



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 437_18 December 2025

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

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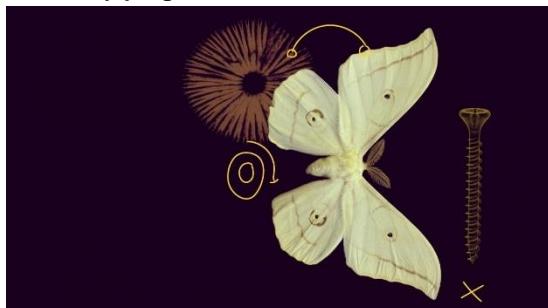
Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe

MSCA opens €105.5 million call to co-fund doctoral and postdoctoral programmes (16 December 2025)

Source: [Website EC MSCA MSCA opens €105.5 million call to co-fund doctoral and postdoctoral programmes | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

COFUND gives organisations a unique opportunity to attract talent through their own doctoral and postdoctoral fellowship programmes.



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) 2026 call for co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND) is open as of 16 December 2025. The deadline for submission of proposals is **8 April 2026**. Under this call, the European Commission will award **€105.5 million** to support institutional, regional, national and international training and career development programmes for researchers.

COFUND allows organisations to create new or strengthen existing doctoral and postdoctoral programmes, with the goal of recruiting researchers and attracting international talent, by co-funding a significant part of their cost. Organisations benefitting from such funding need to top it up with their own sources. Synergies with cohesion policy funds are strongly encouraged.

Forms of COFUND projects

Doctoral Programmes

- offering doctoral candidates research training activities to develop and broaden their skills and competences
- leading to the award of a doctoral degree

Postdoctoral Programmes

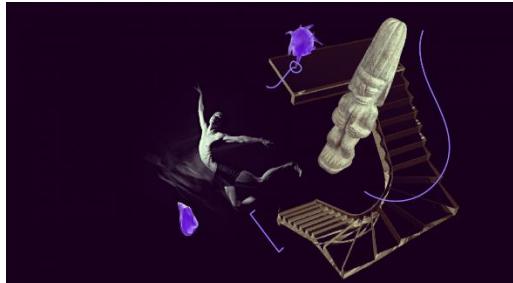
- funding individual advanced research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers

Proposed programmes can cover any research disciplines (“bottom-up”), but can also focus on specific disciplines, notably when they are based on national or regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation (RIS3 strategies).

For more information: [MSCA opens €105.5 million call to co-fund doctoral and postdoctoral programmes | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

MSCA opens €97.9 million call for Staff Exchanges (16 December 2026)

Source: Website MSCA [MSCA opens €97.9 million call for Staff Exchanges | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)
The action offers a unique opportunity to promote the transfer of knowledge and innovation through international research collaborations.



The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Staff Exchanges 2026 call is open as of 16 December 2025. The deadline to submit proposals is **16 April 2026**.

Under this call, the European Commission will award **€97.9 million** to promote international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary collaboration in research and innovation by enabling staff exchanges and the sharing of knowledge across all stages of the innovation chain.

Staff secondments

Secondments are at the core of MSCA Staff Exchanges, serving as the key method to foster cooperation among the participating organisations.

Through these exchanges, projects have the opportunity to exchange and train not only researchers and innovators but also the administrative, technical, and managerial personnel who support research activities.

Staff members spend periods of up to 12 months working abroad to acquire new skills, broaden their professional networks, share expertise, and contribute to advancing cutting-edge research. As a result, secondments help build enduring international partnerships and strengthen the overall research ecosystem.

After their secondment, staff must return to their sending institution to maximise knowledge transfer and support long-term collaboration.

The project should inter alia enable networking activities and the organisation of workshops and conferences, to facilitate sharing of knowledge and testing of innovative approaches for specific R&I topics.

For more information: [MSCA opens €97.9 million call for Staff Exchanges | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

MSCA announce €1.25 billion to support cutting-edge research and a second 'Choose Europe for Science' call (12 December 2025)

Source: Website EC MSCA [MSCA announce €1.25 billion to support cutting-edge research and a second 'Choose Europe for Science' call | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

In 2026, the year of its 30th anniversary, the MSCA will continue to support doctoral and postdoctoral training, collaborative research and innovation, and public engagement with science through a new set of calls. The programme will also build on recent policy priorities to further strengthen research careers across Europe.



The European Commission has announced new calls under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) as part of the [MSCA 2026-2027 Work Programme \(pdf\)](#).

In 2026, the MSCA will provide organisations and researchers with over €1.25 billion to fund cutting-edge research through excellent doctoral and postdoctoral programmes, collaborative research and innovation projects and research fellowships.

Through its different actions, MSCA promotes high standards in doctoral and postdoctoral training, encourages cooperation between academia and other sectors, and supports strong links between Europe and the rest of the world. MSCA will continue to support researchers at all stages of their careers and across all scientific disciplines, in Europe and beyond. These efforts help organisations enhance their research capacity while offering researchers clear professional development pathways.

The calls are included in the [Horizon Europe 2026-2027 Work Programme](#) (pdf) which was adopted earlier this week.

Second MSCA 'Choose Europe for Science' call

Following the 2025 pilot action, the MSCA will run a second [Choose Europe for Science](#) call in 2026 with a reinforced budget of **€51.25 million**. The MSCA Choose Europe for Science scheme aims to **increase the attractiveness** of European research careers by addressing precarity and offering excellent working conditions, turning the current challenge of brain drain in the R&I sector into brain gain.

Long-term perspectives

Choose Europe for Science will support projects in which academic and non-academic organisations recruit postdoctoral researchers with a vision to employment beyond the project period. The main novelty of the initiative is that organisations will also be selected based on their offers of longer-term professional perspectives.

Application dates

The second Choose Europe for Science call will open on 8 December 2026 and close on 6 April 2027. Potential applicants can look out for relevant info sessions in the lead up to the call.

2026 timeline for all calls

This year's funding round will begin with the opening of two calls on 16 December 2025, followed by several more throughout 2026.

COFUND

When to apply: 16 December 2025 - 8 April 2026

[COFUND](#) helps organisations create or enhance their own doctoral training and postdoctoral fellowship programmes, through co-funding, with the goal of attracting and recruiting talented researchers, developing their skills and advancing their careers. Institutions benefiting from this action need to top up the MSCA contribution with their own funding sources.

The Commission co-funds a significant share of these programme's costs, which recipient institutions need to top up with their own funding sources. This scheme spreads the MSCA's best practices by promoting high standards and excellent working conditions.

The [2026 COFUND call](#) has a budget of €105.46 million.

Interested in applying? Get ready with our [COFUND 6 steps to apply guide](#).

Staff Exchanges

When to apply: 16 December 2025 – 16 April 2026

[Staff Exchanges](#) fund R&I collaborative projects, foster international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary exchanges and knowledge sharing at all stages of the innovation chain. The scheme helps participating organisations turn ideas into innovative products, services or processes.

The [2026 Staff Exchanges call](#) has a budget of €97.92 million.

Interested in applying? Then get ready with our [Staff Exchanges 6 steps to apply guide](#).

Postdoctoral Fellowships

When to apply: 9 April 2026 – 9 September 2026

[Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) support researchers holding a PhD to carry out their research activities abroad, acquire new skills and international, interdisciplinary, and inter-sectoral experience to advance their careers.

These prestigious fellowships are a stepping stone in researchers' careers, allowing them to carry out cutting-edge research and to cooperate with leading scientific teams and figures.

The 2026 Postdoctoral Fellowships call has a budget of €399.05 million.

Interested in applying? Get ready with our [Postdoctoral Fellowships 6 steps to apply guide](#).

Doctoral Networks

When to apply: 28 May 2026 - 24 November 2026

[Doctoral Networks](#) recruit and train doctoral candidates in academia and other sectors, including industry, businesses, and public administrations. The scheme also includes specialised Joint Doctorates Networks and Industrial Doctorates Networks.

The 2026 Doctoral Networks call will have a budget of €593.03 million.

Interested in applying? Get ready ahead with our [Doctoral Networks 6 steps to apply guide](#).

Horizon Europe Workprogrammes 2026-2027 published: Commission invests €14 billion through Horizon Europe to boost global research and innovation leadership (11 December 2025)

Source: Website EC Press corner [Commission invests €14 billion through Horizon Europe to boost global research and innovation](#)

Today, the European Commission adopted the main Horizon Europe work programme for 2026-2027, a €14 billion investment designed to drive research and innovation (R&I) across the EU's strategic goals. These goals include achieving climate neutrality, boosting the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in research and innovation, and ensuring resilience in a rapidly changing world.

To achieve this, the programme introduces new cross-disciplinary calls and topics that will boost decarbonisation and the use of AI in research. It also expands the '[Choose Europe](#)' initiative to attract global talent and makes applying for Horizon Europe funding and participation simpler.

New approach to tackling cross-cutting challenges

A major novelty of the work programme 2026-2027 are **horizontal calls**, which address cross-cutting challenges across different research and innovation areas.

One such call, R&I in **support of the Clean Industrial Deal**, allocates **€540 million** to accelerate the market deployment of cutting-edge clean technologies and decarbonised industry solutions. It adopts a bottom-up, industry-led approach, focusing on decarbonisation of energy-intensive industries and clean technologies for climate action. The call on **AI in science**, with a budget of **€90 million**, supports trustworthy AI applications in sectors such as advanced materials, agriculture and healthcare. It contributes to the [Resource for AI Science in Europe](#) initiative, aligns with Europe's digital transition goals and strengthens the continent's leadership in safe, ethical AI development. The [New European Bauhaus Facility](#) will allocate over €210 million in 2026-2027 to revitalise neighbourhoods through design for sustainability and inclusion.

Attracting and supporting talent

The [Choose Europe](#) initiative, designed to attract global talent, is a key feature of this work programme. It allocates €50 million to the [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#) for long-term fellowships, postdoctoral stability and relocation incentives, ensuring researchers can pursue impactful careers in Europe. The programme invests €50 million in Research Infrastructures to improve transnational access and training, while the European Research Area Chairs component provides €240 million to attract top scientists to underperforming regions. The [European Innovation Ecosystems](#) part supports startups and scaleups through initiatives like the European Startup and Scaleup Hubs, which create a transnational network of innovation hubs rooted in research and higher education systems. This work programme will also ensure continued access to critical research infrastructure and data.

Simpler and more accessible work programme

Responding to feedback from the research and innovation community, major simplification measures will reduce administrative burden on applicants and facilitate participation. The work programme is less prescriptive and 33% shorter than the 2023–2024 edition. It focuses on fewer, larger projects to maximise impact.

Key **simplification** measures include lump-sum funding for half of the calls, which reduces administrative burden for participants. The programme features newcomer-friendly and small and medium-sized enterprises-focused topics to lower barriers for new applicants and small enterprises. Additionally, 41 call topics will use a two-stage evaluation process, allowing applicants to submit a short proposal first, with full proposals requested only if successful. This approach, combined with anonymised evaluations in certain cases and streamlined proposal templates, aims to reduce bias and shorten the time to grant.

Background

Horizon Europe is the EU's €93.5 billion research and innovation programme running from 2021 to 2027. Most funding is allocated through competitive calls for proposals, set out in work programmes, which outline the objectives and specific topic areas. The work programme also includes rules such as the standard admissibility conditions and eligibility, selection and award criteria.

The Horizon Europe work programme 2026-2027 is based on Horizon Europe's strategic plan 2025-2027, adopted in March 2024, co-created by Commission services and co-designed with Member States, countries associated to Horizon Europe, the European Parliament and more than 2000 stakeholders and citizens. This is the last work programme in the programming period 2021-2027.

All the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027 can be found here: [Horizon Europe work programmes - Research and innovation](#)

Commission releases Horizon Europe final work programmes for 2026-27 (11 December 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business [Commission releases Horizon Europe final work programmes for 2026-27 | Science|Business](#)

The EU will spend €14 billion on research and innovation calls, which promise to be less prescriptive and broader in scope



Photo credits: tashatuvango / BigStock

The European Commission has released its plans for funding research and innovation in the next two years of the current Horizon Europe programme, 2026-27.

This is the culmination of a months-long drafting process, which this year the Commission [made public](#) for the first time by sharing draft versions of the plans on its comitology website.

