers

According to the Commission’s proposal, the Widening programme could have **two-tiers of eligible countries**, with a new category of “**transition countries**” created. This would include member states scoring above 75% in the Commission’s innovation scoreboard, an annual evaluation of research and innovation policies and investments across Europe.

According to the latest scoreboard, the **Widening countries** would be Bulgaria, Croatia, Czechia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Slovakia, while the **transition countries** would be Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Malta, Portugal and Slovenia.

Scientists urged to demand independent governance in Horizon Europe (9 October 2025)

Source: Website <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/european-research-council/scientists-urged-demand-independent-governance-horizon-europe>

The European Research Council’s independent governance model must be applied throughout Horizon Europe, says Manuel Heitor



Manuel Heitor, former Portuguese research minister. Photo credits: Christophe Licoppe / European Union

The chair of an expert group charged with advising the European Commission on the next Framework Programme for research and innovation has called for a campaign of “scientific activism” to implement independent governance models across the programme.

The European Research Council (ERC) is “the jewel of the crown” of EU research funding thanks to its independent Scientific Council, which draws up its own work programmes, Manuel Heitor said during a panel on competitiveness through frontier research organised by the ERC and the University of Copenhagen on October 7.

The former Portuguese research minister was more critical of the collaborative instruments in Horizon Europe and its predecessor, Horizon 2020. The Framework Programme “has become an excellent tool to distribute money, but it is not necessarily the best tool to do science, or to address industrial competitiveness, or to address emerging societal challenges,” he said.

According to [his advisory group’s report](#), collaborative projects accounted for 78% of funding under Horizon 2020 and involved 11 participants on average, each receiving average funding of €127,000 over approximately three years. The remaining 22% of funds, which mostly support single beneficiaries, have had a greater impact, largely thanks to the ERC’s autonomy, Heitor said.

He urged the scientific community to speak to citizens and national and EU policymakers to show that the ERC is a “clear example of how to govern the rest of the Framework Programme.”

His report recommended strengthening the independence of the European Innovation Council and creating two new councils with independent boards, one on industrial competitiveness and technology, and the other on societal challenges, to steer collaborative research. However, this idea [was not picked up by the Commission](#) in its proposal for the post-2027 Horizon Europe programme.

Instead, there are concerns that collaborative research and innovation will come under even closer control by the Commission, which plans to link calls to the funding priorities of the future [European Competitiveness Fund](#). It's also unclear what the push to simplify the EU funding landscape will mean for the ERC. Its president, Maria Leptin, previously [expressed concern](#) that plans for a single rulebook to be applied across Horizon Europe and the Competitiveness Fund would restrict the ERC's flexibility to implement its own processes. However, in a recent [interview with Science|Business](#), Leptin revealed that the ERC had received reassurance from the Commission that it would not fall under a common rulebook.

In June, before the Commission presented its proposal for the continuation of Horizon Europe, the ERC's Scientific Council [sent a letter](#) to its president, Ursula von der Leyen, and research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva requesting even greater independence and a stable, long-term budget.

EIT Governing Board approves €978 million for European Innovation and Skills (3 October 2025)

Source: Website EIT <https://www.eit.europa.eu/news-events/news/eit-governing-board-approves-eu978-million-european-innovation-and-skills>



The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has announced that its Governing Board has approved an allocation of €978 million to boost innovation, entrepreneurship, and skills development across Europe for the period 2026–2028.

The EIT's largest-ever funding round secures fresh resources for six Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), and joint activities such as the EIT Higher Education Initiative – reinforcing the EIT's position as Europe's largest innovation ecosystem. The decision reflects both the performance of the KICs and their alignment with EU policy priorities such as the Union of Skills and the Clean Industrial Deal while also supporting the implementation of the Startup and Scaleup Strategy, through entrepreneurial education programmes, stronger corporate engagement in innovation ecosystems, and better knowledge transfer from universities and research centres to business. Investing in Innovation and Skills to Boost Europe's Competitiveness

The funding will support EIT Health, EIT Raw Materials, EIT Food, EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Manufacturing, and EIT Culture & Creativity. These partnerships bring together leading businesses, universities, and research centres to address Europe's most pressing challenges – from sustainable food systems and resilient healthcare to advanced manufacturing, critical raw materials, creative industries, and the future of urban mobility. With this investment, the EIT reaffirms its mission to power innovation, talent, and growth across Europe.

The allocations for 2026–2028 are as follows:

- EIT Health: € 67.3 million
- EIT Raw Materials: € 74.8 million
- EIT Food: € 125.3 million
- EIT Urban Mobility: € 206.9 million
- EIT Manufacturing: € 163.2 million
- EIT Culture & Creativity: € 131.6 million

In addition, €79.3 million will be dedicated to cross-KIC activities, in which KICs that are financially autonomous also participate, including Climate-KIC, EIT Digital and InnoEnergy. These activities enable joint action across sectors to

maximise European impact from boosting entrepreneurial education and STEM skills, supporting business creation in areas like AI and women's entrepreneurship, or fostering international cooperation.

Strengthening Higher Education for Innovation

The decision also foresees €130 million for the EIT Higher Education Initiative, which helps universities across Europe build their innovation and entrepreneurial capacity. Closely aligned with European university alliances and complementary to Erasmus, it also contributes to the EU's STEM Education plan. Since its launch, the initiative has already involved more than 600 higher education institutions and supported thousands of students, staff, and researchers in developing entrepreneurial skills and turning ideas into market-ready solutions.

Other International funding

Pre-announcement 2nd co-funded call FutureFoodS (13 October 2025)

Source: Website FutureFoods <https://www.futurefoodpartnership.eu/news/pre-announcement>

FutureFoodS is pleased to pre-announce the upcoming 2nd co-funded call for transnational research projects. This call will support innovative, cross-disciplinary collaborations to advance more sustainable, resilient and healthy food systems.



Preliminary call topics include:

- **Domestic food practices enhancing sustainable and healthy diets** - systemic work at the household level covering food safety, cultures, nutritional needs and consumer behaviour.
- **Towards divers, sustainable and circular food processing systems** - improved processing/packaging, valorisation of by-products and side-streams, and compositions tailored to diverse consumer groups.
- **Trust and transparency in sustainable food systems** - identify leverage points, access tools, methods, metrics, indicators and quality signals towards a more unified framework, co-created with system actors.

Please note that primary production activities such as the growing of food crops (including seafood), other elements of agricultural production and various specific aspects related to it, as well as nutrition- and lifestyle-related diseases are not in focus in this partnership. The focus of FutureFoodS is on issues post-harvest. Primary production aspects are covered in other Horizon Europe partnerships.

Call launch is expected for **second half of November 2025**

For more information: <https://www.futurefoodpartnership.eu/news/pre-announcement> and <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-second-round-of-futurefoods-expected-in-november>

National funding

Want to pursue a PhD alongside your teaching career? Apply for the Doctoral grant for teachers (20 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/want-to-pursue-a-phd-alongside-your-teaching-career-apply-for-the-doctoral-grant-for-teachers>



Are you a teacher looking for a new challenge and do you want to contribute to better education? The Doctoral grant for teachers gives you the opportunity to conduct doctoral research and write a thesis while continuing to teach. This scholarship is intended to improve the quality of education and strengthen the connection between schools and universities. Applications can be submitted until 20 January 2026, 14:00 CET.

Whether you teach in primary, secondary, vocational, higher vocational or special education, this grant offers you a unique opportunity to realise your research ambitions. You can choose your own topic, as long as it contributes to educational practice.

Budget and duration

This round has a budget of 5.5 million euros, which will fund approximately 23 grants. Recipients will be exempt from teaching duties for a maximum of 5 years and up to 0.4 FTE. So that they can combine their work as a teacher with doctoral research.

There are two application rounds per year for the Doctoral grant for teachers. One with a closing date in January and one with a closing date in June.

For more information

Call page: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/doctoral-grant-for-teachers-1st-round-2026>

Programme page: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/doctoral-grant-for-teachers>

Call for proposals: <https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call-for-Proposals-Doctorate-grant-for-teachers-2026-1.pdf>

Announcement of changes call 2026 Scientific Meetings and Consultations (17 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/announcement-of-changes-call-2026-scientific-meetings-and-consultations>



Over the years, the Scientific Meetings and Consultations instrument of the NWO Domain Science has become increasingly well known throughout the entire Science field. Many scientific meetings have been co-financed through this instrument. In the 2025 round, the call budget was exhausted early on. In order to ensure a level playing field for meetings and consultations for which funding will be requested later this year, the Science domain board has made a one-off increase in the budget possible.

In order to continue to use the Scientific Meetings and Consultations instrument in a targeted manner in the future, an evaluation was carried out with input from, among others, the Science research field, and the Science Round Tables were asked for advice. In mid-September, based on the input gathered, the Science domain board designed the framework for the Scientific Meetings and Consultations call for proposals 2026. The purpose of the instrument remains largely the same, namely to promote academic networks and cooperation at the national and international level. The budget to be requested and the assessment process will also remain largely unchanged. However, a number of aspects will (partly) be given a different focus. **These include:**

- More emphasis on national (recurring) meetings. Meetings that take place on a rotating basis abroad can only apply for funding (for the editions that take place in the Netherlands) if at least half of the time (the last five times) they have taken place in the Netherlands.
- Greater focus on suitability for the Science domain (including the content of the meeting/consultations and frameworks for speakers and participants), as it remains an instrument that is deployed from within the NWO Domain Science. Interdisciplinary meetings will still be possible.
- Changed period for how far in advance a proposal can be submitted. This will be shortened to a minimum of 6 months prior to the meeting, instead of the current possibility of submitting a proposal up to 1 year in advance. This will provide more insight into the actual programme of the meetings and make it possible to explain more clearly why funding from this instrument is necessary.

