



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 441_11 February 2026

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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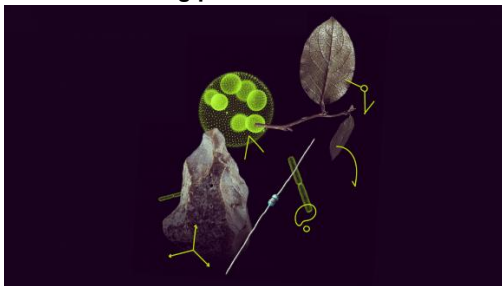
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Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe

MSCA awards €404.3 million to postdoctoral researchers (9 February 2026)

Source: Website MSCA [MSCA awards €404.3 million to postdoctoral researchers](#) | [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)
1610 outstanding postdoctoral researchers were selected for funding among 17,066 applicants.



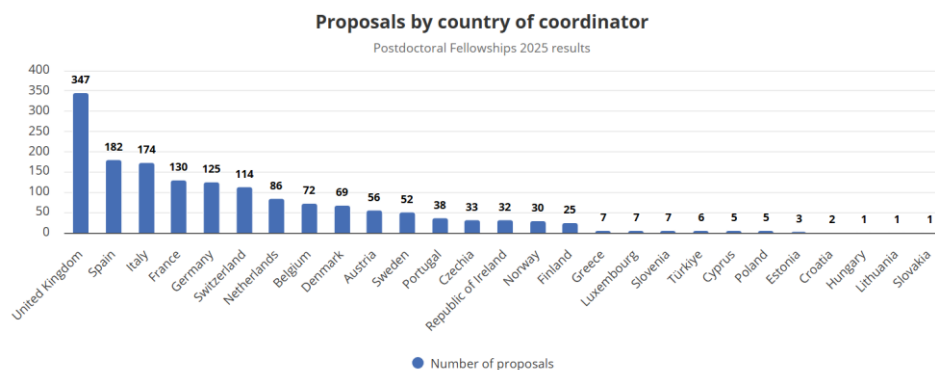
The European Commission will award €404.3 million to **1610 postdoctoral researchers** to work at top universities, research centres, private and public organisations and small and medium-sized enterprises.

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) [received 17,066 applications for this call](#), of which 16,836 were eligible and were evaluated. 1610 projects were selected. This result corresponds to a **9,6% success rate**. The selected applicants represent nearly **80 nationalities**. They will work in **45 countries** in Europe and the rest of the world.

The Commission will award

- **€343.7 million to 1446 researchers** through European Postdoctoral Fellowships, allowing them to carry out their projects in the EU or countries associated to Horizon Europe
- **€60.6 million** for Global Postdoctoral Fellowships, allowing **164 researchers** to carry out research outside the EU or countries associated to Horizon Europe, mostly in the United States, Canada and Australia, before returning back to Europe

Projects will be coordinated by organisations in 27 countries in the EU and countries associated to Horizon Europe.

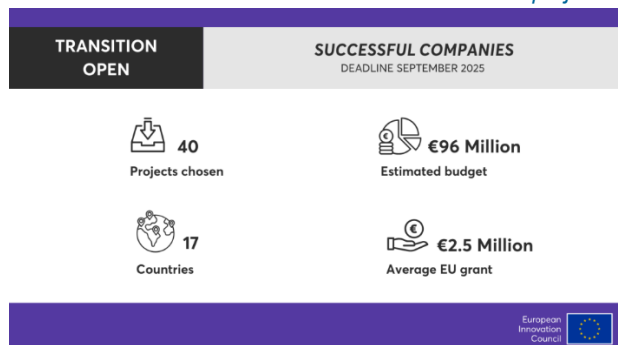


An overview of the evaluation results, cut-off scores and statistics has been published on the [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 call page](#) of the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal. A list with all funded projects and coordinating organisations is available in [CIRCABC](#). Once grant agreements are finalised, the complete list of funded projects will be published on the same page and on [CORDIS](#).

For more information: [MSCA awards €404.3 million to postdoctoral researchers | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

EIC selects 40 new Transition projects to bring research results closer to market (9 February 2026)

Source: Website EIC [EIC selects 40 new Transition projects to bring research results closer to market](#)



The European Innovation Council (EIC) has selected **40 projects** following the 2025 EIC Transition call. Each of these successful proposals, selected among 611 submissions, will receive a grant of up to €2.5 million upon signing a grant agreement. 130 of those submissions originate from the European Research Council Proof of Concept projects. The EIC supports selected projects to validate and demonstrate their technologies and to develop a business plan so they can get ready to go to the market. The selected participants come from 17 EU Member States and Horizon Europe associated countries. The EIC Transition, which has no predefined thematic restrictions, welcomes proposals from all fields of science, technology, and application.

In addition, for the first time, 228 Seals of Excellence have been attributed to the proposals that were excellent but could not receive funding due to lack of budget. These projects are judged to deserve funding and are recommended to receive support from other EU or national/regional sources.

For overview funded projects: [download](#)

Background information

EIC Transition projects focus on results generated by:

- EIC Pathfinder,
- FET (Future and Emerging Technologies – as the predecessor of EIC Pathfinder),
- European Research Council (ERC) Proof of Concept projects,
- Research and Innovation Actions funded under Horizon 2020 Societal challenges and Leadership in Industrial Technologies and under Horizon Europe pillar II, with an eligible TRL
- European Defence Fund (EDF), including the Preparatory Action on Defence Research, research projects, but only for proposals which are focused on civil applications (including dual use).

The funding is devoted to maturing the technologies and building a business case for specific applications. Grants of up to €2.5 million are available to validate and demonstrate technology in application-relevant environment and develop market readiness.

The selected projects will have access to EIC Business Acceleration Services including coaching, mentoring, and partnering events. Projects are also eligible for the fast-track scheme to access the EIC Accelerator for supporting the commercialisation and scale up phases.