The newly released package of funding calls [Horizon Europe work programmes - Research and innovation](#) is spread through 13 work programmes, each outlining the plans for a specific Horizon Europe funding instrument or priority, and two documents introducing the rules and general priorities.

Simpler management

The Commission promises this next batch of funding calls and projects will be easier to manage than before. In recent years, researchers have been increasingly complaining about the programme's overly complex rules and lengthy application processes.

To reduce the burden, the call topics are now less prescriptive, reducing the length of the entire work programme by 33%. The topics now also call for fewer but larger projects, which the Commission hopes will maximise impact.

The Commission also suggests the wider rollout of lump sum funding for half of all the calls will reduce the paperwork by lifting the projects' financial reporting requirements. However, not everyone will welcome this move, as bigger organisations still prefer "[proven and safe](#)" accounting paperwork.

Finally, more calls than ever, 41 in total, will have a two-stage application process, with the applicants asked to first submit a short proposal before the most promising ones are asked to present a full application. The Commission hopes this approach, combined with anonymised evaluations in some calls, will help reduce bias and shorten the time it takes to get a grant.

"We have listened to researchers and innovators and made Horizon Europe simpler and more accessible to SMEs, start-ups and newcomers," EU research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva said.

Horizontal topics and other novelties

The biggest novelty this year will be the introduction of horizontal calls for tackling cross-cutting innovation challenges. The calls, outlined in a new, separate work programme, will cover two topics.

The first one is the Clean Industrial Deal, the EU's plan for boosting its competitiveness through clean technology innovation. Horizon Europe will [inject](#) €540 million into projects accelerating technology deployment for decarbonising energy-intensive industries and climate action.

The other €90 million horizontal call will [invest](#) €90 million in AI in science, supporting trustworthy AI applications in sectors such as advanced materials, agriculture and healthcare.

In addition to introducing horizontal calls, the work programmes also include [new measures](#) for making the programme more attractive to newcomers, such as new "fast track to research and innovation" calls for maturing new technologies and concepts, focused on small companies.

Another key feature is the plan [to launch](#) a €51.25 million Choose Europe call in 2027, building on the ongoing a €22.5 million pilot. The initiative's original aim was to tackle brain drain and the precarity of research careers by co-funding the recruitment of postdoctoral researchers for up to five years. But Choose Europe is now also one of the EU's newest tools for attracting more global talent to EU research institutions, alongside the [seven-year €7 million](#) European Research Council super-grants for frontier research, to be introduced in 2026.

EIT launches new call for promoting innovation in STEM (11 December 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > EIT lanceert nieuwe call voor bevorderen innovatie in STEM](#) and website [EIT EIT Launches €70 Million Call to Boost STEM Innovation and Strengthen University Cooperation | EIT](#)

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has opened a call for proposals for the Higher Education Initiative (HEI). The EIT has made €70 million available to higher education institutions, businesses, research organizations, and public institutions. Each project can apply for a maximum of €2 million. The call aims to strengthen Europe's innovation and entrepreneurial capacity in STEM. Applications are open until 5:00 PM on March 4th.



EIT makes €70 million available in new call

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) has opened a call for the Higher Education Initiative (HEI). The EIT has made €70 million available to higher education institutions, companies, research organizations, and public institutions. Each project can apply for a maximum of €2 million. The call aims to promote STEM education, strengthen innovation capacity, and support the future workforce. The HEI is the only EU program focused on innovation in higher education. By 2028, the HEI aims to train 200,000 students, academics, and non-academic staff in innovation, entrepreneurship, and intellectual property management. Applications are open until 5:00 PM on March 4.

The ERC selects 349 mid-career researchers for €728 million in Consolidator Grants (9 December 2025)

Source: Website ERC [The ERC selects 349 mid-career researchers for €728 million in Consolidator Grants|ERC](#)

The European Research Council (ERC) has selected 349 mid-career researchers to receive this year's Consolidator Grants. With funding from the EU's Horizon Europe programme, these grants will support cutting-edge research at universities and research centres in 25 EU Member States and associated countries.



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

'Congratulations to all the researchers on winning the ERC grants. The record budget of 728 million euro invested to support these scientific projects shows the EU is serious about making the continent attractive for excellent researchers.'

President of the European Research Council, Prof. **Maria Leptin**, said:

'To see all this talent with groundbreaking ideas, based in Europe, is truly inspiring. This bold research may well lead to new industries, improve lives and strengthen Europe's global standing. This was one of the most competitive ERC calls ever, with record demand and also many excellent projects left unfunded. It is yet another reminder of how urgent the call for increased EU investment in frontier research has become.'

Research selected for funding

These ERC Consolidator Grants will enable researchers to pursue their own ideas in a broad range of disciplines. For example, a chemist in Slovenia aims to construct powered protein motors; a researcher working on the interface

between biology and chemistry in the Netherlands will use quantum sensing to detect sepsis at an early stage; a materials scientist in Spain will design nanoparticles to target tumour cells; a psychotherapist in Italy will develop an algorithm for psychological care to predict how children might respond to mental health interventions; and a historian in Poland will study the decline of the Late Roman Empire in its provinces.

[Read more about these examples of selected projects](#)

Facts and figures

The selected researchers plan to conduct their research at universities and research centres in 25 countries, including the United Kingdom (65 grants), Germany (58 grants), the Netherlands (40 grants) and Spain (26 grants). They come from Europe and other parts of the world, representing 44 different nationalities. Notably, the largest groups are German (48), Italian (37) and Britons (33) researchers. Some 38% of the researchers selected are women; a figure that has remained stable over the past few years.

 **349**

Successful proposals

 **3 121**

Applications received

 **11.2%**

Success rate

The ERC received 3,121 applications for this call - a 35 percent increase compared with the previous round.

 **728 million**

Amount of funding

 **25**

EU Member States and associated countries

 **44**

Nationalities

See more [statistics](#) and the [full list of winners](#).

Read full article here: [The ERC selects 349 mid-career researchers for €728 million in Consolidator Grants|ERC](#)

MSCA Choose Europe for Science pilot receives 58 proposals (5 December 2025)

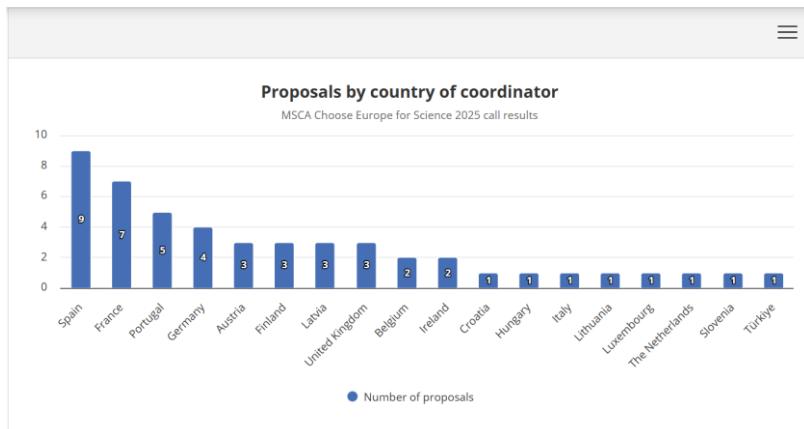
Source: Website MSCA [MSCA Choose Europe for Science pilot receives 58 proposals | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

The 2025 Choose Europe for Science pilot call has now closed. This is an important step in the EU's efforts to make research careers in Europe more attractive by offering excellent working conditions and long-term prospects.



The 2025 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Choose Europe for Science call closed on 3 December 2025. The European Research Executive Agency (REA) received **58 proposals** from institutions across **18 countries**. 49 of these proposals (85%) were considered eligible.

The submitted proposals are distributed as follows



A step towards stable research careers

The Choose Europe for Science pilot call aims to test a new model in MSCA.

Host organisations will receive EU funding to employ postdoctoral researchers whilst committing to hiring them beyond the EU-funded phase of the project.

The aim is to provide concrete long-term prospects following the project, 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.

Next steps for applicants

- December 2025 – April 2026: evaluation coordinated by REA and undertaken by independent experts
- early May 2026 (TBC): notification of call results to applicants; results available via applicants' Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal personal space
- June – 3 August 2026: expected signature of grant agreements for successful projects
- 1 September 2026: first EU-funded projects start

For more information: [MSCA Choose Europe for Science pilot receives 58 proposals | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

European Funding News: FP10

Commissioner suggests ‘fast-track access’ to the ECF for selected Horizon Europe projects (11 December 2025)

Source: Website Science|Business [Commissioner suggests ‘fast-track access’ to the ECF for selected Horizon Europe projects | Science|Business](#)

EIC and collaborative research projects should have easy access to deployment funds, says Zaharieva



EU research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva. Photo credits: Jennifer Jacquemart / European Union

The European Commission is considering the creation of a “fast-track” mechanism that would give selected Horizon Europe projects easy access to the forthcoming European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). According to Ekaterina Zaharieva, the commissioner responsible for start-ups, research and innovation, this would target collaborative research projects in Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe and start-up teams supported by the European Innovation Council (EIC), part of Pillar 3 of Horizon Europe.

“We believe that the most promising projects from the second pillar, and I would add the third pillar, should have [...] fast-track access to the next step, the ECF,” she said at the Forum Europa in Brussels on December 5.

Zaharieva suggested that an “accelerator” mechanism in Pillar 3 of the next iteration of Horizon Europe could boost the chances of innovative start-ups scaling up in Europe. At the moment, many fail to reach the commercial stage or end up leaving the EU.

The creation of a funding fast track would be a further example of the close coordination promised between Horizon Europe and the ECF after 2028. The ECF, [jointly managed](#) by the Commission directorates for research and industry, is already expected to dictate priorities in Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe.

The Commission was unable to provide further detail of the mechanism that Zaharieva has in mind. It was also news to Ana Barjasic, a member of the EIC board, although she said that it was consistent with current thinking about how the next Horizon Europe would operate. *“There is a general principle of complementarity, and it is expected that EIC companies access ECF support as they scale,”* she told Science|Business.

Read full article here: [Commissioner suggests ‘fast-track access’ to the ECF for selected Horizon Europe projects | Science|Business](#)

Last Competitiveness Council in 2025: progress on Horizon and ECF, agreement on AI factories (10 December 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Laatste Raad Concurrentievermogen in 2025: vooruitgang Horizon en ECF, akkoord AI-fabrieken](#)

The Competitiveness Council (Research & Space) has taken concrete steps in the European research and innovation agenda. Under the Danish Presidency, the Ministers discussed Horizon Europe 2028–2034 and emphasized the importance of a strong research budget. At the same time, they reached an agreement on the establishment of European AI gigafactories within EuroHPC, through which the EU is committed to digital autonomy.



Council sets course for Horizon Europe and AI gigafactories

During the Competitiveness Council (Research & Space) on 9 December, **ministers made progress** [Competitiveness Council \(Research and space\) - Consilium](#) in the negotiations on [Horizon Europe 2028-2034 pdf](#). Member states supported the direction of simplification, a clearer demarcation with the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and a stronger role for Member States in prioritization. They also called for more public-private partnerships and better utilization of research results for innovation. In addition, the Council took a concrete decision on a second dossier: an amendment to the [EuroHPC Regulation AI: Council adopts position on the updated regulation to create AI gigafactories - Consilium](#) paves the way for five European AI gigafactories and a new quantum pillar within EuroHPC, established through public-private partnerships.

Follow-up and outstanding dossiers

Although the Council made progress in the Horizon Europe negotiations, there are no concrete outcomes yet. Member States primarily emphasized their desire for simplification, a stronger role in prioritization, and better alignment with the ECF. Several additional topics were also discussed, but no concrete decisions were reached. The contribution of European University Alliances to the Research Area and their challenges regarding regulation and funding were addressed. The Commission presented [the Scale-up Europe fund Scaleup Europe Fund - European Innovation Council - European Commission](#) for high-growth tech companies and provided an update on research security. Finally, Cyprus briefly presented the research priorities of the upcoming presidency.

Context

The Dutch cabinet previously shared its position for the Competitiveness Council in the published decision memo. The Competitiveness Council of December 8 and 9 was the last under the Danish presidency. In this forum, ministers discuss and negotiate European research and innovation dossiers. Regarding Horizon Europe, the discussion focused on textual refinements and how Member States can gain more influence on prioritization. Regarding the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), the discussion focused on simplification and links with other EU instruments. Finally, the allocation of budgets and the mobilization of private investment at the MFF level remains open. Cyprus will take over the presidency in January 2026.