In the longer term, the Science domain board expects to limit recurring meetings. The board therefore encourages the field to start looking for additional funding sources in order to compensate for any current dependence on Scientific Meetings and Consultations support. NWO Domain Science is happy to help explore the possibilities, such as joining conferences organised by NWO Domain Science.

The Scientific Meetings and Consultations call 2026 will be finalised at the end of this year, and the new conditions will take effect in January 2026. Until then, the current call will remain open and proposals can be submitted as long as the call budget has not been exhausted.

For call page: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/scientific-meetings-and-consultations>

Expanded target group for SSH Open Competition XS 2026 (16 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/expanded-target-group-for-ssh-open-competition-xs-2026>



he SSH Open Competition XS will be offered again in 2026 with three rounds. SSH researchers who obtained their PhD at least five years ago and have a promising idea can submit an application. The first round will open in November 2025. There are a number of major changes in this Call for Proposals compared to the previous Call. We summarise the changes below.

Changes compared to the previous Call for Proposals

More information can be found in the **Call for Proposals** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2026-round-1>.

- The submission requirement regarding the date of obtaining a PhD has been changed from 5 to 10 years to 5 years or more.
- The maximum duration of an XS project has been changed from one year to a maximum of two years if the research requires this. The minimum duration of six months remains unchanged.

- The applications will be divided into three panels, consisting of different disciplines. The division of the disciplines across the panels has been adjusted. A list of disciplines per panel can be found in the Call for proposals.
- The substantive assessment consists of two aspects. The explanation of the assessment of the feasibility of the research plan has been adjusted.
- A personal contribution from the applicant's own institution remains possible, but if applicable, a personal contribution statement must be submitted with the application.

Information meeting

On 18 November at 14:00, NWO is organising an online information meeting about the Open Competition XS 2026. During this meeting, the changes mentioned above will be discussed. There will also be plenty of opportunity to ask questions. Both potential applicants and grant advisers are welcome to attend.

You can register here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/meetings/information-meeting-ssh-oc-xs-2026>

Rounds 2026

There will be three rounds in 2026. The first round will open in November, with a deadline of 20 January. The second round will open in February, with a deadline of 7 April. The third round will open in July, with a deadline of 15 September.

Eleven grants in Impact Explorer 2025 (15 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/eleven-grants-in-impact-explorer-2025>



When conducting scientific research, you sometimes encounter unexpected results that were not taken into account beforehand. It is precisely these unexpected discoveries that can yield valuable new insights. The Impact Explorer call offers researchers the opportunity to explore the potential impact of these discoveries. Eleven projects are now receiving a small top-up to further investigate unexpected discoveries. A total of nearly 320,000 euros has been distributed.

This grant is also useful in Frank Klont's research: 'In my Veni project, I discovered that medicine leaves our bodies in ways that are often different from what was previously assumed. Based on thousands of measurements in urine samples, I found more and different breakdown products than were previously known. While this research was initially focused on applications in healthcare, the findings may also be relevant to environmental issues surrounding water quality. In this Impact Explorer project, I want to translate these insights to the water sector, in collaboration with the WLN Water Laboratory in Glimmen. To do this we are developing a strategy to detect as many drug breakdown products as possible with as few analyses of human samples as possible. This will hopefully enable environmental laboratories to better and more efficiently determine which drug residues actually end up in the sewage system and ultimately in drinking water.

About this call

The grant is intended for activities to validate the potential societal impact of discoveries from more curiosity-driven research. Such as from the Talent Line and the Open Competitions of both NWO and ZonMw. And to explore a route to societal impact. A minimum of 20,000 and a maximum of 30,000 euro is available per proposal. Submissions are still being accepted, with the next deadline on 12 November.

For more information about the granted projects: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/eleven-grants-in-impact-explorer-2025>

Festive award ceremony for “persistent, curious” researchers (14 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/festive-award-ceremony-for-persistent-curious-researchers>



'The Spinoza and Stevin prizes give science a face and show that progress and knowledge are not natural phenomena, but the result of persistent, curious people. People with whom children can identify. People who show them a world of thinking ahead, discovering and experimenting,' says Feite Hofman.

On Tuesday 14 October, the Director-General for Higher Education, Vocational Education, Science and Emancipation at the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science presented the Spinoza and Stevin Prizes at the Royal Theatre in The Hague: 'Making room for science is a shared responsibility.'

The prizes are the highest honours in science and are intended to recognise and encourage researchers and their work. While the Spinoza Prize focuses on scientific work and fundamental issues, the Stevin Prize honours social impact and inspiration for young researchers. The Spinoza and Stevin Prizes highlight world-class scientists.

Marcel Levi, chair of the NWO board, opened the festive day: 'Today, we are not only celebrating outstanding scientific work, but also providing a wonderful illustration of how scientific research and knowledge contribute to society. There is a whole world behind science. This work has been done together with many other people, but today we are putting one successful person in the spotlight for each prize.'

Being able to respond to today's technology makes science possible

When asked what the recipients of the **Spinoza Prize** will do with the research funding, historian [Judith Pollmann](#) replies: 'AI plays an important role in our research. There is a great deal of unpublished material in the archives, and we have only recently been able to make it easily searchable. This is revolutionary, and it is exciting to see what we can uncover.' With her research into “ordinary people” from 1500 to 1850, she is mapping the history of how change was experienced in rural areas. A subject that is still relevant today. The other Spinoza recipient, biomedical scientist [Thijn Brummelkamp](#), states: 'Eighty percent of medicines are based on a fundamental discovery, but the road to get there is long.' His research into (epi)genetics, which contributes to the development of new medicines for infectious diseases and cancer, benefits from completing the map in order to take the research a step further.

Stevin recipient Ilse Aben talks about the added value of the Tropomi satellite. 'In one day, the satellite takes 20,000 million measurements of all kinds of substances, including methane. Alongside CO₂, this is a powerful greenhouse gas, which is responsible for a third of global warming. Science has a crucial role to play here. Before we launched Tropomi, we had no idea. A total revolution has taken place in our field, and it is crucial to be able to respond more easily to new developments, which is possible with this research funding.' Philosopher [Ingrid Robeyns](#) wants to bring together people around the world who, like her, are researching limitarianism and focusing on global cooperation. Organising the interaction between science and society is important.

SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 1 (9 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2026-round-1>

The NWO Domain Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH) has three different funding programmes in the Open Competition. These grants are for ideas that hold great promise (XS) and for large-scale grants (M, L). The SSH-XS grants are available for projects with a maximum budget of 50,000 euro to enable proposals for curiosity-driven, innovative research in the research fields covered by the NWO Domain SSH. Applicants assess each other's proposal through anonymous peer review. The Call for proposals of 2026 has 3 rounds. This information concerns the first round.

Purpose

The SSH Open Competition XS Call for proposals is specifically intended to encourage curiosity-driven and innovative research that involves the relatively rapid exploration of a promising idea.

The characteristics of SSH-XS research are:

- the proposed research is innovative;
- it is not certain in advance whether the intended objectives will be achieved;
- the result of each project contributes to the advancement of existing science and new scientific insights.

When to apply

For 2026, three deadlines for submitting applications are specified:

- Round 1: 20 January 2026, before 14:00:00 CET.
- Round 2: 7 April 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST.
- Round 3: 15 September 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST.

When you submit your application in ISAAC, you will also need to enter some details online. Therefore, please start submitting your application at least one day before the deadline of the round. Applications that are submitted after the deadline will not be taken into consideration.

Download call for proposals here: https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_sgw_oc_xs_2026.pdf

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2026-round-1>

Pre-announcement new KIC-call: Collaborative business models for a circular economy (9 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO News <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-new-kic-call-collaborative-business-models-for-a-circular-economy>



NWO expects to launch the KIC call 'Collaborative business models for a circular economy' in December. This call for proposals focuses on research on the organisation and financing of collaborative business models for circular partnerships that guarantee a fair and future-proof distribution of investments, returns and risks between different stakeholders. The funding ceiling for this call is 7 million euros.

Purpose of the call

The aim of this call for proposals is to discover how organisations and companies can set up collaborative business models and sustainable partnerships that guarantee a fair division of investments, returns and risks. This involves creating value in multiple areas, such as impact, sustainability or (social) innovation, and valuing activities that do not directly lead to economic profit. Furthermore, this call aims to investigate new or alternative financing instruments for collaborative business models.

Matchmaking event

The aim of the matchmaking event is to bring together researchers from different disciplines and professionals from public and private organisations with an interest in the subject of 'Collaborative Business Models' to get to know each other's needs and language. The meeting aims to forge new connections and promote trans- and interdisciplinary collaboration that results in comprehensive research proposals of the highest quality.

Date and location of matchmaking event

Location: [Antropia Culture and Conference Centre](#)

Date: 27 January 2026 (12 noon to 5 p.m.)

Please register before 20 January 2026 for catering purposes here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-new-kic-call-collaborative-business-models-for-a-circular-economy>

Research Infrastructure (RI): national consortia (9 October 2025)

Source: Website NWO <https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/research-infrastructure-ri-national-consortia-0>

Good research infrastructure is essential for creating and maintaining a robust research system. Two preconditions of such infrastructure are wide accessibility and good structural funding. NWO stimulates the establishment and upgrades of largescale research facilities and research infrastructure that enable the Netherlands to capture and hold its prominent international position.