Looking ahead, the next deadline for EIC Transition applications is 16 September 2026.

EU and India launch talks on Horizon Europe association (6 February 2026)

Source: Website EC [EU and India launch talks on Horizon Europe association - Research and innovation](#)

The European Commission and India have today launched exploratory discussions on the possible association to Horizon Europe. The launch of these talks follows the 16th EU–India Summit in New Delhi, where leaders from both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening strategic cooperation across trade, security, science, innovation and mobility.

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

“Science works best when borders do not get in the way of ideas. Exploring India’s association to Horizon Europe is about connecting talent, ambition and trust, and building solutions together at global scale.”

If India becomes associated, Indian researchers and institutions would be able to receive funding directly from Horizon Europe and lead projects, with India making a financial contribution to the programme.

R&I cooperation with India

EU-India cooperation on research and innovation is governed by the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in 2001 and recently renewed until 2030 at the [New Delhi summit](#).

The [Joint EU–India Comprehensive Strategic Agenda Towards 2030](#) places research and innovation at the centre of the strategic partnership and includes the launch of exploratory talks on Horizon Europe association as a concrete deliverable.

In recent years, this cooperation has also been strengthened through the EU–India Trade and Technology Council (TTC). Commissioner Zaharieva’s visit to India last year, including exchanges in the TTC context, helped advance shared priorities and reinforce links between research and innovation ecosystems on both sides.

Horizon Europe global

Association to the EU’s Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is **the closest form of international cooperation in science and technology** between the European Union and a non-EU country.

At present, **22 non-EU countries are associated with Horizon Europe**: Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, **Canada**, **Egypt**, the Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, **Korea**, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, **New Zealand**, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Türkiye, **Tunisia**, **Ukraine** and **the United Kingdom**.

Beyond the associated countries, **negotiations for association** were successfully **concluded with Japan** on 21 December 2025, while association negotiations with Morocco are currently paused.

Exploratory talks are currently ongoing with Australia.

€166 million for new EIC Pathfinder Open call (5 February 2026)

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

The EC has officially opened the EIC 2026 Pathfinder Open

Expected impact

The expected output of your project is the proof of principle that the main ideas of the envisioned future technology are feasible, thus validating its scientific and technological basis. Project results should include top-level scientific publications in open access. While your vision is expected to be worthwhile because of its potential for future impact, for instance to create new markets, improve our lives, or provide solutions for global challenges, these are not expected to be achieved in the course of your EIC Pathfinder Open project. However, you are expected to take the necessary measures in the course of the project to allow future uptake to take place. This includes: an adequate formal protection of the generated Intellectual Property (IP), a plan for future exploitation and an assessment of relevant aspects related to regulation, certification, and standardisation.

Objective:

The overall objective of the EIC Pathfinder for advanced research is to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies. It provides support for the earliest stages of scientific, technological or deep tech research and development. Pathfinder projects aim to build on new, cutting-edge directions in science and technology to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities by realising innovative technological solutions through:

- ‘**EIC Pathfinder Open**’, open to support projects in any field of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities.
- ‘**EIC Pathfinder Challenges**’ to support coherent portfolios of projects within predefined thematic areas with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge.

Scope:

Do you have an ambitious vision for a novel future technology that could make a real difference to our lives?

- Do you see a plausible way of achieving the scientific breakthrough that will make this technology possible?
- Can you imagine collaborating with an interdisciplinary team of researchers and innovators to validate the scientific basis of the future technology, realise a proof of principle, and explore paths to impact?

If the answer to each one of these questions is 'yes', then EIC Pathfinder Open may be the right call for you.

Before applying to this call, you should verify that your proposal meets all the following essential characteristics ('Gatekeepers'):

- Convincing long-term vision of a radically new technology that has the potential to have a transformative positive effect to solving a challenge in our economy and society.
- Concrete, novel and ambitious science-towards-technology breakthrough, providing advancement towards the envisioned technology.
- High-risk/high-gain research approach and methodology, with concrete and plausible objectives.

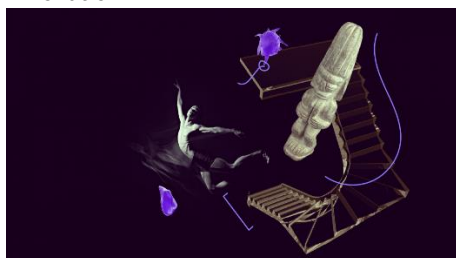
EIC Pathfinder Open involves interdisciplinary research and development. By bringing diverse areas of research together, often with different perspectives, terminologies and methodologies, within individual projects and within a portfolio of projects, really new things can be generated, and entirely new areas of research can be opened up. It is up to you to compose the team that you need, that you can learn from, and that you can move forward with.

For more information: [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

MSCA awards €97.7 million for international research cooperation projects (3 February 2026)

Source: Website MSCA news [MSCA awards €97.7 million for international research cooperation projects | Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

The European Commission will support 81 Staff Exchanges projects to boost knowledge transfer and innovation.



The European Commission has announced the results of the 2025 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) call for Staff Exchanges.

The Commission will allocate **€97.7 million for a total of 81 projects**, promoting cooperation between academic and non-academic organisations in the EU and around the globe, boosting innovation and knowledge transfer.

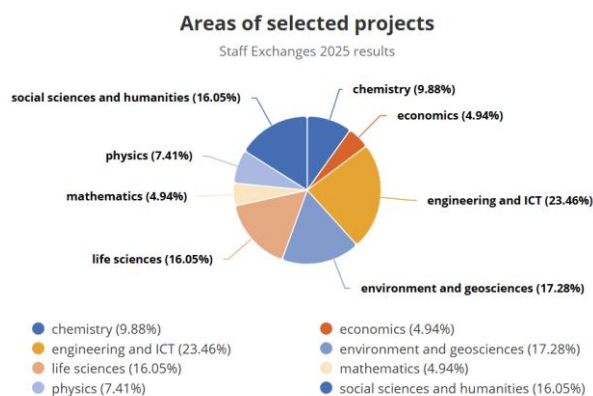
The European Research Executive Agency (REA) received [363 applications for this call for project proposals](#), of which 360 were eligible and were evaluated. 81 projects were selected. This corresponds to a **22,5% success rate**.