Neth-ER reaction to the next Framework Programme proposal: A progressive Framework Programme to meet Europe's strategic ambitions (5 December 2025)

Source: [Website Neth-ER Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Neth-ER reaction to the next Framework Programme proposal: A progressive Framework Programme to meet Europe's strategic ambitions](#)

On behalf of the Dutch knowledge community, Neth-ER presents its reaction to the next Framework Programme (FP) proposal: 'a progressive Framework Programme (FP) to meet Europe's strategic ambitions'. Neth-ER makes concrete recommendations for changes in the Commission's proposal on five areas. The programme's budget must be doubled to €200 billion. Excellent, bottom-up research should be protected and encouraged. The ECF should be clarified and have sufficient representation from involved actors. The program needs to be simplified for the participants and dual-use research needs to be carefully used.



Protect and increase the budget

The EU needs to keep its competitive edge in research and innovation. Therefore, the Framework Programme (FP) budget needs to be [doubled](#) to €200 billion. Additionally, the FP should have a safeguard against reallocations without co-decision and independent impact assessment. Necessary balanced, predictable funding across the entire research and innovation (R&I) chain is a priority. Even decommitments should be used for the benefit of the research program.

Ensure excellent, bottom-up research

The FP's text needs to reflect the value of excellent, bottom-up research. Excellence and impact should stay key evaluation criteria for projects. For the ERC and the MSCA only excellence needs to be a requirement. Additionally, the geographical criteria must be limited to 'widening participation and spreading excellence'. Finally, the evaluation committee should solely consist of independent, external experts. By including the protection of bottom-up, curiosity-driven research directly in the proposal, its validity and its research is ensured.

ECF under a loupe

Excellent and impactful R&I is only possible when the actors are included in decisions. Therefore, the representation of the R&I sector in the Strategic Stakeholders Board of [the ECF](#) is vital. Additionally, it is important that the Commission observes its obligation to inform programme committees of the overall progress of both FP10 and the ECF. Additionally, ECF's priorities cannot sideline SSH and Health research in the FP.

Simplification for participants

The FP exists to support research and innovation. It needs to be simple to adequately do this. Firstly, the FP10 regulation should specify which rules of the 'single rulebook' of the ECF proposal also apply to FP10. This helps applicants anticipate changes. Therefore, we suggest that documents relating to the award procedure are published before the end of 2026. Lastly, lump sum funding and personnel unit costs should be optional. It must not be the default and never be mandatory.

Balance civil and dual-use calls

The inclusion of [dual-use](#) cannot come at the cost of independent or civil-focussed research. Research should be 'as open as possible, as closed as necessary', with open science and open access upheld. To ensure the researcher's autonomy over their project's dual-use potential, we suggest the FP have a primarily civil focus. Overall, it is also of priority that the dual-use debate continues before and during the FP's implementation. In line with that, the establishment of a dual-use advisory platform can offer guidance on dual-use R&I. Lastly, association with Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe must be fully independent from association with the ECF.

You can download full Neth-ER reaction here:

netherprogressiveframeworkprogrammetomeeteuropesstrategicambitions2025.pdf

Context

Neth-ER provides more extensive recommendations in its reaction. The reaction was drafted in correspondence with Neth-ER's members: KNAW, Nuffic, NWO, MBO Raad, VH, TNO, UNL and UMCNL. In the summer of 2025, the Commission published the proposed Multiannual Financial Framework Programme. At the time, Neth-ER [issued](#) a statement in response where it highlighted the need for a doubling of the budget. With the discussion of the proposal by the Council and Parliament, Neth-ER has now published a more detailed response. Negotiations are ongoing between the Council and Parliament with regards to the upcoming Multiannual Financial Framework.

Other International funding

Five Brazilian-Dutch consortia to work on health effects of extreme heat and water events research in cities (10 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [Five Brazilian-Dutch consortia to work on health effects of extreme heat and water events research in cities | NWO](#)



Five projects have been funded within the Merian Fund call “Extreme Heat and Water Events: Mitigating the Adverse Health Effects of Climate Change in Cities”. This call, a collaboration between NWO and the Brazilian FAPESP, called for research proposals that offer innovative, practical solutions to health effects of climate change. The consortia consist of researchers and civil society partners from both the Netherlands and Brazil. In total, each project will receive 700.000 euros from NWO and 4.000.000 Brazilian real from FAPESP.

Extreme weather events have a significant impact on public health, essential urban services, infrastructure and people's livelihoods. Vulnerable populations in particular are therefore at increased risk of serious health problems due to climate change. This research programme funds collaborative research focused on the course of disease and understanding the dynamics between climate change and health in urban areas. For example, research on the effects of heat and air pollution on kidneys and the development of an advanced digital tool that combines climate data, water dynamics and community insights to improve urban planning.

For more information about the five funded projects: [Five Brazilian-Dutch consortia to work on health effects of extreme heat and water events research in cities | NWO](#)

Discover New EU4Health Projects working on Cancer Prevention and early Detection! (8 December 2025)

Source: Website EC Funders & Tender Portal [EU Funding & Tenders Portal | EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)



Many new projects funded under EU4Health 2024 calls for proposals have recently started. Supporting Europe's Beating Cancer Plan Europe's Beating Cancer Plan, with projects covering prevention, early detection, diagnosis and treatment, and improved quality of life for cancer patients and survivors., 17 new projects will focus on cancer prevention and early detection.

Cancer prevention

Projects will focus on increasing health literacy for cancer prevention, health interventions including the elimination of cancer caused by infections, as well as health risks of second-hand smoke and aerosols.

Early detection

New projects will focus on early detection, including the enhancement of cancer imaging and cancer screening initiatives.

Read more on the HaDEA website: 2024 EU4Health Work Programme: Discover new projects working on cancer prevention and early detection - European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HaDEA)

International Opening Europestars-3 (5 December 2025)

Source: Website RVO [Eurostars: internationale aanvraagprocedure | RVO](#) and [Eurostars call for projects – March 2026 - Eureka Network](#)

The 10th call for proposals of the Eurostars-3 programme opens on 16 January 2026 and closes on 19 March 2026 at 2:00 PM.

The countries listed below are not providing funding for this call. Partners from these countries can therefore only participate on a self-funded basis.

- Cyprus
- Greece
- Israel
- Italy (Ministry of Enterprises and Made in Italy (MIMIT)) - funding is available for Italian organizations through the Ministry of Universities and Research (MUR)

Eurostars is part of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs. The partnership is co-funded by the European Union through Horizon Europe [European Partnerships in Horizon Europe](#).

Start Date: 16 January 2026, 12:00 AM CET

End Date: 19 March 2026, 2:00 PM CET

Apply here: [Apply for funding - Eureka Network](#)

The National Funding Bodies from Austria, Belgium (Brussels, Flanders, Wallonia), Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy (MUR only) Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, **the Netherlands**, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, and the United Kingdom have allocated funding for organisations collaborating on international R&D projects.

What is Eurostars

Eurostars is a funding instrument that supports innovative SMEs and project partners (large companies, universities, research organisations and other types of organisations) by funding international collaborative R&D and innovation projects. By participating, organisations can access public funding for international collaborative R&D projects in all fields.

To have a successful Eurostars application you must:

- Define your project idea.
- Collaborate internationally, sharing expertise.
- Develop products, processes or services that can be easily commercialised.

You can submit your R&D and innovation project application between 16 January 2026 and 19 March 2026 at 14:00 CET using our project platform ([myeurekaproject.org](#)). Your project consortium must have an innovative SME in the leading role, but it can also include other types of organisations like large companies, universities, research organisations and more.

Funding

Please note that the European Commission co-funding is pending signature.

The amount of funding your organisation receives when you participate in a project is managed by your National Funding Body. Funding rules vary from country to country and your National Funding Body decides:

- which organisations can receive funding,
- which project activities can be funded
- and funding rates.

If you are from a Eurostars country, you can discover what funding is available for your organisation in our 'Country information' section below, and by contacting your national or regional funding body using our [contact form](#). Your National Funding Body may have maximum funding amount per project or project partner.

Organisations from non-Eurostars countries can participate by self-funding their project costs.

National funding

72 grants for the Open Competition Domain Science- XS round 25-3 (15 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [72 grants for the Open Competition Domain Science- XS round 25-3 | NWO](#)



The topics range from powerful computer applications for scientific calculations in climate modelling or astronomy, to make them run faster and more sustainably, to developing a test to detect neurodegenerative diseases earlier. Research into converting coffee grounds into high-quality bioplastics and preventing false signals to get closer to detecting dark matter is also receiving funding.

The Open Competition Domain Science – XS grants of a maximum of € 50,000 are intended to support promising ideas and to facilitate innovative and more speculative initiatives within the seven Domain Science disciplines. The proposed research is ground-breaking and high-risk. What counts is that all results, be they positive or negative, must contribute to the advancement of science.

Researchers with a promising idea or an innovative and risky initiative can once again submit applications within the new call for the ENW-XS 2026 Open Competition. The call has three deadlines, the first of which is 13 January 2026 at 14:00. **All information about the call can be found on the funding page: [Open Competitie ENW XS 2026 pakket 26-1 | NWO](#).**

The following WUR researchers are awarded:

1. Fungal alchemy to transform food waste into high-value food ingredients: **dr. M. Casertano (Wageningen University & Research)**
2. Recovery and extraction of gadolinium from urine using hyperaccumulator plants: **dr. A. van der Ent (Wageningen University & Research)**
3. Bacterial extracellular vesicles in gut hormone regulation: a new route to better health: **dr. ir. Y. Liu (Wageningen University & Research)**

For more information about the awarded applications (in alphabetical order by applicant): [72 grants for the Open Competition Domain Science- XS round 25-3 | NWO](#)

Cooperation Germany - von Humboldt Stiftung (VHS) to end 1 February 2026 (15 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [Cooperation Germany - von Humboldt Stiftung \(VHS\) to end 1 February 2026 | NWO](#)

As of 1 February 2026, NWO will end the continuous programme “Cooperation Germany - von Humboldt Stiftung (VHS)”. This programme enabled Dutch and German researchers to share their knowledge and expertise since 2005. Researchers currently working on a proposal can contact NWO for further information.



Within the programme, two research prizes for Dutch senior researchers and two research prizes for German senior researchers were available annually. The prizes allowed them to spend four to 12 months doing research at a German or Dutch research institution. Dutch researchers could nominate German researchers, and vice versa. The Von Humboldt Stiftung (VHS) made prizes available for Dutch senior researchers; NWO funded the prizes for the German researchers from the Science Diplomacy Fund.

NWO chooses to end the programme to make room for a new approach within the [Science Diplomacy Fund Science Diplomacy Fund \(SDF\) | NWO](#). This is in line with NWO's new international policy, which focuses more on cooperation around three global transitions and less on cooperation with specific countries. The [International Programmes department International programmes | NWO](#) is working on a proposal that supports this policy and creates new opportunities for thematic international cooperation.

Three projects granted in Impact Explorer 2025 (15 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [Three projects granted in Impact Explorer 2025 | NWO](#)



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. Three projects are now receiving a small top-up to further investigate unexpected discoveries. A total of nearly 88,000 euros has been allocated.

This grant has direct impact on the research of Barbara Lubelli: 'In the Open Technology Programme (OTP) project MORISAL, we developed innovative mortars with capsules containing a crystallisation inhibitor to mitigate salt damage. Surprisingly, we observed that these capsules didn't just control the inhibitor's release, but they also prevented the blue discolouration seen in earlier prototypes. This unexpected result opens new possibilities for using these mortars in heritage buildings at risk from salt damage.'

Salt crystallisation is a major threat to Curaçao's built heritage, due to the island's climate and the unique coral reef masonry of many historic buildings. Together with local heritage partners - Stichting Monumentenzorg Curaçao and Stichting Monumentenfonds Curaçao - we will explore the potential applicability and market for these mortar prototypes in heritage buildings through on-site demonstrations, stakeholder workshops, and a symposium. Our goal is to hopefully contribute to a more sustainable conservation of Curaçao's and the Caribbean's built heritage.'