Purpose

With this instrument, NWO aims to strengthen the RI available to the research community in the Netherlands. The instrument focuses on designing innovative RI that is of (inter)national importance, which can be used to achieve innovations and breakthroughs with a high value for science, society, and business. Proposals may be submitted by national consortia from all academic disciplines. A broad group of relevant representatives in the field from across the Netherlands must be involved at an early stage (when writing the proposal) and given a relevant role in governance.

When to apply

- The deadline for submitting letters of intent (required) is **2 December 2025, before 14:00:00 CET**.
- The deadline for applications is **24 March 2026, before 14:00:00 CET**.

Basic information about the call

The goal of the RI program is to promote investments in scientifically innovative equipment or data collections of (inter)national importance.

This call concerns investments in research infrastructure with a budget between €2 and €10 million in NWO funding. In addition, a mandatory co-funding of 25% from the consortium partners is required.

Only WU can participate as main or co-applicant in this call.

Internal WUR procedure

To obtain an overview of the proposals led by WU or in which WU participates, and to ensure that proposals are of the highest possible quality, an internal procedure has been established.

This procedure is intended to support applicants in both the writing and internal submission process. The internal procedure can be found in the attachment.

As part of this procedure, applicants are asked to **submit an abstract** (The format can be requested from Mascha Rasenberg mascha.rasenberg@wur.nl) outlining the idea of their proposal.

The deadline for submission of the abstract is 27 October.

Applicants are requested to obtain **prior approval** from their own management before submitting the abstract.

Own contribution

It is advised to discuss the mandatory own contribution with your management once you have plans to submit a proposal as main or co-applicant.

If you plan to submit a RI proposal or be co-applicant in one, please inform from Mascha Rasenberg mascha.rasenberg@wur.nl.

If you have any questions following this information, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Regional funding

Southeast North Brabant among the top ten strategic EU regions for digital R&D (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 October 2025

Southeast North Brabant is among the top ten most strategic regions for research and innovation in the European digital ecosystem. The Joint Research Centre (JRC) study names Munich, Paris, and Madrid as the most strategic regions. The analysis of 6,500 research organizations examines knowledge exchange, economic strength, and the presence of startups. The Dutch region owes its position to patent activity by companies like ASML, Philips, and NXP.

JRC Report: https://joint-research-centre.ec.europa.eu/jrc-news-and-updates/munich-paris-and-madrid-regions-among-eu-strategic-areas-digital-ri-2025-10-01_en

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

EU achieves Global Gateway target, calls for greater focus on research and innovation (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

The European Commission has achieved its €300 billion investment target within the Global Gateway initiative two years ahead of schedule. Global Gateway is the European investment program for building sustainable infrastructure worldwide. Commission President von der Leyen also announced the creation of the Global Gateway Investment Hub, a central point of contact for companies wishing to invest in such projects. At the same time, there is a call for greater focus on education, research, and innovation within Global Gateway.

Press release European Commission: https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ac_25_2346

Press release the Guild: <https://www.the-guild.eu/news-and-blog/blog/europe-must-deepen-education-and-research-cooperat.html>

Universities urge UK's swift return to Erasmus+ (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

The European University Association (EUA) and Universities UK are urging swift agreement on the UK's return to the Erasmus+ programme. In a joint statement, both umbrella organizations express their support for the UK's return, as this can strengthen universities in both the EU and the UK. However, they advocate for clear and balanced financial agreements. The organizations urge for swift action so that universities and students can make timely plans.

EUA press release: <https://www.eua.eu/news/eua-news/universities-urge-negotiators-to-swiftly-agree-to-uk-erasmus-association.html>

EU and OECD Map AI Investments

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

The OECD and the European Commission have published a new framework for mapping AI investments. The report offers the first harmonized method for measuring AI spending in the European Union and comparing it with other countries. According to the analysis, 73 percent of AI investments come from private funds. Most of this funding went to skills and data infrastructure. Germany, France, and the Netherlands invested the most. The framework supports the Commission's Apply AI Strategy.

OECD Report: <https://oecd.ai/en/wonk/measuring-ai-investment-new-oecd-ec-methodology>

Have your say on the European Research Area (ERA) Act (14 October 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/have-your-say-european-research-area-era-act-2025-10-14_en?pk_campaign=rtd-mailings&pk_source=rtd_news

Today, the European Commission launched the [public stakeholder consultation](#) on the ERA Act. Contributions can be submitted via the Have Your Say portal. The consultation will remain open for 12 weeks.

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

“For Europe to remain a global leader in science and innovation, we must make it easier for knowledge, technology, and talent to move freely across borders. The ERA Act is all about breaking down barriers, boosting investment, and creating opportunities everywhere in Europe. We invite all voices, from universities and businesses to SMEs and research infrastructures to shape this initiative and Choose Europe.”

The proposed ERA Act

The initiative aims to tackle long-standing challenges in the EU's research and innovation system, including fragmented regulatory frameworks, uneven R&D investment, and barriers to researchers' mobility and knowledge sharing. Key aspects include:

- **Investment target** - national commitments to reach a 3% R&D investment target relative to GDP, supported by new legal mechanisms.
- **Policy alignment** - stronger coordination of investments and policies between the EU and Member States, particularly in strategic priority areas.
- **Framework conditions** - better conditions for researchers by improving research careers, geographical and intersectoral mobility, and open science measures.
- **Safeguarding values** - to uphold fundamental values, including scientific freedom, ethics, integrity, gender equality, and equal opportunities across the ERA.

Designing the ERA Act together

This is the second step in the consultation process, following the call for evidence (6 August - 10 September), which received 178 contributions from 29 countries. The consultation questionnaire is currently available in English, with the rest of the EU languages to follow in early November.

Background

The **European Research Area (ERA)** https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/our-digital-future/european-research-area_en aims to create a unified research and innovation market by aligning national and EU policies, improving research infrastructures and promoting open science and international collaboration.

The ERA was officially launched in 2000, following a proposal by the European Commission in a communication titled 'Towards a European Research Area', and was enshrined by the Lisbon Treaty in Article 179 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union.

The current ERA policy framework is the result of a revitalisation process started in 2020, which has led to a new ERA governance, the Pact for R&I and the first ERA Policy Agenda 2022-24.

ERA and Choose Europe

The '**Choose Europe for Science**' initiative reflects the wide variety of activities and efforts that are currently in place at the European and national levels to build an attractive research landscape, and it presents new schemes created to attract and retain researchers based outside of the EU as part of the **EUR 500 million package** for 2025–2027 announced by the Commission on 5 May 2025.

More information

Call for evidence: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/14608-European-Research-Area-Act_en

ERA Policy Platform: <https://european-research-area.ec.europa.eu/>

Have your say on Europe's framework for science diplomacy (14 October 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/have-your-say-europes-framework-science-diplomacy-2025-10-14_en?pk_campaign=rtd-mailings&pk_source=rtd_news

The Commission has launched a **call for evidence** https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/15152-European-Framework-for-Science-Diplomacy-_en to inform the upcoming **Council**

Recommendation on Science Diplomacy. The community is invited to share their views by 3 November via the Commission's 'Have Your Say' portal.

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

“Research and innovation are not only drivers of competitiveness, they are also tools of diplomacy. By putting science at the service of our foreign policy, Europe can strengthen its security, deepen partnerships and promote our values worldwide. I invite scientists, policymakers, businesses and citizens to share their views and make this a reality.”

Why science diplomacy matters

As research and innovation increasingly translate into power and geopolitical influence, the EU and its Member States must become more strategic and effective in using science diplomacy as part of the diplomatic toolbox.

This will allow the EU to defend its interests and reduce its vulnerabilities, while acting as a reliable global partner.

Making proper use of science diplomacy will enable the EU to promote its values and principles to serve the global public good more effectively.

The consultation follows the expert report A European Framework for Science

Diplomacy. <https://op.europa.eu/en/publication-detail/-/publication/4b319f3d-e9ff-11ef-b5e9-01aa75ed71a1/language-en>

European research associations provide input on Innovation Act (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 Oktober 2025

The European University Association (EUA), research and technology organization EARTO, and Science Europe have published their contributions to the consultation on the European Innovation Act. All three organizations advocate for a stronger role for research and technology infrastructures (RTIs). They also advocate for an appropriate regulatory and funding framework that accelerates innovation. This should ensure less bureaucracy, better access to funding, and room for high-risk projects.

Input Science Europe: <https://www.scienceeurope.org/our-resources/response-to-the-call-for-evidence-on-a-european-innovation-act/>

Input EARTO: <https://www.earto.eu/wp-content/uploads/EARTO-Response-to-EC-Call-for-Evidence-on-Innovation-Act-Final.pdf>

Input EUA: <https://www.eua.eu/news/eua-news/the-eus-innovation-act-can-address-hurdles-to-innovation-and-boost-europes-competitiveness.html>

European Council Calls for a Stronger Role of R&D in Startup and Scale-up Strategy (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 Oktober 2025

The European Council has adopted conclusions on the importance of R&D for the European Startup and Scale-up Strategy. The Council advocates for predictable funding, reduced administrative burdens, and adjustments to state aid rules for knowledge institutions. "While research institutions can help startups and scale-ups get off the ground and grow, the private sector can support research institutions in attracting investment," said Danish Science Minister Egelund on behalf of the Council. The conclusions emphasize the importance of talent development, international networking, and closing funding gaps for scale-ups.