Frontier research in all fields

Selected projects span all scientific disciplines and research areas including

- research in cancer diagnostics, regenerative medicine, and gut microbiota interventions
- innovations in water management, regenerative treatment technologies, and agricultural resilience
- developments in robotics, AI-driven diagnostics, and communication networks
- workforce empowerment, diversity strategies, and initiatives for active citizenship and healthcare design.
-

Selected projects are in the following broad areas.



This pie chart shows the projects by scientific disciplines. The top 5 disciplines are engineering and ICT with 23.5%, environment and geosciences with 17.3%, life sciences with 16.1%, social sciences and humanities with 16.1% and chemistry with 9.9%.

A list with all funded projects and coordinating organisations is available in [CIRCABC](#).

Choose Europe for Science: over 100 national and regional initiatives aim to attract global research talent (30 January 2026)

Source: Website EC News [Choose Europe for Science: over 100 national and regional initiatives aim to attract global research talent - Research and innovation](#)

The European Union is stepping up its efforts to become the world's leading destination for researchers. According to the [latest update](#) published by the Commission today, Europe now offers **101 national and regional funding and support schemes** designed to attract, retain and develop research talent. The increase in the number of initiatives, from 65 last May to over 100, shows EU countries are committed to making Europe a top choice for researchers worldwide. These initiatives complement opportunities at EU level, launched under the [Choose Europe](#) initiative by President Ursula von der Leyen in May 2025 and currently supported by nearly €900 million in EU funding - €400 million more than announced in May 2025.

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

"We are working as 'Team Europe' to attract research talent from around the world and to support researchers already working here. Thanks to the growing number of funding opportunities at both EU and national level, respect for freedom of scientific research and a high quality of life, we are seeing a record interest in research opportunities in Europe."

The national and regional initiatives include competitive grants, mobility and reintegration schemes, tenure-track and long-term positions, fellowships for researchers at risk and career development support across all 27 Member States. Together, they represent **at least €1 billion in funding opportunities**, offering opportunities for researchers at all career stages and confirming the EU's leading position in a highly competitive global research landscape. The schemes are open to researchers worldwide as well as to those already based in the EU.

Where figures have been made public, these initiatives are already delivering concrete results. In second half of 2025 alone, Germany's Global Minds Initiative programmes selected 166 researchers, while Austrian APART-USA awarded 25 fellowships to top researchers.

France's Safe Place for Science initiative at Aix-Marseille University has selected around 60 international researchers, and Belgium's Vrije Universiteit Brussel has recruited 12 international researchers.

The initiatives were first presented last year by Commissioner **Zaharieva** as the [Choose Europe for Science](#) package. To facilitate access, the Commission is providing a single gateway to these actions through the [EURAXESS](#) platform, making it easier for global talent to identify opportunities across Europe.

European level actions

Since the launch of [Choose Europe](#), interest in EU research opportunities has increased sharply. Applications from **outside Europe or associated countries** researchers for **ERC Advanced Grants** have nearly quadrupled (168 compared to 45). For **ERC Starting Grants** they increased by more than 50% (246 compared with 159). The **ERC Consolidator Grant** 2026 call recorded a 130% increase in the number of applications from researchers currently based outside the EU and countries associated to Horizon Europe (115 compared to 50). Applications for **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) postdoctoral fellowships** also rose by 65% over the past year .

The Commission published the updated overview the day after the adoption of the new [EU Visa Strategy](#), which simplifies processes, boosts access and strengthens capacities to help ensure that the brightest minds contribute to Europe's research and innovation.

These national and regional funding schemes also contribute to building a single market for research, innovation and technology. In parallel, the EU supports research careers through the European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2025–27, which aims to improve working conditions, career development, mobility and skills recognition across the bloc. This will be one of the key components of the upcoming legislative initiative based on the ERA objectives – the ERA Act – that will help maximising the attractiveness of EU.

For more information: [Choose Europe for Science: over 100 national and regional initiatives aim to attract global research talent - Research and innovation](#)

European Funding News: FP10

Fragmented single market is ‘number one problem’ for EU research (5 February 2026)

Source: Website Science|Business [Fragmented single market is ‘number one problem’ for EU research | Science|Business](#)

Overcoming regulatory fragmentation is more urgent than the quirky details of R&I programmes, said MEP Christian Ehler and EU research chief Marc Lemaître



MEP Christian Ehler of the European People's Party (left) and Marc Lemaître, director general for research and innovation at the European Commission (right). Photo credits: Jeroen Vanhecke

The future success of European research and innovation rests not on the structure of the next Horizon Europe or the new Competitiveness Fund (ECF), but on the continent's capability to scale cutting edge technologies across borders, MEP Christian Ehler told the Science|Business [annual conference on February 5](#).

"The number one problem in Europe for innovation is not the need for a competitiveness programme, it is simply the fragmentation of the single market," said Ehler, who is the European Parliament's lead rapporteur on the next Horizon Europe and co-rapporteur on the ECF.

Marc Lemaître, director general for research and innovation at the European Commission, agreed that "it is not first and foremost about money, but about overcoming regulation fragmentation in Europe." He said he hoped for "bold political decisions" to be taken in areas such as the Capital Markets Union.

An EU capital markets union is not a new idea but gained fresh support in 2024 following reports on European research and competitiveness by former Italian prime ministers Mario Draghi and Enrico Letta. The aim would be to make it easier for investments and savings to flow across the bloc, instead of on a national level.

Lemaître also argued that EU funding for research and innovation needs to focus more on late-stage development and deployment. "We need to do better in the eventual impact, economic and societal, of that collective research that we pursue in Europe," he said.