For more information about the granted projects: [Three projects granted in Impact Explorer 2025 | NWO](#)

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 20 December 2025. The final submission date is 3 February 2026.

Research along Routes by Consortia 2026 (15 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO [Research along Routes by Consortia 2026 | NWO](#)

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

Purpose

The aim of the NWA ORC 2026 call for proposals is to encourage research that is set up and carried out by inter- and transdisciplinary consortia that include representatives from the full breadth of the knowledge chain as well as relevant societal (public and/or private) partners, including citizens. The research will address so called wicked problems, focused on themes that are proposed by NWA-route networks and based on one or more of the 140 cluster questions.

Consortium building

In this Call for Proposals, consortium formation is encouraged through the use of collaborative workshops. The main applicant must have participated in both collaborative workshops on the relevant theme, or a substitute must have been present.

Consortium building

In this Call for Proposals, consortium formation is encouraged through the use of collaborative workshops. The main applicant must have participated in both collaborative workshops on the relevant theme, or a substitute must have been present.

When to apply

The NWA-ORC 2026 round has two phases:

1. Registration for and participation in collaborative workshops (mandatory for main applicants)
Between 6 February and 17 March 2026, NWO organises collaborative workshops with the aim of bringing together interested parties (researchers and public and/or private social parties) around a specific theme, combining research ideas (joining forces) and forming broad innovative consortia. **You can register for the workshops via this page.**
2. Submitting a proposal
The deadline for submission of proposals via ISAAC is **6 October 2026, at 14:00:00 CEST**.

For more information: [Research along Routes by Consortia 2026 | NWO](#)

Starting new evaluation NWO's Talent Programme (15 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [Starting new evaluation NWO's Talent Programme | NWO](#)



For 25 years, NWO's Talent Programme has been helping researchers across the entire spectrum of science to advance their scientific careers with funding. The Veni, Vidi, Vici, and Rubicon grants give researchers the opportunity to develop their own line of research or to gain experience abroad. By evaluating these programs, NWO aims to gain more insight into the role these grants play in stimulating academic careers, promoting science with impact, and the role of these programs within the funding landscape.

The aim of the programs is to create space for talented and pioneering researchers to conduct research of their choice, develop their own line of research, and further develop their talents. This is done through the Veni, Vidi, and Vici grants,

which are tailored to the different phases of a scientific career: from recent PhD graduates to (more) experienced researchers. In addition, there is the Rubicon programme, which allows scientists who recently obtained their PhD to gain experience at a foreign research organisation.

Evaluation of the Talent Programme

The Veni, Vidi, and Vici grants have been in existence since 2002, and NWO regularly evaluates its instruments. In the past, for example, NWO investigated whether a reorientation would be desirable, after which a slight course correction followed. The last full evaluation dates from 2012, followed by only smaller process evaluations of single adjustments that were implemented. By conducting a new evaluation covering the period 2017 to 2024, NWO can measure the effect of several adjustments that have been implemented in recent years and also examine the role of the Talent Programme in the current scientific landscape. New insights will help NWO to optimize the programme and keep it future-proof.

Scope of evaluation

The Talent Programme is open to all scientific fields and is implemented in a similar manner across the NWO domains of Science (ENW), Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH), Applied and Engineering Sciences (AES), and Medical Sciences (ZonMw partnership). In addition to the Talent Programme, the entire NWO Talent Scheme includes other forms of personal funding: from the Spinoza and Stevin prizes and the Doctoral Grant for Teachers programme to several NWO diversity programmes, such as Hestia, Aspasia, and Mosaic. However, these programmes are different in nature and also have different procedures. Moreover, some of them have recently been evaluated internally. This evaluation therefore focuses exclusively on the Veni, Vidi, Vici, and Rubicon grants.

For more information: [Starting new evaluation NWO's Talent Programme | NWO](#)

Foreseen opening: The Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions (TRI-POLAR) (15 November 2025)

Source: Website NWO [The Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions \(TRI-POLAR\) | NWO](#)

Our world is facing a triple planetary crisis: climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. These interconnected challenges hit the polar regions especially hard, which are warming up to four times faster than the global average. This leads to, among other things, the loss of sea ice, thawing of permafrost, disruption of food webs and ecosystems, and an increase in pollution and human activity. Tri-Polar focuses on understanding the interaction and convergence of these three crises in the polar regions. By developing new insights, the program aims to contribute to integrated policy solutions that mitigate the combined effects and promote sustainable actions — locally and regionally, as well as globally and in the Netherlands.

Foreseen Closing date full application: 30 November 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.)

Disclaimer

NWO informs visitors to this website about calls in preparation. The information and the expected opening date are subject to change. NWO may also decide to discontinue preparations. Only after approval of a call by the NWO Governing Board will the final call texts be published on our website and in the Government Gazette. The texts from the call for proposals are leading at all times.

KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future (15 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO [KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future | NWO](#)

This programme is focussed on joint research between researchers, companies and societal organisations from both the Netherlands and the Brazilian federal state of São Paulo. The research for this programme is focussed on replacing fossil raw materials currently in use by the chemical industry with circular raw materials derived from biomass. Research should include multiple perspectives on biorefineries including: chemical engineering, (business-)economics, sustainability/environmental, social and legal. The research focuses on two important sub-themes: bio-based raw materials and conversion processes.

Closing date for letter of intent: 23 June 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.)

Closing date full application: 20 October 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.)

Disclaimer

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From book censorship in China to housing inequality: 48.2 per cent of applications able to start in the SSH Open Competition XS (11 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [*From book censorship in China to housing inequality: 48.2 per cent of applications able to start in the SSH Open Competition XS | NWO*](#)



The allocations for the third round of the SSH Open Competition XS 2025 have been finalised. Of the 249 applications, no fewer than 120 researchers will be starting with a promising idea. An approval rate of 48.2%! So there is plenty of room for experimentation and innovation. The XS projects will last for a maximum of one year and can therefore quickly contribute to scientific insights. A striking feature of this round is that 59.2% of the allocations are for female applicants.

The projects cover the entire breadth of the Social Science and Humanities research field. For example, one project maps the antecedents and consequences of bias in film. Another project focuses on the consequences of housing inequality on political preferences between generations. Research will also be started into the value of menstrual blood for diagnostic research and gender equality in healthcare. Furthermore, the influence of decisions made in democratic Europe on book censorship in China will be examined.

The following WUR researchers received a grant

dr. J.P. Kalkman (M), Wageningen University & Research
dr. S.J. Schäfer (V), Wageningen University & Research
dr. R.E. de Vos (V), Wageningen University & Research

View all granted projects: [*Granted projects | NWO*](#)

First round SGW Open Competition XS 2026

The first round of the SSH Open Competitions XS 2026 is now open. SSH researchers who obtained their PhD at least five years ago and have a promising idea are eligible to apply. The deadline for submitting an application for the first round is 20 January 2026, before 14:00:00 CET.

For more information see funding site: [*SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 1 | NWO*](#)

New Call: Unique opportunity for SSH researchers to further deepen consortia (NWA) (11 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [*New Call: Unique opportunity for SSH researchers to further deepen consortia \(NWA\) | NWO*](#)



The Call 'The power of collaboration' is expected to open soon. In recent years, strong consortia have been formed within previously awarded NWA projects, which have yielded valuable insights and developed concrete perspectives for policy and implementation. This new round offers researchers and partners another opportunity to collaborate and achieve impact.

What makes this Call unique is that it builds on existing NWA consortia. For SSH researchers who are already collaborating within these consortia, this offers a special opportunity to further deepen the insights gained and translate them into policy and societal applications.

Aim of the Call

The Power of Collaboration program strengthens scientific and societal impact by building on the knowledge, insights, and perspectives for action developed in previous NWA projects. By further exploiting these fruitful interactions, the societal impact of NWA research is increased, contributing to finding solutions and accelerating change.

The focus of this Call is:

- On research into the applicability of the results of existing NWA consortia to different policy levels (national, regional, and local policy);
- and/or on research into how the knowledge and insights gained can be translated for other relevant stakeholders.

The Call also offers scope for in-depth research and the development of theoretical concepts within the projects. This can be done, for example, by formulating new knowledge questions or by developing methods, theories, and concepts that are directly relevant to policy issues.

The composition of the new consortium must reflect the strength of the interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary collaboration that has been built up previously throughout the entire knowledge chain. Therefore, a proportional part of the existing NWA consortium must be involved again in the new application to support the follow-up research.

Depending on the new research questions, the consortium may be expanded to include relevant parties.

<<View the Call for proposals>>

Who is this Call intended for?

The Call is aimed at researchers and partners who have already been active within existing NWA consortia. Consortia that build on previously awarded NWA projects can apply. A proportional part of the existing consortium must be involved again in the application to support the follow-up research. Depending on the new research questions, the consortium may be expanded to include additional relevant parties.

The program focuses on the knowledge and action perspectives developed by the consortia:

- from previously awarded NWA projects in program line 1 (Research on Routes by Consortia) in which governments (central government, provinces, municipalities, and water boards) are already part of the consortium; and
- from previously awarded NWA projects in program line 2 (thematic programs in collaboration with governments).

These are NWA projects awarded in ORC2018 and 2019 and projects awarded in NWA program line 2 between January 2019 and December 2021.

Budget and deadlines

The total subsidy ceiling for this Call for Proposals is €13.5 million. A maximum of nine applications are expected to be awarded within this Call for Proposals.

The deadline for submitting applications is **June 16, 2026**.

The deadline for submitting a request for review by organizations based in the Netherlands is **May 19, 2026**.

The deadline for submitting a request for review by foreign organizations is **May 19, 2026**.

Solutions require computing power: Dutch science is lagging behind (10 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [Solutions require computing power: Dutch science is lagging behind | NWO](#)



The next government will have to invest an additional 165 million euros per year in digital infrastructure for research, otherwise the Netherlands will lose its scientific position in the short term. These are the results of a major inventory carried out by NWO and SURF. Due to a lack of investment in digital infrastructure, the Netherlands is rapidly losing ground. At the same time, demand for supercomputers, data, AI and network connectivity for research is growing ever faster.

165 million per year needed to keep science here

The current digital infrastructure – from supercomputers to research networks and data facilities – can no longer cope with the growing demand in the short term. If investments are not made, supercomputers, network hubs and data facilities may disappear from the Netherlands, with consequences for the Dutch (scientific) business climate.

Indispensable link

The current digital infrastructure – from supercomputers to research networks and data facilities – can no longer cope with the growing demand in the short term. If investments are not made, supercomputers, network hubs and data facilities may disappear from the Netherlands, with consequences for the Dutch (scientific) business climate.

Investing an additional 165 million euros

The report looks at criteria and (previous) inventories of the needs of institutions, researchers and others. This has led to the recommendation to invest an additional 165 million euros annually in digital infrastructures for research. The amount is divided between investments in national and local computing facilities, data storage and network infrastructure, Authentication and Authorisation Infrastructures (AAI) and security. It also concerns connecting Dutch infrastructures to international partnerships such as supercomputers or AI factories.

Call open: Collaborative business models (10 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [Call open: Collaborative business models | NWO](#)



The KIC call “Collaborative business models for a circular economy” is open for applications. The aim of this call is to investigate how organisations can set up collaborative models in which investments, returns and risks are distributed fairly. €7,000,000 is available for this call.

Aim of the call

In the prevailing linear economic system, raw materials are increasingly being exploited at the expense of the environment. To counter this, the Netherlands has set itself the goal of making its economy fully circular. This means that material cycles must be closed and materials must be reused as much as possible in order to minimise the amount of residual waste. However, the achievement of the government-wide programme “The Netherlands Circular by 2050” is

under pressure and little progress has been made in recent years in the extent to which Dutch businesses take the reuse of primary materials into account.

In the current system, circular business models face difficulties in competing with linear business models. The reasons for this are, among others, that circular business models often encounter problems during implementation and upscaling that cannot be solved by a single individual party. In addition, the financing of business cases is still focused on individual companies, rather than collaborative partnerships, and on risk minimisation. This call focuses on research into the design of collaborative business models in the areas of value creation, risk sharing and financing. The aim is to break through systemic barriers in the transition to circular production systems.