Press release Council of the European Union: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/09/30/council-backs-research-and-innovation-for-startups-and-scaleups/>

European Council aims for leadership in life sciences (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 Oktober 2025

The European Council aims for the EU to be a global leader in life sciences by 2030. It advocates for strengthening the entire value chain and a coordinated strategy. This applies, among other areas, to advanced therapies (ATMPs), clinical trials, biotechnology, and the use of AI. The Council also calls for a business-friendly regulatory framework, support for innovative SMEs, and joint investments in research infrastructure.

Press release Council of the European Union: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2025/09/30/council-calls-for-a-leading-role-of-the-eu-in-life-sciences/>

Commission launches two strategies to speed up AI uptake in European industry and science (8 October)

Source: Website EC Press Release https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_2299

Around the world, countries are racing to harness the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Today, the European Commission set out two strategies to ensure Europe stays ahead, driving adoption in key industries and putting Europe at the forefront of AI-driven science. The **Apply AI Strategy** sets out how to speed up the use of AI in Europe's key industries and the public sector. The **AI in Science Strategy** focuses on putting Europe at the forefront of AI-driven research and scientific excellence.

Ursula von der **Leyen**, President of the European Commission, said: *"I want the future of AI to be made in Europe. Because when AI is used, we can find smarter, faster, and more affordable solutions. AI adoption needs to be widespread, and with these strategies, we will help speed up the process. Putting AI first also means putting safety first. We will drive this 'AI first' mindset across all our key sectors, from robotics to healthcare, energy and automotive."*

AI is transforming how businesses operate, reshaping public services, and revolutionising science. With these strategies, the Commission is delivering on its **AI Continent Action Plan** https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_25_1013, setting a course to make Europe a global leader in trustworthy AI. Just six years ago Europe had two supercomputers in the global top 10; today it has four and work is ongoing to set up at least 4 to 5 gigafactories. Building on its strong AI infrastructure, as well as Europe's talent, vibrant research and innovation ecosystem and startups, its tradition of collaborative science, high-quality data and world-class research and technology infrastructures, the EU is well positioned to accelerate the use of AI in key sectors and science.

Apply AI Strategy

The Apply AI Strategy **aims to harness AI's transformative potential by** driving adoption of AI across strategic and public sectors including healthcare, pharmaceuticals, energy, mobility, manufacturing, construction, agri-food, defence, communications and culture. It will also support small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) with their specific needs and help Industries integrate AI into their operations.

Concrete measures include establishing AI-powered advanced screening centres for healthcare and supporting the development of frontier models and agentic AI tailored to sectors such as manufacturing, environment and pharmaceuticals.

To boost AI adoption and support these measures, the Commission is mobilising **around €1 billion**. In the future, new initiatives in areas like finance, tourism, and e-commerce could complement these sectors.

The strategy will help boost EU capabilities to unlock societal benefits, from enabling more accurate healthcare diagnoses to enhancing the efficiency and accessibility of public services. It encourages an **AI first policy**, so more companies consider **AI as a part of the solution** to tackle challenges, while taking into careful consideration the benefits and the risks of the technology.

The strategy also addresses cross-cutting challenges: accelerating time-to-market by linking infrastructure, data, and testing facilities; strengthening the EU workforce to be AI ready across sectors; and launching a **Frontier AI initiative** to support innovation by bringing together Europe's leading AI actors. The **renewal and deployment** <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-announces-renewed-funding-83-european-digital-innovation-hubs-will-support-eus-ai-first> of the **network of European Digital Innovation Hubs** <https://european-digital-innovation-hubs.ec.europa.eu/home>, transformed into **Experience Centres for AI**, will give companies privileged access to the **EU AI innovation ecosystem**.

To coordinate action, the Commission is launching the **Apply AI Alliance** <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launches-apply-ai-alliance-shape-european-ai-policies>, a forum bringing together industry, the public sector, academia, social partners and civil society. An **AI Observatory** will monitor AI trends and assess sectorial impacts.

In parallel, the Commission has **launched the AI Act Service Desk** <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/news/commission-launches-ai-act-service-desk-and-single-information-platform-support-ai-act> to help ensure smooth implementation of the AI Act.

AI in Science Strategy

Alongside Apply AI, the AI in Science Strategy positions the EU as a hub for **AI-driven scientific innovation**. At its centre is **RAISE - the Resource for AI Science in Europe**, a virtual European institute to pool and coordinate AI resources for developing AI and applying it in science.

Strategic actions include:

- **Excellence and talent:** measures to attract global scientific talent and highly-skilled professionals to '**Choose Europe**' https://commission.europa.eu/topics/research-and-innovation/choose-europe_en. This includes **€58 million** under the RAISE pilot for Networks of Excellence and Doctoral Networks to train, retain and attract the best AI and scientific talent.
- **Compute:** **€600 million** from Horizon Europe to enhance and expand access to computational power for science. This investment will secure dedicated access to **AI Gigafactories** <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/ai-factories> for EU researchers and startups.
- **Research funding:** aims for doubling Horizon Europe's annual investments in AI to over **€3 billion**, including doubling funding for AI in science.
- **Data:** support for scientists to identify strategic data gaps and gather, curate and integrate the datasets needed for AI in science.

The Commission's Joint Research Centre is contributing to both strategies, producing technical assessments, sectoral studies, and a **new report** <https://publications.jrc.ec.europa.eu/repository/handle/JRC143482> on AI's impact on science and research practices.

Next steps

To harness the full potential of AI, Europe must ensure seamless access to high-quality, structured data. The Commission will present a **Data Union Strategy** <https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/data-union> at the end of October to better align data policies with the needs of businesses, the public sector and society.

The upcoming AI in Science Summit <https://ais25.eu/> (Copenhagen, 3-4 November 2025), co-organised by the Commission and the Danish Presidency, will bring together policymakers, researchers and industry. It will present and launch initiatives under the AI in science Strategy, including the RAISE pilot and a private sector pledging campaign.

EU 2026 budget: focus on supporting competitiveness, preparedness and defence (5 October 2025)

Source: Website EP <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20251003IPR30717/eu-2026-budget-focus-on-supporting-competitiveness-preparedness-and-defence>

- Restore funding to key programmes cut by EU governments
- Increase support for researchers, civil protection and young farmers
- MEPs add €523 million to the draft 2026 budget as proposed by the Commission
- Plenary to confirm position later in October, negotiations with Council to start at the end of October

MEPs want a 2026 EU budget that strengthens competitiveness and innovation, enhances resilience in the agricultural sector, underpins preparedness and bolsters EU defence.

On Monday evening, the Budgets Committee adopted its position on the 2026 EU budget. It voted to restore to Commission-proposed levels €1.3 billion in commitment appropriations for key programmes cut by EU governments. The MEPs also backed increases to help Europeans cope with current economic pressures and geopolitical realities. They called for reinforced funding for research and innovation through Horizon Europe, stronger preparedness and emergency response capacities, and targeted support for farmers, with a focus on young farmers. Budgets Committee MEPs also underlined the need to support effective border management and military mobility, and to do more to support the development of dual-use infrastructure, in frontline countries and in the EU's southern and eastern neighbourhood in the current unstable geopolitical context.

Key increases, on top of the **draft EU 2026 budget proposed** https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/eu-budget/annual-eu-budget/all-annual-budgets/2026_en by the Commission in June, include:

Research and innovation

- Horizon Europe: + €60 million
- Transport and energy networks: + €80 million
- Support for small and medium-sized enterprises: +€4 million

Health, education and youth

- EU4Health: +€5 million
- Erasmus+: +€5 million
- Creative Europe: +€2.5 million
- Citizens, Equality Rights and Values programme: + €2.5 million
- European Social Fund Plus: +€2.5 million

Agriculture and environment

- Young farmers: +€23 million
- European Agricultural Guarantee Fund: +€30 million, wine sector +€15 million
- LIFE programme: clean transition + €15 million, nature and biodiversity + €10 million
- Civil Protection Mechanism: +€30 million

The EU and Japan committed to conclude negotiations on the association to Horizon Europe in 2025 (6 October 2025)

Source: Website EC https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/eu-and-japan-committed-conclude-negotiations-association-horizon-europe-2025-2025-10-06_en

The European Union and Japan reaffirm today their commitment to deepen cooperation in research and innovation (R&I). Meeting in the margins of the Science and Technology for Society Forum in Kyoto, Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation and Minoru Kiuchi, Japanese State Minister for Science and Technology Policy agreed on the shared importance of R&I for tackling global challenges and driving competitiveness.

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

"Europe and Japan have the talent and the technology, but we need to use them together. Horizon Europe association will make that possible, giving our researchers the chance to deliver breakthroughs that people will see in their hospitals, in their energy bills, and in the technologies they use every day. This is cooperation in action."

Horizon Europe association

Formal negotiations on Japan's association to Horizon Europe were launched on 29 November 2024. Today, both parties committed to conclude negotiations on Japan's association to Horizon Europe and related EU programmes by the end of 2025.

This would allow Japanese researchers and organisations to participate on equal footing with their EU counterparts in the 2026/2027 Work Programme. Participation will focus on Pillar II of Horizon Europe, the largest collaborative part, addressing global priorities such as climate, energy, mobility, digital, industry and space, and health.

Shared priorities on Advanced materials

On the same occasion, the two welcomed the release of the [report](#) by the Expert Group under the EU-Japan Enhanced

Dialogue on Advanced Materials.