The largest pot of EU funding goes towards collaborative research, which mostly start at around technology readiness level (TRL) 3 and end around TRL 6, which is still some way off market deployment, Lemaître pointed out. "I am absolutely with those who say we don't have the right balance [of TRLs]," Lemaître said.

The EU research chief also suggested rethinking how collaborative research projects are managed. Today, there are too many calls "with just two or three projects" at the end and too little money, he said. Instead, the next research Framework Programme could publish fewer calls and fund more projects per call.

The average size of an EU-funded collaborative research project is €4 million over four years, with 11 participants in the consortium, he said. "You break that down, and how much is there on average per participant in the consortium? Something like €100,000 per year."

Asked whether there were too many calls, Lemaître suggested that if the EU were to set priorities, it could focus on areas where the continent lags or key technologies where it needs to step up its capacities moving forward.

Linking Horizon to the ECF

The European Commission last year put forward its plans for a standalone Horizon Europe successor worth €175 billion that would be tightly connected to a wider €409 billion ECF.

Significant question marks remain around the links between the two instruments. “I would say also the 13th floor [of the Berlaymont building, where the Commission president’s office is located] doesn’t know what it will look like,” Ehler said. “I’m fairly sure the Council also doesn’t know what it will look like.”

Lemaître said the Commission has not laid out all the details around governance because, “we want to be in listening mode.” Research stakeholders, industry, investors, the European Parliament and member states will all have a say in how Europe sets priorities and pursues them through Horizon and the ECF, he suggested.

Future of the EIT

The future of the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) is another lingering question. Here, Ehler was frank, suggesting the EU should “shutter” the EIT’s central agency in Budapest and think about alternative ways of managing its thematic knowledge and innovation communities (KICs).

The individual KICs are “a fast-moving and really interesting instrument” but “wrongly placed institutionally,” he said. The German MEP also suggested that there were “two or three” KICs that should be immediately shut down, saying for example that it was “not the best idea to have a climate KIC.”

Lemaître said that the Commission would examine the situation by the end of the year.

International science cooperation must go on, say research leaders (5 February 2026)

Source: Website Science|Business [International science cooperation must go on, say research leaders | Science|Business](#)

Trump’s squeeze on science should be met with enhanced, more diverse international partnerships, conference hears



From left to right: David Matthews, international editor at Science|Business, Leslie Weir, president of the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions and Canada’s Librarian, Hugh Brady, president of Imperial College London, and Maria Leptin, president of the European Research Council. Photo credits: Jeroen Vanhecke

Science leaders in Europe and Canada say international cooperation must go on amid geopolitical turmoil. At the same time, Europe and like-minded countries should continue to enhance and diversify international partnerships, a Science|Business conference hears.

Hugh Brady, president of Imperial College London, told delegates that Europe’s response to the current geopolitical climate should be to “diversify in terms of research partnerships and build resilience and scale into our own system.” A first priority should be for the EU to sort out the scope of the upcoming European Competitiveness Fund and ensure that, together with the next iteration of Horizon Europe, it can drive the development and scale up of new technologies.

The EU and the countries associated to the Horizon Europe programme represent “the world’s most successful research innovation ecosystem,” Brady said. In order to mitigate the negative effects of shifting geopolitics, the EU together with the UK, Switzerland, Canada, South Korea and others should talk about “building resilience” and address their own “regional needs,” he added.

Responding to Trump

Under Donald Trump’s leadership, the US government has slashed science budgets and shut down international research programmes. Nearly 8,000 grants at the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation have been frozen or terminated. Courts have overturned most of these cancellations, but the disruption caused remains significant.

While Europe may persuade a few thousand disgruntled scientists to move across the ocean to work on topics that have been de-funded in the US, it’s unclear what should happen next with transatlantic scientific cooperation more broadly. “Now is the time for us to show [US researchers] our support as much as we can,” Brady said.

The European Research Council (ERC), the EU's basic science funder, has seen a surge in applicants from the US. According to its latest data, US-based researchers [submitted 347 proposals](#) to the last three big funding rounds, up from 158 in the previous set of calls.

The European Commission has also launched a €22.5 million [pilot call](#) in 2025 for the Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions, the EU's researcher training scheme. It plans to extend this support with a €51.25 million call in 2027 as part of the Choose Europe initiative, which is intended to make the continent a more attractive place to pursue a career in research.

A globally open Horizon Europe could play a key role in realising Mark Carney's vision of an alliance of middle powers, says Jan Palmowski (4 February 2026)

Source: [European research must adapt to the new world order](#) Blog by Jan Palmowski President of the Guild



Source: [Chip Somodevilla/Staff/Getty Images](#)

The US action in Venezuela and threats over Greenland in the first few weeks of 2026 were vivid examples of the shifting geopolitics we are seeing one year into Donald Trump's second presidency – and a stark reminder of the need to take America's new [National Security Strategy](#) very seriously.

The strategy, published last November, has been hugely criticised for its attack on Europe and its institutions. Allegedly, the EU is contributing to “civilizational erasure”, undermining Europeans’ political liberties, censoring free speech and suppressing political opposition. Shockingly, the strategy takes clear political sides with populism, attacking migration – which has always been part of the European experience – as alienating Europe from itself. And, to top it all, the strategy intends to actively cultivate “resistance” to what it opposes in Europe, including the EU.

It is also **striking how pivotal research, innovation and technology** are to the Trump administration's conception of US global interests. In practice, we have already seen the administration attack research in some areas, including climate science, gender and reproductive health. Yet the strategy is rooted in the power that derives from the US' status as “the world's most scientifically and technologically advanced and innovative country”. The strategy emphasises the importance of “investing in emerging technologies and basic science”, to ensure the US' “continued prosperity, competitive advantage, and military dominance for future generations”.