For more information about the call: [KIC Collaborative business models for a circular economy | NWO](#)

Budget and deadlines

A total of €7,000,000 is available for this call. Three or four projects are expected to be awarded funding. A minimum of €1,750,000 and a maximum of €2,250,000 in NWO funding can be requested per application. This means that NWO will finance a maximum of 80% of the total project size. The remainder of the project budget will be contributed through mandatory co-funding. The maximum duration of the proposed project is 6 years.

The deadline for submitting letters of intent is **24 March 2026, before 14:00:00**. The deadline for submitting applications is **26 May 2026, before 14:00:00**.

Matchmaking meeting

To encourage collaboration between interested parties, NWO is organising a special matchmaking meeting on 27 January 2026. During this meeting, interested parties will have the opportunity to meet each other, exchange ideas and explore possible collaborations. In addition, more information will be provided during the matchmaking session about the application process and the approach to impact.

For more information about matchmaking event click here: [Matchmaking Collaborative business models for a circular economy \(KIC\) | NWO](#)

19,3-million euro voor consortium for making the special and fine chemicals more sustainable (8 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [19,3-million euro voor consortium for making the special and fine chemicals more sustainable | NWO](#)



NWO and National Growth Fund foundation GroenvermogenNL are awarding 19.3 million euro to the HyFINE consortium for increasing the sustainability of the synthesis of special and fine chemicals. This can make an important contribution to making the Dutch chemical industry more sustainable.

Special and fine chemicals are an important part of the chemical, materials, agro- and pharmaceutical industries. Current production processes of special and fine chemicals are based on fossil resources. In addition, they consume a lot of energy and generate a lot of waste. Making these processes more sustainable is therefore important on several accounts. By using hydrogen and green electrons, synthesis routes can be made shorter and cleaner. For example, via electrochemical reactions or photo/redox catalysis where thermodynamically 'upward' reactions become possible.

About the call

The call on which this project is based was developed in collaboration with the GroenvermogenNL foundation and follows on from R&D workpackage 6. The consortium itself has also raised nearly 2 million euros in co-funding and 2.8 million euros of own contribution of businesses and civil society organisations. The total investment is therefore 24.2 million euros.

The consortium behind HyFINE was formed during two intensive workshops in which all parties came together to develop a single proposal. HyFINE is a collaboration between nine universities, three universities of applied sciences (UAS), three research institutes and twenty companies.

The awarded project: HyFINE, Green Hydrogen and Electrons for Specialty and Fine Chemicals

HyFINE is a Dutch project uniting a consortium of knowledge institutes and businesses to make chemicals greener and affordable. They're shifting from fossil feedstocks like oils and gas to sustainable sources like waste, using clean energy like green hydrogen and renewable electricity. The goal is to create climate-neutral, circular production of ingredients for applications such as adhesives, paints, plastics and cosmetics. Beyond technology development, HyFINE focuses on training new experts and sharing knowledge to establish the Netherlands as a leader in green chemistry.

- Main applicant: Fernanda Neira D'Angelo, TNO
- Technical manager: Evgeny Pidko, TU Delft

WUR is one of the co-applicants

Pre-announcement: 2026 Call of Venture Challenge expected to open in January (8 December 2025)

Source: Website NWO News [Pre-announcement: 2026 Call of Venture Challenge expected to open in January | NWO](#)



The new Call of the Venture Challenge programme is expected to open in early January. There are a few important changes for the upcoming Call. For example, NWO will publish only one Call for proposals for the 2026 round, containing information about both the spring and fall round.

Purpose of this call

Many scientific inventions never reach the market. One important reason for this is that researchers often lack the knowledge and experience to turn their ideas into marketable products or to build a commercial organisation. The Venture Challenge programme offers a solution to this problem. In an intensive eight- to ten-week coaching programme, researchers work with experienced professionals to develop a solid business case. In this way, they are prepared for a successful start to their business.

For whom

The upcoming 2026 Call will again focus on teams of three or four people who have founded a new start-up in the field of Life Sciences & Health or who plan to do so in the near future. The product, process or service must fall under medical devices, medicines or other innovations within these broad fields.

Important changes this new round

Several important changes have been made compared to the previous round:

- This Call for Proposals covers all rounds in 2026. Separate Calls for Proposals will no longer be published for the spring and fall rounds.
- There is no separate round for medical devices, as there was in the 2025 fall round. Medical devices now fall under the general theme of Life Sciences & Health.

Budget

The Ministry of Economic Affairs has set the grant ceiling for this round at €200,000, divided between €100,000 for the spring round and €100,000 for the fall round. In this program, the grant covers the cost of participation minus the own contribution. The own contribution per team is:

- €2000,- in case of participation of 3 team members
- €2500,- for the participation of 4 team members.

Partners

For this call, NWO collaborates with the top sector Life Sciences & Health (Health~Holland). More information about this collaboration and the top sectors can be found on the [programme page Venture Challenge | NWO](#).

Disclaimer

This is solely an announcement of an intended NWO research programme. The possibility to apply for funding will open after the call for proposals has been published in the Staatscourant (Government Gazette).

Regional funding

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

Discover stakeholders' insights on the upcoming European Innovation Act (17 December 2025)

Source: Website [European Innovation Act](#)



The European Commission is preparing the European Innovation Act, to be adopted in 2026. After the closing of the call for evidence and public consultation in October, which we have shared with you in a previous Food 2030 newsletter, we would like to share the compiled feedback and proposals of businesses, public authorities, academia, and many more. Here is a glimpse of stakeholders' proposals to speed up the journey of innovative ideas to the market and to address current challenges:

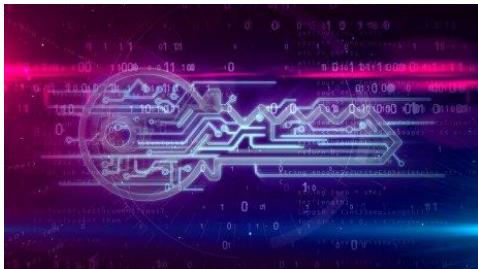
- ✓ boost access to finance for startups and scaleups
- ✓ foster the creation of regulatory sandboxes
- ✓ make the regulatory framework more conducive to innovation
- ✓ stimulate the commercialisation of publicly-funded research and innovation
- ✓ make public and private procurement more innovation friendly
- ✓ improve access to the EU's world-class research and technology infrastructures

Discover more about the feedback gathered [European Innovation Act](#) and stay tuned to hear more about the European Innovation Act.

ESIR Report: Innovation as a key to economic and geopolitical resilience (17 December 2025)

Source: Website [Neth-ER Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Rapport ESIR: innovatie als sleutel tot economische en geopolitieke veerkracht](#)

The Economic and Societal Impact of Innovation and Research (ESIR) has published a report on research and innovation in long-term resilience. ESIR calls for greater stimulation of dual-use research and an agile innovation policy. Europe must deploy innovation more effectively to simultaneously strengthen economic, ecological, and geopolitical resilience. ESIR also emphasizes the importance of resilient supply chains and the key role of green alliances in this regard.



More dual-use and a new innovation policy

The Economic and Societal Impact of Innovation and Research (ESIR) has published a report on the role of research and innovation in long-term resilience. ESIR calls for the promotion of dual-use research within the Horizon Europe program. The advisory group also advocates for a new innovation policy that is agile and location-specific. Europe must deploy innovation in a more targeted manner to simultaneously strengthen economic, ecological, and geopolitical resilience. In the report, ESIR also emphasizes the importance of resilient supply chains for essential raw materials, components, and finished products. Global green alliances play a key role in this, as international partnerships for structural resilience.

Context

ESIR is an independent expert group that advises the European Commission on forward-looking research and innovation policy. ESIR provides independent policy advice to ensure that EU policies support the social, green, and digital transitions. In addition, ESIR drafts policy briefs, organizes information activities, and stimulates policy innovation. ESIR published this report in response to several threats facing Europe. These threats affect, among other things, Europe's strategic autonomy and access to essential materials.

CEPR: EU innovation policy fails to stimulate breakthrough innovation (11 December 2025)

Source: AWI e-mail alert 11 December 2025

An analysis by the Centre for Economic Policy Research (CEPR) argues that the current proposal for the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) does not sufficiently stimulate innovation. According to the researchers, the majority of the funding goes to complex collaborative programs that leave little room for experimentation. The CEPR study shows that such subsidies temporarily increase company turnover, but have no lasting effect on innovation, scientific output, or competitiveness. Moreover, almost half of the funding would benefit existing mid-tech companies. The authors argue that EU innovation policy should focus more on bottom-up ideas and smaller, independent companies, thus creating space for disruptive innovation.

Column CEPR: [Why EU innovation policy fails to promote disruptive innovation | CEPR](#)

EIT and EEN join forces to strengthen EU innovation support (11 December 2025)

Source: AWI e-mail alert 11 December 2025

The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) and the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) have agreed to better align their support for businesses. The new partnership links EEN's broad SME services with the EIT's networks focused on specific innovation themes. This should make it easier for companies to find expertise, partners, and innovation opportunities. The networks will also exchange knowledge more intensively and develop joint activities.

EIT press release: [EIT and EEN Join Forces to Strengthen Europe's Innovation Ecosystem | EIT](#)

The 3rd edition of European Ocean Days – European Ocean Pact: Sustaining the ocean that sustain us will take place from 2–6 March 2026 (11 December 2025)

Source: Website European Commission [European Ocean Days - Maritime Forum - European Commission](#)

Bringing together industry, innovators, investors, policymakers, scientists, SMEs, civil society, and local communities to contribute to the implementation of the **European Ocean Pact**. This one-week event will offer everyone the opportunity to engage in sessions on blue careers and the **EU4Ocean** community, alongside discussions on the sustainable blue economy, competitiveness, and investment opportunities through **BlueInvest**. The programme also explores maritime

security, ocean diplomacy, and consultations on research and innovation for ocean resilience, fisheries, aquaculture, and coastal communities. Join us for 3 immersive exhibitions and much more.

For more information visit the: [European Ocean Days website](#).

Register now: [European Ocean Days - Maritime Forum - European Commission](#)

EU Missions Info Days 2026: unveiling the EU Missions Work Programme and upcoming funding opportunities (11 December 2025)

Source: Website EC [Stay tuned!](#):

The EU Missions Info Days will take place online on **20–21 January**, featuring the new topics included in the **Missions Work Programme 2026–2027 Horizon Europe work programmes - Research and innovation**. Across the two days, the webinar series will present upcoming funding opportunities for projects supporting the EU Missions. **The session dedicated to the EU Mission Restore our Ocean and Waters will be held on 21 January from 13:30 to 15:30 CET, followed by a session on cross-mission activities from 16:00 to 17:00 CET**. To support partnerships and networking, a **Horizon Europe Missions Brokerage Event** will follow on **28–29 January**, offering space to meet potential partners and exchange project ideas. Registration details will be shared closer to the event.

Stay tuned!: [Events | The research and innovation community platform](#)

ITRE sets the tone with draft resolution for the ERA Act (8 December 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Oude thema's > ITRE zet de toon met ontwerpresolutie voor de ERA Act](#)

The European Parliament's Research Committee presents its priorities for the upcoming ERA legislation. In its resolution, the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) calls for the introduction of the fifth freedom and the protection of academic freedom. Furthermore, the upcoming ERA Act should establish the 3% investment standard for research and innovation. The resolution also calls for better coordination between national and European research policies and the attraction of more private investment.



A stronger and more consistent European R&I funding policy

The European Parliament's Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) is calling for the legal enshrinement of the fifth freedom and the achievement of the 3% investment target for research and innovation (R&I). Member of the European Parliament Eszter Lakos [PARLEMENT EUROPÉEN](#) is presenting a draft resolution [8](#) on behalf of the ITRE Committee for the upcoming European Research Area (ERA) Act. It is noteworthy that the ITRE Committee is doing this before the Commission has submitted its proposal for the ERA Act. In the resolution, Parliament calls for the alignment of R&I targets among Member States. ITRE calls for the establishment of the 3% target. It also wants to increase private participation in R&I ecosystems to accelerate research valorization.

Fifth Freedom, Equality, Fraternity

The resolution calls on Member States to remove obstacles to the fifth freedom, or the free movement of researchers and knowledge, and to improve policies for international cooperation and innovation. The ITRE Committee also emphasizes the importance of academic freedom and calls on the Commission to introduce a separate legislative proposal for this purpose, alongside the ERA Act. This proposal should establish minimum rights for researchers and establish a supervisory body. Furthermore, the resolution calls for improved working conditions for researchers and attention to gender balance and equal opportunities in R&D.