The independent Expert Group of 12 leading specialists identified shared critical needs and complementary strengths in five priority areas: construction, energy, mobility, electronics, and data-driven R&D.

The recommendations will be taken forward in upcoming EU-Japan cooperation initiatives, including joint projects and policy dialogues.

Background

Japan is a key strategic partner for the EU in research and innovation, with steadily deepening cooperation over the past two decades:

- A Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement has been in force since 2011, aimed at promoting research excellence, growth and industrial competitiveness.
- In 2015, a Joint Vision set out priority areas including ICT, aeronautics, materials (notably critical raw materials), health, environment, energy and high-energy physics. It also introduced joint funding mechanisms, researcher mobility schemes (e.g. ERC-JSPS), closer policy dialogue on open science, and measures to raise public visibility of cooperation.

- In 2020, a Letter of Intent reinforced EU-Japan collaboration in science, technology and innovation, creating synergies between Horizon Europe and Japan's Moonshot programme. It opened new opportunities for joint work on pressing global challenges such as health, climate change, digital transition, ageing societies, and pandemic response, including through open access to research data and results.
- In the Horizon Europe 2025 work programme, two topics with a total budget of 60 MEUR invite for cooperation with Japan. These address:
 - Innovative Advanced Materials for product monitoring, smart maintenance and repair strategies in the construction sector.
 - Innovative Advanced Materials for robust, fast curing sealants and coatings for manufacturing and final assembly.

More information

Horizon Europe: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe_en

Europe's Global Approach to Research and Innovation:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/ip_21_2465

International cooperation with Japan: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/strategy/strategy-research-and-innovation/europe-world/international-cooperation/bilateral-cooperation-science-and-technology-agreements-non-eu-countries/japan_en

Recommendation of the Expert Group under the EU-Japan Enhanced Dialogue on Advanced Material:

https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/91feb7ae-fa6c-4b47-8066-1bcb285f0cb1_en?filename=ec_rtd_advanced-materials-eg-recommendations.pdf

Global policy

OECD: Better measurement of how science contributes to sustainable growth (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

The OECD concludes in a new report that science and innovation are essential for the green transition, but that governments are not yet sufficiently measuring their contribution. Environmental technology innovation is accelerating rapidly: solar energy has become more than four times cheaper since 2010, and the number of electric cars has tripled since 2021. The OECD advocates for better data, new indicators, and systematic measurement of the impact of science and innovation on sustainable growth.

OECD Report: https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/measuring-science-and-innovation-for-sustainable-growth_3b96cf8c-en.html

G20 Ministers Make Commitments on Open Science and Innovation (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

At the G20 summit in South Africa, ministers agreed to invest more in open science and innovation. They aim to strengthen cross-border collaboration, better coordinate research infrastructure, and increase access to biodiversity data. The Tshwane Package, supported by UNESCO and the OECD, also includes agreements on disaster prevention, gender equality, and public engagement in science.

Press Release European Commission: https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/news/all-research-and-innovation-news/eus-leading-role-instrumental-advancing-sustainable-and-inclusive-science-technology-and-innovation-2025-10-10_en

US: Republican Senator Calls for Increased Investment in Science and Biotechnology (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

The United States must continue to invest heavily in science and technology, especially now, despite previous budget cuts, according to Republican Senator Todd Young. He calls it "strange that we are not continuing to invest heavily in the national science system right now," writes Nextgov/FCW. Young chairs the congressional committee preparing recommendations for the Trump administration to strengthen national biotechnology research. According to him, continued funding of the research system is essential for progress in biotechnology. However, the government must handle public funds carefully.

Article Nextgov/FCW: <https://www.nextgov.com/emerging-tech/2025/10/senate-commission-deliver-national-biotechnology-research-recommendations/408690/>

"Google for DNA" Opens New Opportunities for Biological Research (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

Researchers at Switzerland's ETH Zurich have developed a search engine that allows scientists to search through vast amounts of genetic data, reports Nature. The tool, MetaGraph, compiles data from seven public databases containing DNA, RNA, and protein sequences from all life forms. This allows researchers to uncover patterns that have previously remained hidden. The system can quickly search millions of datasets, for example, to identify genes for antibiotic resistance or virus variants. The developers emphasize that open data sources and open-source software are crucial to enabling this type of large-scale research.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-03219-w>

AI tool predicts societal impact of research (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 October 2025

Nature has published an article about the AI tool "Funding the Frontier," which can predict which studies will have the greatest societal impact. The tool links data from millions of research-related documents, determining which past and future projects have broad effects. The tool can be used by funders and universities, for example, to analyze the impact of research investments. A proof-of-concept showed that the tool can also reveal differences between disciplines and gender inequality among project leaders. Some experts warn of the risk that predictions based on past successes lead to conservative funding decisions. The developers emphasize that the tool is intended to complement human expertise, not replace it.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-03120-6>

More top American scientists want to move to Europe (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 October 2025

The number of researchers from the United States seeking to establish themselves at European institutions has risen sharply. According to Politico, the number of applications from scientists for a European Research Council program has increased fivefold compared to a year earlier. The increased interest is linked to significant research budget cuts under the Trump administration. Member states and research institutions have now established dozens of their own programs to attract these researchers. This week, the European Commission launched a new "Choose Europe for Science" call to offer international scientists long-term prospects in the EU.

Politico article: <https://www.politico.eu/article/european-research-council-funding-us-researchers-relocation-europe/>

European Commission news item: <https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/news/choose-europe-for-science-science-2025-call>

US: 'Shutdown' hits science and technology (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 October 2025

The US government partially shut down on October 1st because Congress failed to reach a budget agreement. President Trump has ordered federal agencies to prepare for mass layoffs, which could affect tens of thousands of scientists, reports Nature. The National Science Foundation and NASA, among others, have placed most of their staff on unpaid leave and halted new research activities. According to Axios, the shutdown is also paralyzing crucial technology programs. Research is largely at a standstill, while plans for AI regulation and the implementation of the semiconductor program are delayed. Experts warn that prolonged shutdowns could lead to knowledge loss and further disruption to crucial research and innovation programs in the US.

Article Nature: <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-025-03192-4>

Article Axios: <https://www.axios.com/2025/10/03/government-shutdown-tech>

National policy

Dutch House of Representatives elections: European solutions for Dutch problems? (16 October 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER <https://www.neth-er.eu/onderwijs/tweede-kamerverkiezingen-europese-oplossingen-voor-nederlandse-problemen->

On October 29, 2025, the Netherlands will elect a new House of Representatives. Is there attention for European knowledge investments, in addition to topics like housing, migration, and nitrogen? Are there any parties seeking European solutions to Dutch issues? Neth-ER delves into the Dutch election manifestos and provides the answers.



Innovation is high on the agenda

Just like in the EU, innovation is a hot topic in the Dutch elections. **The VVD** (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy) <https://www.vvd.nl/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Verkiezingsprogramma-TK-VVD-2025-DEF.pdf> wants to make the Netherlands the global hub of innovative companies. **D66** (Democrats 66) <https://d66.nl/verkiezingsprogramma/> is advocating for a minister for Technology and Innovation. **The CDA** (Christian Democratic Appeal) <https://d2vs36cx04qmpo.cloudfront.net/files/Documenten-en-reglementen-CDA/CDA-Verkiezingsprogramma-TK2025-Digitaal-DEFINHOUD.pdf> plans to revitalize the Growth Fund, and **GroenLinks-PvdA** (GreenLeft-Labour Party) wants to invest in scientific research <https://groenlinkspvda.nl/verkiezingsprogramma/>. But which parties are making the connection with European policy? What about the 3% target for investments in research and innovation? What do the parties say about the new multiannual financial framework? Neth-ER delves into the election manifestos and finds out.

The 3% Standard: All or Nothing

The 3% investment standard for research and innovation enjoys broad political support. The Netherlands currently invests 2.2% of its GDP in research and innovation <https://www.rijksoverheid.nl/actueel/nieuws/2025/07/11/kabinet-ondernemt-9-acties-om-haperende-innovatie-aan-te-pakken>. If the VVD has its way, the new cabinet will strongly focus on this, and 3% should be the lower limit. NSC, D66, GroenLinks-PvdA, CDA, Volt, JA21, and ChristenUnie also aim to achieve the 3% standard. The CDA and Volt also believe that two-thirds of this investment should consist of private investment. Volt is looking to the 28th regime for this and wants a national innovation vision that aligns with European plans. The CDA wants to revise competition policy at both the EU and national levels to accelerate innovation and facilitate investment. The PVV, BBB, SP, SGP, FvD, and DENK do not mention the 3% standard in their election manifestos.

MFF: a frugal yet competitive Europe

Many of the European knowledge investments, plans, and breakthroughs must be incorporated into the new Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF). Negotiations on the MFF are underway, and the European Commission has proposed doubling the budget. The new cabinet will have to participate in the negotiations. The PVV (Party for Freedom) wants to veto the EU budget, thus securing opt-outs on migration and nitrogen emissions. The Christian Union, NSC, BBB, VVD, and JA21 also oppose the proposed MFF increase. D66, on the other hand, supports doubling the European budget. Substantively, many parties support a stronger European focus on innovation, competitiveness, and European strategic autonomy. Many parties are looking to the cohesion funds for the necessary European financial resources.