A revealing passage on how to contain China emphasises the importance of the US investing in research in key strategic domains, including undersea, space, AI, quantum, autonomous systems, nuclear and energy more broadly. But the document is also clear that the US will assert its interests in countries it deals with that it considers secret proxies of China. What this means in practice is unclear, but the [survey](#) sent out a year ago to research collaborators with the US on their links to China and their DEI strategies alerts us to what might be on the administration's mind.

What little good the strategy has to say about Europe is summarised in two sentences. One directly praises Europe as the “home of cutting-edge scientific research and world-leading cultural institutions”. And the other notes its “robust” economic sectors nourished by cutting-edge research, notably manufacturing, energy and technology.

In a direct response to the US strategy during the recent World Economic Forum in Davos, European Commission president [Ursula von der Leyen](#) reasserted the need for Europe's “independence”. In particular, she emphasised Europe's commitment to strong global trade partnerships and investment in critical technologies and defence.

Meanwhile, Canadian prime minister Mark Carney also called for an assertive response to the new “era of intensifying great-power rivalry”, proposing a new, flexible response from mid-sized powers such as Canada. Both leaders agreed that the future lay in a new world order of “genuine cooperation” different from the postwar arrangements we are leaving behind. This has profound implications for universities.

First of all, economic competitiveness and geopolitical positioning are closely intertwined and are dependent on ambitious spending for R&I – not only through the next framework programme, FP10, but also at the national level. Political leaders need to face the fact and act on it – not neglecting to invest in higher education, which is a crucial part of the R&I ecosystem.

Second, Carney's notion of a better kind of collaboration needs to be built on greater equity and trust among partners. Universities are central to building cross-border alliances, but if we want to collaborate better, more sustainably, now is the time to tackle the inequities – research agendas and prestigious publishing venues dominated by the Global North – that have underwritten our commitment to open collaborations for too long.

Third, the EU must ensure coherence across its funding programmes. The new [Global Europe programme](#), intended to support the EU's external partnerships, needs to align with the research and education focus of the EU Global Gateway – the strategy established by von der Leyen in 2021 to support its partnerships with lower- and middle-income countries. This should translate into at least €6bn (£5.2bn) spending for higher education collaboration through Erasmus+, and an even more ambitious provision for research.

Fourth, we in Europe need to boost resilience in the systems we use, from our operating services to where we store our data. Our global opportunity lies in our capacity to create systems that work across borders. We should build on our advantages to develop understandings (and protocols) with international partners.

And, finally, association to FP10 could become much more than agreements for research collaboration: it could put the EU at the heart of a global R&I “coalition that works”, to paraphrase Carney. This would make Horizon Europe the starting point for wider collaboration with Third Countries worldwide. And this, in turn, could be a basis of agreeing to shared global research priorities, common protocols around IP rules, interoperability and research security in particularly sensitive research areas. This would not aim at establishing exclusivity and hegemony, but at being an open offer of collaboration for a new geopolitical environment.

This would require the EU to become much more agile in how it agrees association for FP10, especially with countries that have already associated to the current Horizon Europe programme. And it would require the EU to take on board the ideas and experiences of its global partners where appropriate.

In an increasingly fragmented world, the role of universities should be precisely to build bridges and present counterweights to strategies whose values are inimical to the values and internationally collaborative instincts of academia. Von der Leyen and Carney challenged us to develop new kinds of collaborations that are – as the latter put it – “bigger, better, stronger, more robust”.

MEP Ehler wants changes in the FP10 proposal (2 February 2026)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Europarlementariër Ehler wil verandering in het KP10-voorstel](#)

The new framework program must be much clearer and better aligned with the needs of researchers, said MEP Ehler during a meeting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on the framework program proposal.



More clarity and certainty for researchers

The proposal for the new framework programme (FP10) needs to be more concrete [Committee on Industry, Research and Energy Ordinary meeting - Multimedia Centre](#), says MEP and rapporteur Ehler. For example, he points out to the Commission that the role of the Competitiveness Fund is not yet sufficiently clear. This criticism has already been voiced by the sector. The German MEP also argues that the programme should give experts a greater role. Ehler recommends simplifying FP10 for researchers. He is also concerned about the reduced independence of the European Research

Council and the European Innovation Council. Ehler voiced this criticism during a meeting of the Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE). MEPs, rapporteurs, and shadow rapporteurs Repasi, Galvez, and Lakos support Ehler's statements.

Widening measures should differ for each country, new European Parliament study concludes (30 January 2026)

Source: Website *ience Business* [Widening measures should differ for each country, new European Parliament study concludes | Science|Business](#)

The report feeds into conversations about future EU support for countries lagging in research and development



Reinhilde Veugelers speaking at a meeting of the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel in Strasbourg on 22 January, 2026.

Horizon Europe's Widening measures should be diversified to target individual countries' research and innovation needs, a draft study commissioned by the European Parliament's Science and Technology Options Assessment (STOA) Panel has concluded.

The report is both a review of how effective Widening measures have been to date, and a framework for establishing a new structure, or a Widening 2.0. It is authored by Reinhilde Veugelers, an innovation specialist at Belgian university KU Leuven, who presented an early snapshot at a STOA meeting on January 22. The full study will be published and presented to STOA in the coming months.

Among the conclusions is the point that there is a huge amount of heterogeneity in the 15 Widening countries, with bottlenecks blocking research and innovation potential in different areas. It means that some Widening instruments are not necessarily well suited to all countries' needs.

"To know how to support specific Widening countries you need to know where they are, what blockages they face to catch up, and also their potential," Veugelers told Science|Business following the STOA meeting. "There needs to be constant monitoring and evaluation, and really tailoring the instruments to every individual country, depending on what would make more sense for them."

By way of example, she highlighted two long-established Widening instruments, commonly known as teaming and twinning. Teaming provides co-funding for the establishment or upgrade of research and innovation centres of excellence; twinning is about networking and raising the profile of research institutes in Widening countries by pairing them with leading institutes elsewhere.