Context

The European Research Area (ERA) is a Commission initiative to achieve the fifth freedom, the freedom of knowledge, across Europe. The Commission is helping Member States align their research policies and programs to stimulate the free flow of R&D. The ERA Act is the very first piece of legislation for the ERA to legally enshrine the fifth freedom. Currently, the ERA is based on voluntary cooperation agreements. Earlier this year, the Commission launched a call for evidence to gather input on the Act. A public consultation on the ERA Act is currently open until the end of January 2026. Neth-ER also responded to the ERA call for evidence.

European Union and Canada strengthen their digital partnership with a focus on artificial intelligence, digital identity wallets and independent media (8 December 2025)

Source: Website EC [European Union and Canada strengthen their digital partnership](#)

The EU and Canada reinforced their cooperation and reaffirmed shared interests to boost competitiveness, innovation and economic resilience during the first Digital Partnership Council held today in Montreal, Canada. The Council took place back-to-back with the G7 Industry, Digital and Technology Ministerial meeting, hosted by Canada.

Both the EU and Canada have launched strategies to strengthen their competitiveness and digital sovereignty and reiterated the importance of supporting companies, especially small and medium-sized (SMEs), with smart regulations. Co-chaired by Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Henna Virkkunen, and Canada's Minister for Artificial Intelligence and Digital Innovation, Evan Solomon, the Council welcomed the cooperation under the Partnership and set an ambitious agenda for the months to come. The EU and Canada agreed to explore opportunities to cooperate with like-minded partners on issues of common interest.

Supporting innovation and boosting AI adoption in strategic sectors

The EU and Canada are committed to developing trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI) technologies that respect fundamental rights and facilitate trade, investment and economic growth. To enhance their cooperation on AI standards, regulation, skills development and adoption, the partners signed today a **Memorandum of Understanding on Artificial Intelligence**.

In line with the [EU's Apply AI Strategy](#) and the Canadian framework, the partners will share best practices to accelerate AI adoption in strategic sectors such as healthcare, manufacturing, energy, culture, science and public services, and support SMEs. They committed to work together on large AI infrastructures and support industry and academia's access to AI compute capacity. They will also explore scientific cooperation on fundamental AI research, and the development of advanced AI models for the public good, including in areas such as extreme weather monitoring and climate change. In addition, the EU and Canada will set up a structured dialogue on data spaces, of particular relevance to the development of large AI models.

Deepening cooperation on trust services

To leverage the cooperation on digital credentials and trust services, including on technical interoperability and solutions based on digital identity wallets, the EU and Canada signed a **Memorandum of Understanding on Digital Credentials and Trust Services**.

Both partners plan to establish a forum to facilitate joint testing of digital credential technologies, drive pilot projects, and share information. They will develop joint use cases and pilot projects towards interoperability of digital identity wallets and digital credentials and trust services.

Read full article here: [European Union and Canada strengthen their digital partnership](#)

EU4Health delivers on expectations and improves Europe's health (5 December 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > EU4Health maakt verwachtingen waar en verbetert Europa's gezondheid](#)

The EU4Health programme is highly successful in improving and protecting health in the EU. This is according to the Commission's interim evaluation of the EU4Health programme. Nearly all Member States received funding, and the European Reference Networks grew significantly. However, administrative burdens and the setting of programme priorities remain areas for improvement.



Commission positive about EU4Health

The EU4Health Programme has so far succeeded in promoting and protecting the health of the European population. This is according to the **Commission in its interim evaluation EUR-Lex - 52025DC0709 - EN - EUR-Lex** for the period 2021-2024. Nearly five hundred organizations, 22 EU Member States, and six associated countries received funding from EU4Health. Furthermore, according to the Commission, EU4Health contributed to the EU Non-Communicable Diseases Initiative and the strong growth of the European Reference Networks (ERNs). Administrative burdens remain a major challenge, especially for smaller Member States and NGOs.

Other priorities for the future?

The Commission also states that it may consider making co-financing rates more flexible – with the exception of the ERNs. For the second half of the programme period, the Commission is making several proposals for improvement. For example, it would be helpful for stakeholders if EU4Health set priorities for longer periods. Priorities could also be better aligned with national and regional agendas. Finally, simplifying administrative complexities is essential. EU4Health will continue to contribute to the European Health Data Space and the One Health approach, among other things, until at least 2027.

Context

The Commission created the **EU4Health funding program EU4Health programme 2021-2027 – a vision for a healthier European Union - Public Health** in response to the COVID-19 crisis to improve crisis preparedness in the EU. EU4Health helps address health challenges by building stronger, more resilient, and more accessible healthcare systems. EU4Health's budget is implemented through annual work programs. The interim evaluation follows on from previous consultations, including on the 2025 work program. The health theme is part of the newly established Competitiveness Fund and Pillar Two of the new Horizon Program in the Commission's MFF proposal.

Commission concludes public consultation on the European Innovation Act (5 December 2025)

Source: Website [Commission concludes public consultation on the European Innovation Act - Research and innovation](#)
The Commission has published the results of the **call for evidence European Innovation Act** and the public consultation **European Innovation Act** for the future European Innovation Act, **gathering stakeholders' feedback and proposals to shape the innovation landscape in Europe European Innovation Act - Research and innovation - European Commission**.

As part of the public consultation and the call for evidence that were open from 8 July - 3 October 2025, a total of 202 responses were received for the public consultation and 336 position papers were received for the call for evidence.. A wide range of stakeholders, including businesses and business associations, public authorities, academia, and more, gave their views and proposals for the future European Innovation Act.

Key stakeholder insights:

- boost access to finance for startups and scaleups
- create an EU-wide framework for regulatory sandboxes for companies to test their innovations in different Member States, and for Member States to implement cross-border regulatory sandboxes;
- improve access to the EU's world-class research and technology infrastructures;
- strengthen public investment in the commercialisation, uptake and wide diffusion of innovative solutions;
- stimulate the commercialisation of publicly-funded research results generated in universities and research organisations;
- enable public and private procurement to promote innovation and support the participation of start-ups and innovative companies.

The European Innovation Act, which is expected to be proposed in 2026 as a key deliverable of the **EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy** [EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy - Research and innovation](#), will help speed up the journey of innovative ideas to market across all sectors and will help close the innovation gap between the EU and its global competitors. It will aim to address challenges in commercialising research results, strengthen collaboration between the industry and the academia, and improve access of innovative companies to procurements and infrastructures. It will also help create a more innovation-friendly regulatory and policy environment across the EU, to give European innovators the tools they need to grow and scale within the EU and compete globally.

The results of the consultation are available on the Have your Say Portal: **European Innovation Act** [European Innovation Act](#).

The Commission is now analysing the feedback received and assessing the impact of each proposed measure, ahead of the adoption of the proposed Act in 2026.

More information

[European Innovation Act: European Innovation Act - Research and innovation - European Commission](#)

EU spending on R&D exceeded €403 billion in 2024 (5 December 2025)

Source: Website Eurostat [EU spending on R&D exceeded €403 billion in 2024 - News articles - Eurostat](#)

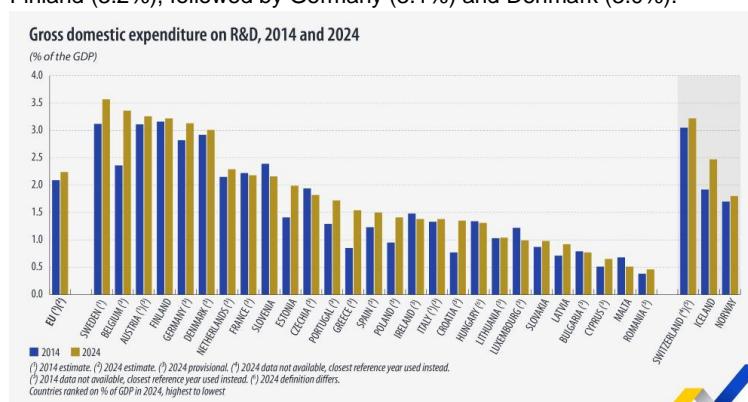


In 2024, the EU spent an estimated €403.1 billion on research & development (R&D), indicating a 3.6% increase from 2023 (€389.2 billion). Compared with 2014, R&D expenditure grew by 62.2% from €248.6 billion, showing a steady rise in the last decade.

R&D intensity, defined as R&D expenditure as a percentage of GDP, remained stable at 2.2%, similar to previous years. Between 2014 and 2024, R&D intensity in the EU increased by 0.1 percentage points (pp).

Between 2014 and 2024, R&D intensity increased in 19 EU countries, with the largest increases recorded in Belgium (+1.0 pp), Greece (+0.7 pp) and Estonia and Croatia (+0.6 pp each).

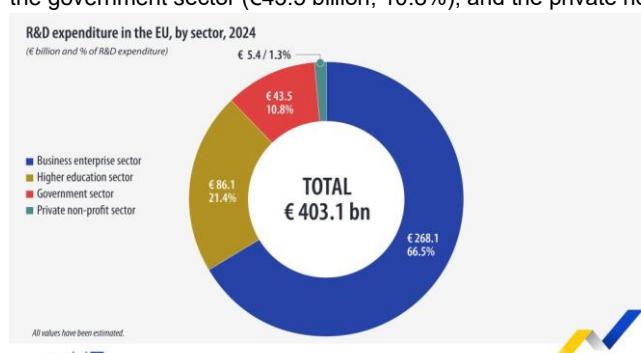
In 2024, 6 EU countries registered an R&D intensity equal to or higher than 3%, the EU target set by the European Council for the EU. The highest R&D intensity was recorded in Sweden (3.6%), Belgium (3.4%), Austria (3.3%) and Finland (3.2%), followed by Germany (3.1%) and Denmark (3.0%).



By contrast, 7 EU countries reported R&D intensity below or equal to 1%: Romania and Malta (0.5% each), Cyprus (0.7%), Bulgaria (0.8%), Latvia (0.9%), and Slovakia and Luxembourg (1.0%).

67% of R&D spending accounts for the business sector

The business enterprise sector continued to account for the largest share of R&D expenditure in 2024. It represented 66.5% of EU R&D spending, totalling €268.1 billion. It was followed by the higher education sector (€86.1 billion; 21.4%), the government sector (€43.5 billion; 10.8%), and the private non-profit sector (€5.4 billion; 1.3%).



For more information: [EU spending on R&D exceeded €403 billion in 2024 - News articles - Eurostat](#)

Global policy

China Increasingly Dominant in International Scientific Research (11 December 2025)

Source: AWI e-mail alert 11 December 2025

The structure of international scientific research is changing dramatically due to geopolitical tensions and strategic choices made by countries, according to Clarivate's report "Research Collaboration in a Changing World." The most striking aspect is China's growing influence. The country now produces more research articles than the US and is expanding its collaboration more rapidly in emerging regions. Collaborations between China and the EU now achieve comparable or higher citation impact than US-EU partnerships. At the same time, the authors warn that the United States is losing its dominance. American research output and international collaboration have declined, partly due to policies that restrict foreign collaboration and reduce research funding. "We've expected the US to be at the top of everything all our lives, but that's no longer the case," Clarivate's Jonathan Adams wrote in *Nature*. However, international collaboration remains the engine of impactful research. Papers with foreign co-authors are systematically cited more often than purely national research. For policymakers, this means that openness and multilateral networks remain crucial, even amid geopolitical tensions.

Clarivate Research: [Research collaboration in a changing world | Clarivate](#)

Article in Nature: [China's scientific clout is growing as US influence wanes: the data show how](#)

ISC and IAU Sign New Cooperation Agreement (11 December 2025)

Source: AWI e-mail alert 11 December 2025

The International Science Council (ISC) and the International Association of Universities (IAU) have signed a new cooperation agreement to strengthen the link between science, higher education, and policy. With the signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), the organizations aim to work together on global sustainability, equitable research systems, and better connections between science and society. By exchanging knowledge and organizing joint activities, the ISC and IAU hope to increase their global influence and effectiveness. Robbert Dijkgraaf, incoming president of the ISC, emphasized the importance of collaboration across borders. "In a time of geopolitical tension, academic and scientific diplomacy is often the last and most effective form of international dialogue," said Dijkgraaf.