Innovation in defense

It is striking that many parties are focusing on Europe in the field of defense innovation. For example, many parties want more scope for European investments in defense and defense research in the new MFF. The VVD (People's Party for Freedom and Democracy) advocates for a European defense innovation authority, similar to the American DARPA. The

CDA (Christian Democratic Appeal) advocates for a national innovation program involving the defense sector, the private sector, and research institutions. Volt wants to develop European alternatives to American cloud, AI, and cybersecurity services to safeguard the EU's strategic autonomy. GroenLinks-PvdA (GreenLeft) and D66 (Democrats 66) also want to invest in the Netherlands' digital autonomy within the European framework.

On education there different opinions

A point of contention within the various programs remains the proportion of international students. The PVV and FvD parties support significantly restricting internationalization and want bachelor's programs to be entirely Dutch-language. The ChristenUnie, NSC, BBB, VVD, and CDA strive for a customized approach and argue that the number of international students depends on the field and region where the program is located. GroenLinks-PvdA and D66 emphasize the importance of internationalization and want to give education the freedom to make its own choices in this regard. Volt and D66 are the only parties to mention a desire to invest more in the Erasmus+ program. Volt wants more vocational students to have the opportunity for international experience through Erasmus+. D66 wants to use the program to enhance mobility among researchers.

CPB Calculations Take More Into Account the Return on Research and Innovation (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

The CPB will now place greater emphasis on the long-term consequences of choices when calculating election manifestos. Themes such as human capital, innovation, and the investment climate will receive special attention. The field has received many positive reactions to this new method, writes HOP. "Economists have known for decades that the return on education for society and for individuals is positive. But the CPB failed to demonstrate this, and that, in turn, led to underinvestment by political parties," says AWTI chair Mirjam van Praag.

Article HOP/U-Today: <https://www.utoday.nl/news/76056/nieuwe-doorrekening-is-stap-vooruit-voor-onderwijs-en-wetenschap> (in Dutch)

Advice KNAW: <https://www.knaw.nl/nieuws/waarde-van-wetenschap-kan-en-moet-meetellen-bij-evaluatie-beleid> (in Dutch)

European funding awarded for Dutch AI factory (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

EuroHPC has approved six proposals for new European AI factories, including the Dutch proposal for an AI factory in Groningen. This secures funding for the Dutch project. The total investment is €200 million, of which €70 million comes from EuroHPC, €70 million from the Dutch government, and €60 million from the Economic Agenda for Groningen and North Drenthe Nij Begun. The House of Representatives will be informed of the final plans later this year. With the new awards, the European network now totals 19 factories in 16 member states.

EuroHPC News: https://www.eurohpc-ju.europa.eu/eurohpc-ju-selects-six-additional-ai-factories-expand-europes-ai-capabilities-2025-10-10_en

TNO News: <https://www.tno.nl/nl/newsroom/2025/10/nederland-ai-fabriek-financiering/> (in Dutch)

CPB: Many parties want to invest in education and research (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

Most parties whose plans were analyzed by the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) want to invest in education and research to some extent. This is the conclusion of the CPB in its analysis of election manifestos.

"GroenLinks-PvdA, NSC, D66, and Volt are intensifying their investments in science and/or R&D. The VVD, CDA, SGP, and ChristenUnie are opting for this to a limited extent," it states. All participating parties also want to invest more in defense. According to the CPB, it is likely that some of the additional funds will be spent on R&D and innovation. HOP has published an analysis of the parties' plans for education and research.

Choices Mapped 2027–2030: <https://www.cpb.nl/publicatie/keuzes-kaart-2027-2030>

HOP/U-Today Analysis: <https://www.utoday.nl/news/76055/doorrekening-extra-geld-of-juist-bezuiniging-voor-onderwijs>

SEO: Restricting international students leads to billions in losses for society (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

A decrease in the number of international students at the five broad universities in the Randstad could have a significant negative impact on the Dutch economy. This is the conclusion of a report by SEO Economic Research, commissioned by Leiden University, Utrecht University, Erasmus University Rotterdam, the University of Amsterdam, and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Fewer international students would save the national budget, but would also lead to broader economic damage. SEO estimates that the consequences could amount to a decrease of approximately 4 to 5 billion euros in gross domestic product.

Leiden University News: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/nieuws/2025/10/miljardenverlies-samenleving-bij-inperking-internationale-studenten> (in Dutch)

SEO Publication: <https://www.universiteitleiden.nl/binaries/content/assets/algemeen/bb-scm/nieuws/seo-onderzoeksrapport-internationalisering-2025-125.pdf>

ESB: Additional financing for start-ups and scale-ups is unnecessary in the Netherlands (16 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 16 October 2025

The lack of financing is a major focus of political debate about start-ups and scale-ups, but is this the most effective way to stimulate innovation? In the economics journal ESB, Jasper van Dijk questions the necessity of a public investment bank in the Netherlands. Van Dijk points out that access to financing in the Netherlands—after Denmark—is the least frequently cited barrier to investment by entrepreneurs. According to Van Dijk, the Dutch government could better stimulate the sector through other policies, such as strengthening the ecosystem, training and attracting talent, and investing in universities and improving the valorization of their research.

ESB Publication: <https://esb.nu/extra-financiering-voor-start-en-scale-ups-is-niet-nodig-in-nederland/> (in Dutch)

What are the plans of political parties regarding science, technology, and innovation? (9 October 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 9 October 2025

Several analyses have recently been published detailing the content of political parties' election manifestos regarding science, technology, and innovation. The Netherlands Technology Trends Foundation (Stichting Toekomstbeeld der Techniek) has launched the third edition of the Technology Voter Guide. In an article, HOP compares the similarities and differences in higher education and research. In early September, TNO launched the second edition of the Innovation Monitor. TNO concludes that, compared to two years ago, the programs pay more explicit attention to innovation and earning potential, but that much remains unclear about exactly how much funding has been allocated for innovation. Tomorrow, the Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis (CPB) will present the analysis of the election manifestos.

Technology Voter Guide: <https://stt.nl/nl/over-stt/nieuws/technologie-kieswijzer-2025> (in Dutch)

Article: HOP/U-Today: <https://www.utoday.nl/news/76020/verkiezingen-wat-zeggen-partijen-over-hoger-onderwijs-en-onderzoek> (in Dutch)

Innovation Monitor: TNO: <https://www.tno.nl/nl/over-tno/maatschappij/innovatiemonitor/> (in Dutch)

News item: TNO: <https://www.tno.nl/nl/newsroom/2025/09/tno-innovatiemonitor-2025-innovatie/> (in Dutch)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 20 Oktober 2025

Call identifier	Deadline
Pillar I Excellent Science	
ERC	
HORIZON-ERC-2026-CoG https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERC-2026-COG	13 January 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Consolidator Grant</i>)
HORIZON-ERC-2026-SyG https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERC-2026-SyG	5 November 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Synergy Grant</i>)
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions	
HORIZON-MSCA-2025-DN-01 - Doctoral networks - Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates - TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates	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>)
Research Infrastructures	
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 (CLOSED) (First Stage), 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-STAYHLTH single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-STAYHLTH	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time

Destination - Living and working in a health-promoting environment	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-ENVHLTH-two-stage	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage)
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-ENVHLTH single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-ENVHLTH single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time
Destination– Destination - Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-DISEASE-02-two-stage	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-DISEASE two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
Destination - Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare	
Destination - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-TOOL single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-03-TOOL single stage	Foreseen opening: 3 June 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-TOOL-01-two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Cluster 2 Culture Creativity and Inclusive Society</u>	
<u>Cluster 4 Digital - Industry - Space</u>	
Destination 1: CLIMATE NEUTRAL, CIRCULAR AND DIGITISED PRODUCTION	

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-CL5-2026-07-D1	Foreseen opening: 18 December 2025 and foreseen Deadline(s): 15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2026-08-Two-Stage-D1-06:	Foreseen opening: 18 December 2025 and foreseen Deadline(s): 15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (first stage) and 8 October 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL5-2027-01-D1	Foreseen opening: 17 November 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 4 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time
Destination - Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition	

HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2	Foreseen opening: 18 December 2025 and foreseen Deadline(s): 31 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2026-09-D2	Foreseen opening: 5 May 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 15 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D2	Foreseen opening: 3 December 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 31 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2027-04-Two-Stage-D2	Foreseen opening: 15 December 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 14 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (first stage) and 7 October 2027 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
Destination: Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3	Foreseen opening: 18 December 2025 and foreseen Deadline(s): 31 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time (first stage) and 20 October 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL5-2026-11-D3	Foreseen opening: 4 August 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 1 December 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2026-04-Two-Stage-D3-02	Foreseen opening: 18 December 2025 and foreseen Deadline(s): 31 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D4	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) Deadline(s) 20 January 2026 17.00 Brussels time
Destination: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-05-D5-01	Foreseen opening: 18 December 2025 Deadline(s) 14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
Destination: Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) 20 January 2026 17.00 Brussels time
CLUSTER 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment	
Destination 1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV single stage	Foreseen opening: 17 April 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 17 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV two-stage	Foreseen opening: 12 February 2026; Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time

Destination 2: Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-FARM2FORK-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK single stage	Foreseen opening: 14 January 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK two-stage	Foreseen opening: 12 February 2026; Deadline(s): 14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 15 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK two-stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2027; Deadline(s): 8 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
Destination 3: Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CIRCBIO single stage	Foreseen opening: 17 April 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 17 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-CIRCBIO two-stage	Foreseen opening: 12 February 2026; Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CIRCBIO single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CIRCBIO two-stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2027; Deadline(s): 8 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 16 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
Destination 4 – Clean environment and zero pollution	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-ZEROPOLLUTION single stage	Foreseen opening: 17 April 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 17 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-ZEROPOLLUTION two-stage	Foreseen opening: 12 February 2026; Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-ZEROPOLLUTION single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 5 - Land, ocean and water for climate action	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-CLIMATE-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-CLIMATE single stage	Foreseen opening: 14 January 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CLIMATE single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time

HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-01-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2027; Deadline(s): 8 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-COMMUNITIES single stage	Foreseen opening: 14 January 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-COMMUNITIES single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 7 – Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE single stage	Foreseen opening: 14 January 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-04-GOVERNANCE-01: Additional activities for the European Partnership of Agriculture of Data	Foreseen opening: 25 August and foreseen Deadline(s): 26 November 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE two-stage	Foreseen opening: 12 February 2026; Deadline(s): 15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 30 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-03-GOVERNANCE single stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 11 May 2027 17.00 Brussels time
Circular Biobased Europe	
CBE Circular Biobased Europe partnership https://www.cbe.europa.eu/	
Pillar III Innovative Europe	
EIC-Pathfinder-Challenges	29 October 2025 17.00 Brussels time
EIC Transition-2025	
EIC-Accelerator-2025	1 October 2025 17.00 Brussels time

Mission calls 2026-2026	
CLIMATE MISSION	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-01-CLIMA single stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-01-CLIMA single stage	Foreseen opening: 9 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 21 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
CANCER MISSION	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 December 2025 and foreseen Deadline(s): 15 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-02-CANCER single stage	Foreseen opening: 9 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 21 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2026-03-OCEAN single stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-03-OCEAN single stage	Foreseen opening: 9 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 21 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
CITIES MISSION	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-04-CIT single stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 8 October 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-04-CIT single stage	Foreseen opening: 9 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 7 October 2027 17.00 Brussels time
SOIL MISSION	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 9 December 2025; Deadline(s): 14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 15 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL single stage	Foreseen opening: 9 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-05-SOIL-two-stage:	Foreseen opening: 10 November 2025; Deadline(s): 15 February 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
JOINT MISSION CALLS	
HORIZON-MISS-2026-06-CLIMA-SOIL joint call SOIL and CLIMATE missions	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time

HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-SOIL-CANCER Joint call SOIL and CANCER mission	Foreseen opening: 9 December 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 21 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-07-CLIMA-CIT-NEB Joint Call between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	Foreseen opening: 9 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
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 20 October 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/	<p>A two-step application procedure will apply, with a mandatory submission of pre-proposals at the first step and submission of full proposals at the second step, via the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Launch of the call: Tuesday 9 September 2025 • Deadline for pre-proposals submission (mandatory): Friday 7 November 2025, 12:00 CET • Results of the evaluation of the first step: mid-February 2026 • Deadline for full-proposals submission: Tuesday 14 of April 2026, 12:00 CEST • Recommendations for funding: late September 2026 • Start of the projects: between 1st of December 2026 and 1st of April 2027 <p>https://www.biodiversa.eu/2025/09/09/2025-2026-joint-call/</p>
European Partnership Water4All https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/	<p>Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/28-million-available-for-research-into-the-interaction-between-water-and-health and https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2025-joint-transnational-call</p> <p>Tentative timeline Call opening: 12 September 2025 Submission deadline of preproposals: 13 November 2025, 15:00 CET Selection of preproposals: End of February 2026 Submission deadline of full proposals: 13 April 2026, 15:00 CEST Selection of funded proposals: September 2026 Projects start: End 2026/beginning 2027</p>

	Kick-off meeting of the funded projects: Spring 2027
European Partnership FutureFoods https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/	<p>NEW: FutureFoodS hereby pre-announces the 2nd co-funded call for transnational research projects https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/news/pre-announcement and https://futurefoods.ptj.de.</p> <p>The call will follow a two-step procedure with the following important steps:]Call launch: Second half of November 2025 Deadline for pre-proposal submission: ~ end of January 2026 Deadline for full-proposal submission: ~ beginning of July 2026 (only by invitation)</p>
European Partnership Agroecology https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/	
European partnership Sustainable Blue Economy https://bluepartnership.eu/	<p>Third Joint Transnational Call for R&I Funding Call launch (provisional): 15 September 2025, 15:00 CEST Deadline submission Pre-proposals 17 November 2025 Deadline submission Full proposals 17 June 2026</p>  <p>https://www.bluepartnership.eu/funding-opportunity/sustainable-blue-economy-partnerships-third-joint-transnational-call and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/international-programmes/european-partnerships/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-sbep</p>
European Partnership Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future (DUT) https://dutpartnership.eu/	<p>Pre-announcement: European funding opportunity for sustainable urban transitions https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/pre-announcement-european-funding-opportunity-for-sustainable-urban-transitions-0</p> <p>Foreseen timeline and information day The foreseen timeline for this call is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 September 2025: stage 1 opening • 9 September 2025: transnational info webinar (online) • 17 November 2025: stage 1 closing (Pre-Proposal submission deadline) • 20 February 2026: stage 2 opening • 23 April 2026: stage 2 closing (Full Proposal submission deadline) • Summer of 2026: decision-making <p>On 9 September 2025 (10:00–13:00) , DUT will host an online information meeting for those who are interested. More information and registration can be found here https://dutpartnership.eu/dut-call-2025-info-day/. NWO and SIA representatives will be available for your questions during a break-out session for The Netherlands.</p>
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/
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Other international calls

This list is a SELECTION of other international calls. The list was compiled on **20 October 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
30-10-2025	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 ?
07-11-2025	Deadline for submission pre-proposals Biodiversity+ 2025-2026 Joint Call Restoration of ecosystem functioning, integrity, and connectivity. Deadline for pre-proposals submission (mandatory): Friday 7 November 2025, 12:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/international-programmes/european-partnerships/rescuing-biodiversity-to-safeguard-life-on-earth and https://www.biodiversa.eu/2025/09/09/2025-2026-joint-call/
13-11-2025	Deadline submission pre-proposals Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call. Submission deadline of pre-proposals: 13 November 2025, 15:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/28-million-available-for-research-into-the-interaction-between-water-and-health and https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2025-joint-transnational-call
17-11-2025	Deadline submission pre-proposals Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership third Joint Transnational Call, “Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems, Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy’s Competitiveness. Pre-proposal submission deadline: 17 November 2025, 15:00 CET (Brussels Time). https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/international-programmes/european-partnerships/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-sbep and https://bluepartnership.eu/ and https://bluepartnership.eu/news/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-launches-its-3rd-joint-transnational-call
24-02-2026	Deadline for submission Full-Proposals for PhD Scholarships for Caribbean Researchers. The deadline for submitting full applications is 24 February 2026, before 17:00:00 AST/12:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/phd-scholarships-for-caribbean-researchers-now-open-for-applications and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/caribbean-research-phd-scholarships-2025
01-12-2025 until 24 February 2026	Foreseen deadline for submission proposals for Weave with NWO as partner agency 2025/2026; NWO acts as partner agency when a Weave-proposal with Dutch co-applicant is submitted to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR) or the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO). You can submit your proposal for ENW -M-1 WEAVE proposal with FWO as partner agency at any moment from 1 December 2025 to 24 February 2026 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/weave-with-nwo-as-partner-agency-2025/2026 and

	https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20proposals%20OC%20ENW-M%20ronde%2025-26_EN%20%282%29.pdf
07-12-2025 until 31-07-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission proposals for Weave with NWO as partner agency 2025/2026; NWO acts as partner agency when a Weave-proposal with Dutch co-applicant is submitted to the <u>Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)</u>, <u>Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR)</u> or the <u>Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)</u>. You can submit your proposal at any moment from 7 August 2025 up to and including 31 July 2026, 14:00:00 CEST, with the exception of ENW-M-1-Weave proposals with FWO as partner agency, which may be submitted from 1 December 2025 to 24 February 2026 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/weave-with-nwo-as-partner-agency-2025/2026 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20proposals%20OC%20ENW-M%20ronde%2025-26_EN%20%282%29.pdf
12-01-2026	Foreseen deadline for full applications for call Biodiversity and agriculture in balance; this Call for proposals is a collaboration between NWO and the Brazilian science council CNPq. Deadline 12 January 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/biodiversity-and-agriculture-in-balance
20-01-2026	Deadline for applications NL-CGIAR Senior Expert Programme (SEP) II – round 2. The deadline for submitting full proposals is 20 January 2026, before 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-for-senior-experts-transformation-of-global-food-land-and-water-systems and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_sep_ii_-_round_2.pdf
14-04-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals Biodiversity+ 2025-2026 Joint Call Restoration of ecosystem functioning, integrity, and connectivity. Submission deadline of full proposals: 13 April 2026, 15:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/international-programmes/european-partnerships/rescuing-biodiversity-to-safeguard-life-on-earth and https://www.biodiversa.eu/2025/09/09/2025-2026-joint-call/
17-06-2025	Deadline submission Full proposals Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership third Joint Transnational Call, “Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems, Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy’s Competitiveness. Full proposal submission deadline (Provisional): 17/06/2026, 15:00 CEST (Brussels Time). https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/international-programmes/european-partnerships/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-sbep and https://bluepartnership.eu/ and https://bluepartnership.eu/news/sustainable-blue-economy-partnership-launches-its-3rd-joint-transnational-call

National calls

This list is a selection of open national calls. The list was compiled on **20 October 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