"Instruments like twinning and teaming, they are great, but they only work if a country's research and innovation landscape is sufficiently developed," Veugelers said. "That's not necessarily the case for all Widening countries."

Not really catching up

Widening measures were first introduced as a part of the EU's Framework Programme for research and innovation in 2014, to help lagging countries catch up with Europe's stronger research and innovation states. The Widening measures have a separate budget, which started in 2014 at around €1 billion and rose to around €3 billion when Horizon Europe kicked off in 2021.

The new study paints a mixed picture of their success. It found that while some countries have managed to catch up to the EU average for certain indicators, others have barely closed the gap in many areas. The study assessed the potential of Widening countries to catch up on innovation capacity, a metric referred to as PIC. It looked at several areas, including a country's access to tools to carry out science and technology, such as high-speed internet, IT specialists, international scientific co-publications, etc; a country's absorptive capacity, covering population demographics and education level, etc; its creative capacity, and its impact, through indicators such as medium- and

high-tech exports, knowledge intensive services exports, high-tech imports from foreign partners, labour productivity, etc.

The one area that stands out for there being little or no progress is a country's access to finance. This category looked at R&D expenditures in the public sector, venture capital expenditures, and direct government funding and government tax support for business R&D. While some countries, such as Estonia, Portugal, Lithuania, Croatia and Greece, made significant strides in this category, others deteriorated. And even for the countries that improved, it wasn't necessarily fast enough to catch up with better performing EU countries.

This shows that the problem facing Widening countries is systemic and, according to Veugelers, cannot be solved by improving just one element. Instead the whole research and innovation landscape has to have good conditions in order to improve.

Other International funding

M4D launched a new Open Innovation Challenge (10 February 2026)

Source: Website M4D [OPEN INNOVATION CHALLENGE | M4D](#)

M4D recently launched a new challenge programme, with a deadline on March 30. The Open Innovation Challenge calls on growth-stage enterprises to help meet these urgent challenges by advancing bold, practical solutions that strengthen resilience, support smallholder farmers, and improve livelihoods across vulnerable rural landscapes. The challenge is looking for solutions that build resilient food systems across four challenge tracks: insurance, agroecology, digital extension and fragility.

Are you ready to pilot a solution that addresses the needs of smallholder farmers, rural communities, and indigenous populations? Join us in the Moonshots for Development Open Innovation Challenge, an initiative powered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the IDB Lab, the CGIAR Accelerate for Impact Platform (A4IP), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Innovation Hub (IIH) and the European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability (EIIIS).

Through this challenge, we are looking for solutions that **build resilient food systems across four challenge tracks: (1) Insurance, (2) Agroecology, (3) Digital Extension, and (4) Fragility**, with particular interest in solutions that use AI and geospatial analysis to create positive impact for smallholder farmers and/or rural communities.

We are excited by solutions that center the rural communities, ensuring the impact of these solutions is accessible to smallholder farmers and rural households. In cases where solutions are engaging end-users directly, technology should be context appropriate, accounting for issues like internet connectivity and feature phone prevalence.

Calling all visionary startups- Transform agriculture and empower rural communities with the Moonshots for Development Challenge!

Apply now and unlock a world of opportunity with potential funding of up to \$360,000 USD per team!

A pitch event was held January 24, which is still [available online](#), additional information sessions are coming up on February 12 and March 18. Applications for the challenge are open through

For more information about themes and application procedure: <https://www.m4d.org/openinnovationchallenge>.

Ten European biodiversity projects with Dutch participation awarded (2 February 2026)

Source: Website NWO news [Ten European biodiversity projects with Dutch participation awarded | NWO](#)



NWO is providing 3.2 million euro in funding for interdisciplinary research into biodiversity and transformative change. The European partnership Biodiversa+ has launched this call, called 'Biodiversity and Transformative Change (BiodivTransform)'.

Restoring biodiversity is an important objective of the European Union. The Biodiversa+ programme was launched, among other efforts, to address the problem of biodiversity loss. This fourth call for proposals from the partnership focused on cross-border research to understand the trade-offs and cross-linkages between the global crises of biodiversity loss, climate change and pollution. It also addressed the identification, analysis and understanding of transformation processes that protect biodiversity and can reduce threats.

About this call

The European Biodiversa+ partnership received 269 pre-proposals and 105 full proposals. *A total of 35 projects* will be funded for 40 million euros. There is one project with a Dutch main applicant and nine projects with a Dutch co-applicant.

WUR is co-applicant in one of the funded proposals

FLOODTRAIN: From Knowledge to Action: Empowerment and Training of Floodplain Restoration Managers

Dutch applicant: Prof. Lars Hein, Wageningen University and Research Centre.

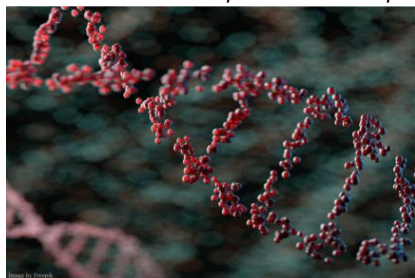
All projects can be found on the **Biodiversa+ website**: [BiodivTransform: 35 research projects funded for over €40 Million – Biodiversa +](#)

About European Partnerships

The European co-funded partnerships are part of Horizon Europe, the European programme for research and innovation (2021-2027). The partnerships focus on complex societal challenges and aim at real impact. The calls resulting from the European partnerships lead to thematic research.