News item ISC: [New agreement to promote policy, research and practice-relevant knowledge - International Science Council](#)

National policy

Former ASML CEO Peter Wennink presents ‘Dutch Draghi’ report: education, investments competitiveness, and reforms (12 December 2025)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Former ASML CEO Peter Wennink presents ‘Dutch Draghi’ report: education, investments competitiveness, and reforms](#)

Today, Peter Wennink, the former CEO of Dutch innovation powerhouse ASML, presented his long-awaited and urgent report: *The Road to Future Prosperity, A Strong Netherlands in a Relevant Europe*. Introducing four preconditions and four focus domains for Dutch competitiveness, the report will serve as an important building block for the new Dutch government that is currently being formed. In his analysis, the “Dutch Draghi” calls for bold investments and decisions to safeguard the future resilience and growth of the Dutch economy. Wennink advises to simplify rules, focus on talent and excellent education, create an abundance of clean and cheap energy and invest in infrastructure and ecosystems.

Dutch Draghi: four preconditions, four key areas

Tasked by the current Dutch government, former ASML CEO Wennink [publishes](#) his recommendations on the future of the Dutch economy. He also looked at [Mario Draghi’s recommendations](#) to understand the implications for the country. In his report, the Dutch Draghi outlines four preconditions that must be met to excel in four key areas that are crucial for Dutch competitiveness. Wennink asks to simplify rules, focus on talent and excellence, clean and cheap energy and investments in infrastructure and ecosystems. More economic growth, investments and reforms are needed for the coming societal and economic transitions and to guarantee Dutch prosperity in the near future. His report identifies several long-awaited reforms that need to push the innovative capacity of the Dutch economy. Wennink stressed that the urgency is high and action is needed in the short-term. He stressed that in the next 10 years a minimum of 150 billion euro is needed. Experts from the Dutch knowledge sector and from the innovative industry contributed to the report.

A strong Netherlands in a relevant Europe

In his presentation, Wennink stressed that the Netherlands needs a relevant Europe to thrive. He compared Europe to China and the US and concluded that we switched from “being producers to being consumers.” The R&D expenses are too low and there is not enough venture capital to scale-up innovations. Wennink points out that only four out of the fifty biggest tech companies are European. Additionally, the EU is only competitive in four out of fourteen key technologies. Europe is falling behind and needs to step up its game. He mentioned Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness and Innovation Funds as positive examples showing a clear return on investment. Once the four preconditions are met, the Netherlands can excel in four key areas; digitalisation and AI, security and resilience, energy- and climate technology, and life sciences and biotechnology. Wennink noted that everywhere in the country, there are companies, knowledge institutions, and skilled professionals, ready to contribute to a future-proof Netherlands, where innovation, entrepreneurship and knowledge mutually reinforce one another.

Excellence, Education and STEM

The report called on a renewed focus on excellence in the Dutch education system. The performances are lacking and the Netherlands is falling behind on the international PISA and OESO ranking. His advice is to focus on excellence, basic skills and STEM education. Wennink also stressed the importance of LifeLong Learning and reskilling of the Dutch workforce as a counter to rapid digitalisation. Ambitions clearly overlapping with the European Commission’s [Union of Skills agenda](#). He advised a positive mindset to attract talent from abroad to create new regional innovation ecosystems and knowledge centres to improve the Dutch economic productivity.

Do you want to read the report Wennink and the annexes: [Foreword & Summary | Rapport Wennink](#)

How Wennink's roadmap should revitalize the Dutch economy (12 December 2025)

Source: Website Financieele Dagblad [Hoe Wenninks routekaart de Nederlandse economie vlot moet trekken](#)

In short

- Top executive Peter Wennink outlines in an advisory report how the Netherlands can earn its money in the future.

- The government must address obstacles such as the nitrogen lock, regulations, and the permitting circus.
- The National Investment Bank must channel capital to high-quality companies.

Former ASML CEO Peter Wennink presented his long-awaited report on the future prosperity of the Netherlands on Friday. With his recommendations and 51 concrete investment proposals, he aims to shake up the Netherlands and revitalize the economy.



There's no shortage of advice, recommendations, and policy proposals in the polder country of the Netherlands. And certainly not regarding the stalled economy. The chemical sector has repeatedly sounded the alarm about high energy prices. The employers' lobby, VNO-NCW, has been complaining for years about the national overlays on EU regulations and the protracted permitting process. A think tank like DenkWerk made recommendations for higher labor productivity, and VVD politician Johan Remkes outlined how to solve the nitrogen lock, which is currently affecting both housing and industry.

In that regard, the Wennink report presented on Friday on how the Netherlands can maintain its prosperity in the future offers few surprises. It is a collection of well-known insights from the bustling Dutch economy.

The top executive outlined how, in two months, he and his sixty-person team analyzed how the Netherlands can continue to fund its welfare state and also invest in defense, education, and addressing the aging population. They began by selecting core domains in which the Netherlands has the knowledge and ideas to distinguish itself internationally. These core domains are: digitalization and AI, security and resilience, energy and climate technology, and life sciences and biotechnology. Wennink: "We often talk about strategic autonomy, but that word suggests we have to make everything ourselves. That doesn't work." I prefer the term "strategically relevant."

The nitrogen lock, for which Wennink primarily holds livestock farming responsible, will cost approximately €30 billion in lost revenue by 2030 and must be resolved quickly, according to the advisor. "That simply requires political courage, because The Hague knows what needs to be done." Grid congestion requires not only investments but also smart solutions that increase activity outside peak hours.

Five crucial components of the report

1. The Netherlands must invest in four core areas: digitalization and AI, security and resilience, energy and climate technology, and life sciences and biotechnology.
2. A special government commissioner must maintain momentum, break deadlocks, and ensure that the government departments move forward.
3. A national investment bank must channel private money to high-tech projects.
4. Regulatory burdens must be addressed, the nitrogen problem solved, and investments made in data centers and submarine cables for data communication.
5. The Wennink Committee has included 51 project proposals that contribute to strengthening the Dutch economy.

Read full article here: [Hoe Wenninks routekaart de Nederlandse economie vlot moet trekken \(in Dutch\)](#)

EIB: Dutch companies leading in innovation and adoption of advanced technologies (11 December 2025)

Source: AWI e-mail alert 11 December 2025

Dutch companies are among the European leaders in the adoption of digital technologies and AI. This is evident from the annual Investment Survey by the European Investment Bank (EIB). At 65%, the share of Dutch companies using multiple advanced digital technologies is significantly higher than the EU average of 51%. A growing number of Dutch companies also see the green transition as an opportunity. The report cites the tight labor market, uncertainty about the future, and regulations as the main obstacles to investment.

EIB Press Release: [EIB Survey: Dutch companies continue to invest in innovation and sustainability, though challenges loom on the horizon](#)

What is needed to achieve the 3% R&D target? (11 December 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 11 December 2025

The Netherlands has committed to the Lisbon Treaty of investing 3% of GDP in R&D, but has not yet achieved this target. An analysis in the economics journal ESB examines three paths that can contribute to this: increasing R&D investments at existing companies, promoting the creation and growth of (new) R&D-intensive companies, and strengthening the business climate for R&D-intensive companies. According to the economists, there is considerable room for improvement in each path. "This emphasizes the crucial role of the government in stimulating R&D investments," they state. The economists emphasize that a balanced approach to the various paths is essential, as they complement each other and are not interchangeable. Furthermore, they emphasize the importance of innovation policy building on existing policy and strengthening it in a targeted manner, rather than being drastically changed after every cabinet change.

ESB Publication: [Drie paden naar de R&D-doelstelling van drie procent - ESB](#)

Number of female professors has increased again(11 December 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 11 December 2025

At the end of last year, almost one in three professors was female, at 29.9%. This is according to the 2025 Women Professors Monitor from the Dutch Network of Women Professors (LNVH). According to the network, the symbolic 30% threshold has now been almost reached. Based on the current trend, it would take until 2043 to achieve a balanced gender distribution. At the request of the LNVH, the universities have set new targets for 2030, with a sector average of 36.9%.

2025 Women Professors Monitor: [Monitor Vrouwelijke Hoogleraren 2025 - LNVH](#)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 18 December 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>)
ERC-2026-AdG	NEW: Foreseen opening: 28 May 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 27 August 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Advanced Grant</i>)
ERC-2026-PoC	17 March 2026 and 17 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Proof of Concept Grant</i>)
ERC-2026-PERA	15 January 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Public Engagement with Research Award (prize contest)</i>)
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions	
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01	Opening 28 May 2026 and deadline 24 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01 Call - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01 • TMA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates • TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01	Foreseen opening 26 May 2027 and foreseen deadline 23 November 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2027-DN-01 Call - MSCA Doctoral Networks 2027</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01 • TMA Doctoral Networks - Industrial Doctorates • TMA Doctoral Networks - Joint Doctorates
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01	Opening 9 April 2026 and deadline 9 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01 Call - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Fellowships • Global Fellowships
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01	Foreseen opening 7 April 2027 and foreseen deadline 8 September 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01 Call - MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2027</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • European Fellowships • Global Fellowships
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01	16 April 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2026-SE-01: MSCA Staff Exchanges</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-SE-01	15 April 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2027-SE-01: MSCA Staff Exchanges</i>)
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01	8 April 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2026-COFUND-01: MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programme</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA-Cofund-Doctoral

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01 MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programme	<p>Foreseen opening 8 December 2026 and foreseen deadline 6 April 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01: MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programme</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA-Cofund-Doctoral • TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02 MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2027	<p>Foreseen opening 8 December 2026 and foreseen deadline 6 April 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02-01: MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2027</i>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01	<p>Foreseen opening 9 March 2027 and foreseen deadline 08 June 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01 Call - MSCA and Citizens 2027</i>)</p>
Research Infrastructures	
<u>Destination INFRADEV - Consolidation and evolution of the European Research Infrastructure landscape (2026-27)</u>	
HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-DEV	<p>Opening 10 March 2026 and deadline 16 June 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-DEV: call INFRADEV</i>)</p>
HORIZON-INFRA-2027-01-DEV	<p>Foreseen opening 9 March 2027 and foreseen deadline 15 June 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2027-01-DEV: call INFRADEV</i>)</p>
<u>Destination INFRAEOSC - Enabling an operational, open and FAIR EOSC ecosystem (2026-27)</u>	
HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-EOSC	<p>Opening 10 March 2026 and deadline 16 June 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-EOSC: call INFRAEOSC</i>)</p>
HORIZON-INFRA-2027-01-EOSC	<p>Foreseen opening 9 March 2027 and foreseen deadline 15 June 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2027-01-EOSC: call INFRAEOSC</i>)</p>
<u>Destination INFRASERV - Research infrastructures services to support a healthier future, a global climate and energy vision, a circular and resilient economy, and to advance frontier knowledge (2026-27)</u>	
HORIZON-INFRA-2026-SERV-01	<p>Opening 10 March 2026 and deadline 16 June 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2026-SERV-01: call INFRASERV</i>)</p>
HORIZON-INFRA-2027-SERV-01	<p>Foreseen opening 9 March 2027 and foreseen deadline 15 June 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2027-SERV-01: call INFRASERV</i>)</p>
Cluster 1 HEALTH	
<u>Destination - Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society</u>	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-STAYHLTH-two-stage	<p>18 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage), 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)</p>
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-STAYHLTH single stage	<p>Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time</p>

HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-STAYHLTH	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination - Living and working in a health-promoting environment</u>	
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
<u>Destination- Destination - Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden</u>	
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
<u>Destination - Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare</u>	
<u>Destination - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society</u>	
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>Custer 3 Civil Security for Society</u>	
<u>Cluster 4 Digital - Industry - Space</u>	
<u>Destination: Leadership in materials and production for Europe</u>	
HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD single stage	21 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD two-stage	17 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 13 October 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time

HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-MAT-PROD single stage	Foreseen opening 22 September 2026 and foreseen deadline 2 February 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-MAT-PROD two-stage	Foreseen opening 22 September 2026 and foreseen deadline 2 February 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 2 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-two-stage</i>)
Destination: Open Strategic Autonomy in Developing, Deploying and Using Global Space-Based Infrastructure, Services, Applications and Data	
HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03 single-stage	10 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2026-SPACE-03</i>)
HORIZON-CL4-2027-03 single stage	Foreseen opening 9 March 2027 Foreseen deadline 2 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2027-03</i>)
Destination: Developing an agile and secure single market and infrastructure for data-services and trustworthy artificial intelligence services	
HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DATA single stage	15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2026-DATA-04</i>)
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DATA single stage	Foreseen opening 17 November 2026 and foreseen deadline 18 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2027-DATA-04</i>)
Destination: Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies	
HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING single stage	15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING</i>)
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING single stage	Foreseen opening 17 November 2026 and foreseen deadline 18 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING</i>)
HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING single stage	15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING</i>)
Destination: Digital and industrial technologies driving human-centric innovation	
HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-HUMAN single stage	15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-HUMAN</i>)
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-HUMAN single stage	Foreseen opening 17 November 2026 and foreseen deadline 18 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-HUMAN</i>)
CLUSTER 5 - Cluster 5: Climate - Energy - Mobility	
Destination - Climate sciences and responses for the transformation towards climate neutrality	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-07-D1	15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time

HORIZON-CL5-2026-08-Two-Stage-D1-06:	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
<u>Destination - Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition</u>	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2	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)
<u>Destination: Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply</u>	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3	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	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
<u>Destination: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes</u>	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-05-D5-01	14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination: Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods</u>	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) 20 January 2026 17.00 Brussels time
<u>CLUSTER 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment</u>	

<u>Destination 1: Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services</u>	
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
<u>Destination 2: Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption</u>	
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)
<u>Destination 3: Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors</u>	
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)
<u>Destination 4 – Clean environment and zero pollution</u>	
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
<u>Destination 5 - Land, ocean and water for climate action</u>	
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)
<u>Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities</u>	
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
<u>Destination 7 – Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal</u>	
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	

<u>Mission calls 2026-2026</u>	
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
<u>WIDERA 2026 - 2027</u>	
<u>Destination: Widening participation and spreading excellence</u>	
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01-WIDENING-01: Teaming Synergies	Foreseen opening Opening: 23 April 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 24 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01 Call - Teaming Synergies)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02-WIDENING-01: Twinning	Foreseen opening Opening: 8 January 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 9 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02 Call - Twinning)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03: Hop-on Facility	Foreseen opening Opening: 13 January 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 24 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03 Call – Hop on Facility)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05-WIDENING-01: ERA Fellowships	Foreseen opening Opening: 9 April 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 9 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05 Call – ERA Fellowships)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-01: ERA Chairs	Foreseen opening Opening: 6 April 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-01: ERA Chairs)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-02: ERA Research Managers	Foreseen opening Opening: 7 April 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-02: ERA Research Managers)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03-WIDENING-01: ERA TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European	Foreseen opening Opening: 7 April 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 8 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03-WIDENING-01: ERA TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01: Excellence Hubs	Foreseen opening Opening: 2 September 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 4 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01: Excellence Hubs)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-01: Pillar I: Facilitating development of institutional open access policies through the retention of intellectual property rights	Foreseen opening Opening: 8 December 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 11 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-01: Pillar I: Facilitating development of institutional open access policies through the retention of intellectual property rights)
<u>Destination: Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system</u>	
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-06-ERA (Enhancing the European R&I system)	12 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05 Call – ERA Fellowships)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01-WIDENING-01: EIC Pre-accelerator - Widening	Foreseen opening Opening: 5 May 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 18 November 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01-WIDENING-01: EIC Pre-accelerator - Widening)

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 18 December 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	
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"> Deadline for pre-proposals submission (mandatory): Friday 7 November 2025, 12:00 CET (CLOSED) 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</p> <p>Call opening: 12 September 2025</p> <p>Submission deadline of preproposals: 13 November 2025, 15:00 CET (CLOSED)</p> <p>Selection of preproposals: End of February 2026</p> <p>Submission deadline of full proposals: 13 April 2026, 15:00 CEST</p> <p>Selection of funded proposals: September 2026</p> <p>Projects start: End 2026/beginning 2027</p> <p>Kick-off meeting of the funded projects: Spring 2027</p>
European Partnership FutureFoods https://www.futurefoodspartnership.eu/	<p>NEW: FutureFoodS hereby pre-announces the 2nd co-funded call for transnational research projects Second Joint Transnational Co-funded Call — FutureFoodS and FutureFoodS: Call2</p> <p>The call will follow a two-step procedure with the following important steps:]Call launch: Second half of November 2025</p> <p>Deadline for pre-proposal submission: ~ 11 February 2026</p> <p>Deadline for full-proposal submission: ~27 July 2026 (only by invitation)</p>
European Partnership Agroecology https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/	<p>NEW: Announcement 3rd call AGROECOLOGY partnership 3rd co-funded call — Agroecology Partnership and Agroecology: Call3</p> <p>Tentative timeline</p> <p>Deadline for pre proposal submission is 18 February 2026, 14:00 CET.</p> <p>Deadline for full proposal submission is 08 July 2026, 14:00 CEST.</p>

European partnership Agriculture of Data	<p>The 1st co-funded Call of the AgData partnership is now open! 1st Co-funded Call for Transnational Research Projects “EU-wide data-driven solutions to real problems”</p> <p>Agriculture of Data: Call 1</p> <p>Procedure</p> <p>Short proposal & full proposal step</p> <p>The deadline for short proposals is January 21, 12:00h CET (noon).</p> <p>The deadline for full proposal submission is July 21, 12:00h CEST (noon).</p>
European partnership Sustainable Blue Economy https://bluepartnership.eu/	<p>Third Joint Transnational Call for R&I Funding</p> <p>Call launch (provisional): 15 September 2025, 15:00 CEST</p> <p>Deadline submission Pre-proposals 17 November 2025</p> <p>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</p> <p>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) CLOSED • 20 February 2026: stage 2 opening • 23 April 2026: stage 2 closing (Full Proposal submission deadline) • Summer of 2026: decision-making
European Partnership ERA4HEALTH ERA4Health The Partnership	<p>A new call within the European Partnership ERA4Health to which NWO contributes is now open for pre-proposals. PREVENT-OO: Understanding and Preventing Overweight and Obesity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The deadline for submitting a pre-proposal is 21 January 2026, 12:00 CET • The deadline for submitting a full application is 11 June 2026, 12:00 CEST <p>For more information website ERA4HEALTH: Prevent-OO: Understanding and Preventing Overweight and Obesity - Mechanisms of their onset and progression, neglected determinants and novel strategies for critical transitional periods in life</p> <p>For information on NWO pages: Call open for European research on the underlying causes of obesity NWO and Prevent-OO: Understanding and Preventing Overweight and Obesity - Mechanisms of their onset and progression, neglected determinants and novel strategies for critical transitional periods in life</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/

Other international calls

This list is a SELECTION of other international calls. The list was compiled on **18 December 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	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 Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR) or the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO) . 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_sep1i_-_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 **18 December 2025**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

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	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	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-I.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
27-01-2026	Deadline submission Full Proposals Sustainable Science Fund. Closing date full application until 27 January 2026 14:00 hrs. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/sustainable-science-fund
27-01-2026	Deadline submissions Full proposals for Transformative practices and processes for climate transitions. Proposals can be submitted until 27 January 2026 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call-open-transformative-practices-and-processes-for-climate-transitions and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/transformative-practices-and-processes-for-climate-transitions and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call_Transformative_Practices_Processes_Climate_Transitions.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	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
10-03-2026	Deadline for submission research proposals for The Open Mind 2026 call . The deadline for submitting a research proposal is Tuesday, March 10, 2026, before 14:00:00 CET. Open Mind 2026 now open for groundbreaking, outside-the-box ideas NWO and Open Mind 2026 NWO
10-03-2026	Foreseen Deadline for submission pre-proposals NWO-Talent Programme Vici SSH 2026 . Closing date for pre-proposals 10 March 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) NWO-Talent Programme Vici SSH 2026 NWO and NWO Talent Programme NWO
24-03-2026	Deadline for submission of full applications for Research Infrastructure (RI): national consortia 2025-2026 . The deadline for applications is 24 March 2026, before 14:00:00 CET: this call is coordinated for WUR by CVI Mascha Rasenberg. https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/call

	open-30-million-available-for-research-infrastructure and https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/research-infrastructure-ri-national-consortia
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
24-03-2026	NEW: deadline for submission of letters of intent KIC call “Collaborative business models for a circular economy” . The deadline for submitting letters of intent is 24 March 2026, before 14:00:00. Call open: Collaborative business models NWO and KIC Collaborative business models for a circular economy NWO and Call for Proposals - Collaborative business models for a circular economy
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/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Tulp%20Fonds_EN%20%282%29.pdf
07-04-2026	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	NEW: Deadline for submission Full applications KIC Digital Twinning – Actual and accurate models for insight, optimisation, and decision-making . Closing date full application 14 April 2026 14:00 hrs. NWO makes 7 million euros available for research into Digital Twins NWO and KIC Digital Twinning – Actual and accurate models for insight, optimisation, and decision-making NWO and Call for Proposals - Digital Twinning
07-05-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission full applications thematic Call Use of space infrastructure for vegetation research (Part of GO programme) . Foreseen closing date full application 7 May 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.). Use of space infrastructure for vegetation research NWO
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
26-05-2026	Deadline for submission of Full applications KIC call “Collaborative business models for a circular economy” . The deadline for submitting applications is 26 May 2026, before 14:00:00. Call open: Collaborative business models NWO and KIC Collaborative business models for a circular economy NWO and Call for Proposals - Collaborative business models for a circular economy
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
16-06-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission of 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.). KIC - Early detection and impact forecasting of (threatening) infectious diseases outbreaks NWO

16-06-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission of <u>full applications</u> Call 'The power of collaboration' for or SSH researchers to further deepen consortia (NWA) . The deadline for submitting applications is June 16, 2026 ; <i>The deadline for submitting a request for review by organizations based in the Netherlands is May 19, 2026. The deadline for submitting a request for review by foreign organizations is May 19, 2026</i> . New Call: Unique opportunity for SSH researchers to further deepen consortia (NWA) NWO and The power of collaboration NWO
15-09-2026	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
Until 23-06-2026	Deadline for submission full applications for the 'NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine'. Closing date full application 23 June 2026 14:00 hrs NWO and NRFU launch second funding round for Ukrainian researchers NWO and NWO Hop-On Call for Proposals for Researchers Based in Ukraine 2025 NWO and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call-for-Proposals-2025---DEF.pdf
23-06-2026	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submission Letter of Intent KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future . Foreseen closing date for letter of intent 23 June 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) . KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future NWO
08-09-2026	Foreseen Deadline for submission Full proposals NWO-Talent Programme Vici SSH 2026 . Closing date full application 8 September 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) . NWO-Talent Programme Vici SSH 2026 NWO and NWO Talent Programme NWO
22-09-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission full applications DeepNL Top-up Call "Opportunities for Integration and Impact" . Closing date full application 22 September 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) . DeepNL Top-up Call: Opportunities for Integration and Impact NWO
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
20-10-2026	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submission Full applications KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future . Foreseen closing date Closing date full application 20 October 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future NWO
26-10-2026	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submission Full proposals NWA ORC Round 2026 . The deadline for submission of proposals via ISAAC is 6 October 2026, at 14:00:00 CEST . Research along Routes by Consortia 2026 NWO and NWA ORC 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - NWA-ORC
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
30-11-2026	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submission full applications call Netherlands Polar programme The Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions (TRI-POLAR) . Closing date full application 30 November 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) . The Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions (TRI-POLAR) NWO
From 12-01-2026 to 11-12-2026	Deadline for submission proposals Open Technology Programme 2026 . Applications can be submitted on a continuous basis between 12 January 2026 until 11 December 2026, as long as the grant ceiling or the maximum number of applications submitted has not yet been reached. Open Technology Programme 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - Open Technology Programme 2026
21-01-2027	Deadline submission proposals for KIC Societal Earning Capacity: Connection, Synthesis and Knowledge Utilisation This Call for proposals has a specific lead time during which applications can be submitted continuously. During the term, three deadlines/collection times have been determined when applications will be assessed. Applications can be submitted continuously until January 21, 2027, before 2:00:00 PM CET. January 21, 2027, before 2:00:00

	PM CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/kic-societal-earning-capacity-connection-synthesis-and-knowledge-utilisation
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 **18 December 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 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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