04-11-2025	Deadline for submission Pre proposals NWO Talent Programme Vidi 2025. The deadline for submitting preproposals is 4 november 2025, before 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/vidi-round-2025-now-open-for-pre-proposals and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwo-talent-programme-vidi-health-research-and-development-zonmw-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Vidi%202025_EN.pdf
11-11-2025	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
11-11-2025	Deadline for submission Full proposals for NWO- KIC call Consumer behaviour for a circular system transition. The deadline for proposals is November 11th, 2025, before 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-consumer-behaviour-for-a-circular-system-transition and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20KIC%20Consumer%20Behaviour.pdf
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	Deadline for submission of Full applications Call Cellular Agriculture - towards larger scale and lower cost . Deadline for submitting proposals: 13 November 2025, by 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-cellular-agriculture-towards-larger-scale-and-lower-costs and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/cellular-agriculture-towards-larger-scale-and-lower-costs and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NGF%20CA%20Call%20for%20Proposals%20EN.pdf
25-11-2025	Deadline for submission Pre-proposals for Perspectief round 2025-2026 . The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is Tuesday 25 November 2025, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/new-round-of-perspectief-now-open-for-joint-research-proposals-on-technological-innovation and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/perspectief-round-2025-2026 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Perspectief%202025-2026_EN.pdf
30-11-2025	NEW: Deadline for submission of pre-application Biotech Booster Program 2026 . The deadline for the (mandatory) pre-application is 30th November . https://www.biotechbooster.nl/2026round/ and https://www.biotechbooster.nl/2026round/#GI-infosessions and https://www.biotechbooster.nl/wp-content/uploads/Example-pre-application-form.pdf
02-12-2025	Deadline for Full applications call KIC Reducing health inequalities - technology for people in a lower social economic position . Closing date full application 2 December 2025 14:00 hrs . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-reducing-health-inequalities-technology-for-people-in-a-lower-socioeconomic-position and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals_Reducing%20health%20inequalities_ENG_finaal_1.pdf
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
02-12-2025	Foreseen Deadline for submission of letter of intent for Research Infrastructure (RI): national consortia 2025-2026 . Closing date for letter of intent 2 December 2025 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.): this Call is coordinated for WUR by CVI Mascha Rasenberg . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/research-infrastructure-ri-national-consortia-2025-2026
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
20-01-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission Full proposals SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 1 . Closing date full application Round 1: 20 January 2026, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2026-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_sgw_oc_xs_2026.pdf
20-01-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission full proposals Doctoral Grant for Teachers, 1st round 2026 . The deadline for the submission of proposals is Tuesday 20 January 2026, 14:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/want-to-pursue-a-phd-alongside-your-teaching-career-apply-for-the-doctoral-grant-for-teachers and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/doctoral-grant-for-teachers-1st-round-2026 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call-for-Proposals-Doctorate-grant-for-teachers-2026-1.pdf
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
27-01-2026	Deadline submission for Full applications for Veni round 2025 . The deadline for submitting full applications is 27 January 2026, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/veni-round-2025-now-open-for-pre-proposals and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/nwo-talent-programme
27-01-2026	Deadline submission of Full Proposals for NWA call Opportunities and value chains for side streams in the protein transition . The deadline for submitting full proposals is Tuesday

	27 January 2026, before 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-opportunities-and-value-chains-for-residual-flows-in-the-protein-transition and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-opportunities-and-value-chains-for-side-streams-in-the-protein-transition and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/NWA%20Eiwittransitie%20call%20EN%20DEF.pdf
29-01-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals for NWA programme Knowledge about unprotected species for sustainable fisheries policy . The deadline for submitting proposals is Thursday, 29 January 2026, before 14:00:00 CET : Note PJ : The application procedure for this call consists of two phases: participating in collaborative workshops and submitting a proposal; NWO is organising two consecutive collaborative workshops on 8 and 29 October 2025 . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-knowledge-about-unprotected-species-for-sustainable-fisheries-policy and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/nwa-knowledge-about-unprotected-species-for-sustainable-fisheries-policy
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	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
03-02-2026	Deadline submission full proposals for SSH Open Competition L 2025 . The full proposal deadline is 3 February 2026, at 14:00:00 CET : The dates of the collaborative workshops are 23 September 2025 and 7 October 2025 . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-l-2025 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20SSH%20OC%20L%202025%20EN.pdf
03-02-2026	NEW : Deadline for submission pre-applications NWA Call 'Municipal policy for biodiversity restoration' . The deadline for submitting pre-applications is Tuesday, 3 February 2026, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-municipal-policy-for-biodiversity-restoration and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/municipal-policy-for-biodiversity-restoration
10-02-2026	Deadline for submission full proposals NWO-NWA Call Future proof large rivers in the Netherlands . Deadline proposals: 10 February 2026, 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwa-call-future-proof-large-rivers-in-the-netherlands-open-for-applications and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/future-proof-large-rivers-in-the-netherlands and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20NWA%20Rivieren_ENG_def.pdf
10-02-2025	Deadline submission of Full applications for KIC Medicines from medicines - knowledge development for circular redesign of the pharmaceutical supply chain . The foreseen deadline for submission of full applications is 10 February, 2026, by 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-medicines-from-medicines-knowledge-development-for-circular-redesign-of-the-pharmaceutical-supplychain
12-02-2026	Deadline for Full applications NWO KIC Call Biochemical diversity . Closing date full application 12 February 2026 14:00 hrs . https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-biochemical-diversity and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/KIC%20Biochem%20div_Call%20for%20proposals_EN.pdf
24-02-2026	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
10-03-2026	Deadline for submission of pre-proposals for KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia – XL The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is Tuesday 10 March 2026, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/funding-available-for-large-public-private-consortia-focused-on-societal-challenges and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-demand-driven-research-by-consortia-xl and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/KIC%20V4C-XL_CfP_EN.pdf
24-03-2026	Foreseen Deadline for submission of letter of intent for Research Infrastructure (RI): national consortia 2025-2026 . Closing date full application

	24 March 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.): this call is coordinated for WUR by CVI Mascha Rasenberg. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/research-infrastructure-ri-national-consortia-2025-2026
24-03-2026	Foreseen deadline for Full proposals Rubican call 1 2026 . Closing date full application 24 March 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/rubicon-2026-1
31-03-2026	Deadline for submission of nominations for new NWO Tulip Fund for top international scientists . The deadline for submitting nominations is provisionally set at 31 March 2026, 14:00:00 CEST. Submissions are accepted continuously. Note PJ: Nominations for WUR will be done by RvB, max 2 nominations per University, NOW institute, KNAW institute and Medical Academic Centre . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/tulip-fund-opens-for-top-international-scientists and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/tulip-fund and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Tulp%20Fonds_EN%20%282%29.pdf
07-04-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission Full proposals SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 2 . Closing date full application Round 2: 7 April 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2026-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_sgw_oc_xs_2026.pdf
09-04-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals NWO Talent Programme Vidi 2025 . The deadline for submitting full proposals is 9 April 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/vidi-round-2025-now-open-for-pre-proposals and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Vidi%202025_EN.pdf
14-04-2026	Foreseen deadline Full proposals NWO-KIC call Fewer critical raw materials in the energy transition . Closing date full application 14 April 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/fewer-critical-raw-materials-in-the-energy-transition and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/knowledge-and-innovation-covenant
14-04-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission of full proposals KIC Digital Twinning: multidisciplinary simulation for deep and actual insights . Closing date full application 14 April 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-digital-twinning-multidisciplinary-simulation-for-deep-and-actual-insights
19-05-2026	Deadline for submission Full applications for Perspectief round 2025-2026 . The deadline for submitting proposals is Tuesday 19 May 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/new-round-of-perspectief-now-open-for-joint-research-proposals-on-technological-innovation and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/perspectief-round-2025-2026 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Perspectief%202025-2026_EN.pdf
02-06-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission Full proposals for KIC Adaptability in transitions . Foreseen closing date full application 2 June 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-adaptability-in-transitions
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
15-09-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission Full proposals SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 3 . Round 3: 15 September 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/ssh-open-competition-xs-2026-round-1 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/call_for_proposals_sgw_oc_xs_2026.pdf
16-06-2026	Foreseen deadline for Full proposals KIC - Early detection and impact forecasting of (threatening) infectious diseases outbreaks . Closing date full application 16 June 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-early-detection-and-impact-forecasting-of-threatening-infectious-diseases-outbreaks
29-09-2026	Foreseen Deadline for submission Full proposals KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food . Closing date full application 29 September 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-ai-for-agriculture-horticulture-water-and-food
12-11-2026	Deadline for submission of Full-proposals for KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia – XL The deadline for submitting full proposals is Thursday 12 November 2026, before 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/funding-available-for-large-public-private-consortia-focused-on-societal-challenges and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-demand-driven-research-by-consortia-xl and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/KIC%20V4C-XL_CfP_EN.pdf
30-11-2026	Foreseen deadline for full proposals call NWA programme Knowledge about unprotected species for sustainable fisheries policy . Closing date full application 30 November 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/knowledge-about-unprotected-species-for-sustainable-fisheries-policy

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
28-02-2027	Foreseen deadline for full applications Large Scale Research Infrastructure (LSRI) - National Roadmap consortia 2026. Closing date full application 28 February 2027 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/large-scale-research-infrastructure-lsri-national-roadmap-consortia-2026
02-03-2027	Deadline for submission full applications NWA Call 'Municipal policy for biodiversity restoration'. The deadline for submitting applications is Tuesday, 2 March 2027, before 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-municipal-policy-for-biodiversity-restoration and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/municipal-policy-for-biodiversity-restoration

Regional calls

This list is a selection of regional calls. The list was compiled on **20 October 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.
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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