Timeline AGROECOLOGY 3rd co-funded call (2 February 2026)

Source: Website European Partnership Agroecology [3rd co-funded call - AGROECOLOGY Partnership](#)



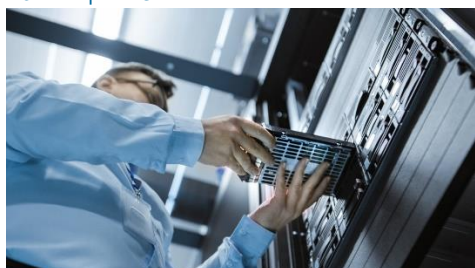
The AGROECOLOGY Partnership has opened a third co funded call, “Fostering plant and animal genetic diversity and empowering farmers to accelerate the agroecological transition.” The call targets two essential pillars of agroecology: genetic diversity and farmer involvement. Projects may apply under one of two topics: Topic 1 focuses on enhancing genetic diversity in crops and livestock to expand the availability of species, varieties and breeds suited for agroecological farming systems. Topic 2 aims to strengthen farmers' motivation, skills and knowledge, and to improve stakeholder cooperation in driving the transition. Funded projects are expected to deliver practical tools and innovations for farmers, improve capacity for implementing agroecological practices, enhance socio economic or environmental performance, and contribute to stronger science policy interfaces. A total of 27 funders from 19 countries are contributing to this call.

The call follows a two step application process, with a pre proposal deadline on 18 February 2026 and a full proposal deadline on 8 July 2026. See for call details: [3rd co-funded call - AGROECOLOGY Partnership](#)

National funding

Institutional data management plan templates no longer need to be approved by NWO and ZonMw (10 February 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Institutional data management plan templates no longer need to be approved by NWO and ZonMw](#) | NWO



From 1 March 2026 institutions do not need to send their data management plan (DMP) templates for approval by NWO and ZonMw. Both organisations will continue to require a DMP for funded projects, and all DMPs must still comply with the Science Europe Core Requirements for Data Management Plans.

In their research data management policies, NWO and ZonMw require project leaders to submit a DMP before the start of a project. A DMP is a document in which the project leader defines how they will handle data, from acquisition to publishing. It ensures that the project leader has thought about how to make the data findable, reusable and compliant with laws and regulations. Approval of the DMP by NWO or ZonMw remains a condition for project commencement.

For more information: [Institutional data management plan templates no longer need to be approved by NWO and ZonMw](#) | NWO

NWO budget 2026: investing in research with fewer resources until 2031 (10 February 2026)

Source: Website NOW News [NWO budget 2026: investing in research with fewer resources until 2031](#) | NWO



The NWO budget for 2026 has been drawn up and approved by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science (OCW). This financial plan is NWO's annual budget request, setting out its objectives and ambitions for the coming year and the financial resources required to achieve them. The budget plan with also a forecast up to 2031, includes cuts announced by the demissionary Schoof cabinet.

Despite a new coalition agreement with positive signals, these cuts have not yet been definitively reversed. In the medium term, this means NWO can invest less in what can improve us in the long term: knowledge and innovation. In the end, this will have consequences for the Netherlands' leading position in science, our broad prosperity, and our strategic autonomy.

At a time when urgent challenges call for innovative solutions, the previous cabinet introduced a substantial education and science austerity package. NWO, as a science funder, is no exception. Although the new coalition agreement has announced to reverse cuts, the savings remain a fact at this point in time. This means the NWO budget will shrink by

25% in the coming years: from €1.6 billion in 2025 to €1.2 billion in 2031. This forces NWO to take a critical look at its financial means, because it will simply have to perform its public task – as it stands now – with less financial resources.

The three causes

The Ministry of Education, Culture and Science announced a cut of up to **€146 million in 2031**: €71 million on the lump sum and €74 million on specific programmes – partly via the Fund for Research and Science– such as Open Science, the Doctoral Grant for Teachers programme, and Large-scale research infrastructure (GWI). Furthermore, the National Growth Fund will be discontinued – €150 million less from 2028 onwards – and there is still around €100 million in (currently) temporary assignments in the books. In some cases, NWO can partially remedy the situation. For example, NWO is compensating for the Open Science cutbacks from other sources, because access to science is essential. However, the teacher grant will end after 2027, and NWO continues to express its concerns about all the consequences.

The lump sum: unallocated funds

It was up to NWO to fill in the details of the lump sum cuts, whereby it has sought to strike a balance between investing in curiosity-driven research and thematic research. In this way, NWO hopes to limit the impact on individual programmes as much as possible. Due to the free spirit of researchers – who dare to break new grounds – the national importance of the ten NWO institutes, and the impact on society through applied research and valorisation, NWO has decided not to make cuts to the Open Competition, research at the NWO institutes, applied research, and valorisation programmes.

On the other hand, NWO has **to make budgetary cuts the coming years**, and these will be distributed across the **Dutch Research Agenda (NWA)**, the **talent and infrastructure programmes**, and the **Knowledge and Innovation Covenant (KIC)**. NWO is also **making limited cuts to Open Science** and furthermore to its own administrative costs. This more than meets the government-wide savings target for the civil service. Finally, a difficult decision was made regarding the User Support for Space Research programme, which will be phased out over time. This was done in order **to maintain** other relatively smaller programmes, such as **Caribbean research** and the **Netherlands Polar Programme**.

Consequences for NWO and the scientific community in 2026

In 2026, the consequences will remain limited with €1.7 billion to invest. NWO will be able to spend more than it receives in 2026 due to the fact that large programmes will still be able to draw from investments made by previous cabinets: after all, there is often a year between budget commitments, programme implementation, and allocating the grants. This year, NWO can also make the strategic choice to increase a limited number of programme budgets; in 2026, this will mainly concern the Dutch Research Agenda, digital infrastructure, and European partnerships. In the medium term, however, consequences will become increasingly noticeable if the new government, as laid out in its coalition agreement, ultimately decides not to reverse (some of) the cuts on science and education.

Read full article here: [NWO budget 2026: investing in research with fewer resources until 2031 | NWO](#)

Research Organization Registry identifiers integrated into Open API (10 February 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Research Organization Registry identifiers integrated into Open API | NWO](#)



By integrating a Research Organization Registry identifier, or ROR-ID, into the NWOOpen-API, NWO is taking the next step in making research it funds more accessible and transparent: with this update, organisational information regarding NWO projects is now easier to find and link worldwide.

What is a ROR-ID?

ROR-ID is a unique, permanent identifier for research institutions, such as universities, research institutes and university medical centres. Just as a DOI refers to a publication and an ORCID iD to a researcher, the ROR-ID uniquely identifies an organisation. In practice, organisations are often referred to in different ways. Think of “UvA”, “University of

Amsterdam” or “Universiteit van Amsterdam”, which can lead to confusion in databases. A ROR-ID solves this issue, allowing research results to be automatically linked to the correct institution, regardless of how the name is written.

API

The [NWOpen-API](#) gives knowledge institutions, researchers, policymakers and developers access to information about research projects funded by NWO and their outcomes. The API makes it possible to search, analyse and link this information to other datasets. In the latest update of the NWOpen-API, ROR-IDs have now also been included as part of [NWO's Persistent Identifier \(PID\) strategy](#), which was adopted in 2021. In addition to ROR-IDs for organisations, NWO also uses [Grant IDs](#) (DOIs) for projects. The aim is to eventually implement ORCIDs for researchers as well. “The implementation of ROR-IDs is in line with our commitment to open science,” says Hans de Jonge on behalf of NWO: “It increases transparency and helps researchers, policymakers and knowledge institutions to find and analyse Dutch research projects and their results (even) more easily.”

Awarded proposals Open eScience Call 2025 (OEC25)(6 February 2025)

Source: Website Netherlands eScience Center [Awarded proposals Open eScience Call 2025 \(OEC25\) - eScience Center](#)

We had planned on eight proposals to be granted for OEC 25, but we managed eleven grants instead. We're very happy to announce the grants for the projects below (no particular order) and can't wait to start working on these exiting new projects.



Two of the granted projects are led by WUR PI's

1. Modelling Microtubules & Mechanics in Plants (3M-Plant): **Lead applicant: Dr. Eva Deinum Wageningen University & Research**
2. A GPU-Accelerated Integrated Framework for Resilient Water–Climate–Food System (SWIFT): **Lead applicant: Dr. Ir. Inge de Graaf, Wageningen University**

For more information about the granted projects: [Awarded proposals Open eScience Call 2025 \(OEC25\) - eScience Center](#)

About eScience Center

The eScience Center is a research organization dedicated to applying research software to answer research questions in any scientific domain through project collaborations. It has the largest concentration of dedicated, high-level research software expertise in the Netherlands. The eScience Center also has a [Fellowship Programme](#) and makes all of its software and training materials openly available online. For more information about what we offer, visit esciencecenter.nl.

Second round of SSH Open Competition XS 2026 open for applications (4 February 2026)

Source: Website NWO news [Second round of SSH Open Competition XS 2026 open for applications | NWO](#)



The second 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 second round is 7 April 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST.

About the call

This call focuses on curiosity-driven, innovative research and rapid analysis of promising ideas. In addition, the proposed research must fall within the SSH disciplines.

The characteristics of SSH Open Competition XS research are:

- the proposed research is innovative;
- it does not have to be determined in advance whether the intended project objective will be achieved;
- each project contributes to existing and new scientific insights.

XS applications are assessed by the applicants themselves on the basis of the research idea. Applicants therefore submit their research idea anonymously in the application form.

Applicants within this call may request a total of €50,000. The maximum duration of an XS project is two years.

Third round 2026

This round will be followed by one more round in 2026. The third round will open in mid-July, with a deadline of 15 September.

For more information: [SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 2 | NWO](#) and [Call for Proposals - SGW Open Competitie XS](#)

Funding available for deployment of immersive experiences in SMEs and public sector (4 February 2026)

Source: Website NWO news [Funding available for deployment of immersive experiences in SMEs and public sector | NWO](#)



Immersive experiences (IX) are experiences in which digital and physical elements come together to create rich, sensory experiences. The National Growth Fund call CIIC Kern funds research projects of 1.5 to 2 years in which research organisations, together with SME parties and/or public organisations, conduct research into the responsible and effective application and deployment of these immersive experiences. EUR 5 million is available for this purpose.

CIIC Kern funds demand-driven applied research aimed at applying and deploying immersive experiences (IX) in SMEs and/or the public sector. After all, these experiences offer opportunities within various sectors from the creative and cultural industry and knowledge institutions to domains such as safety and health. Think of IX applications in the treatment of PTSD, where patients are placed in a controlled virtual environment. Another example are IX applications in museums where visitors are immersed in digital versions of classic paintings by using light, sound and movement.

CIIC Kern is available for projects investigating:

- Testing and validating methods and tools for IX applications
- Researching preconditions and perspectives for strategic use of IX

Central to this funding opportunity is that parties do their research collectively with SME parties and public organisations. Therefore, it is a funding requirement that at least 2 SMEs or at least 1 SME and 1 public organisation are involved in the research.

Read full call for proposals: [CIIC Kern - vraaggestuurd praktijkgericht onderzoek naar IX \(in Dutch\)](#)

Budget and deadlines

The total budget of this call is 5 million euro. A maximum of 300,000 euro is available per project. It is required that research partners contribute at least 50% of the total research budget. **The closing date for submitting proposals is 21 April 2026 at 14:00.**

About the National Growth Fund programme CIIC

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

CIIC was developed by project organisation CIIC. NWO, with the Taskforce for Applied Research SIA as the lead executive organisation, is one of the programme's implementation bodies, together with TNO, the Creative Industries Fund NL, CLICKNL and the Netherlands Enterprise Agency (RVO). The CIIC programme consists of several calls, such as CIIC Kern and CIIC Start.

Foreseen call: Knowledge-in-Action - Economic transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action (3 February 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Knowledge-in-Action - Economic transition: the costs and benefits of \(in\)action | NWO](#)
The Knowledge-in-Action grant mobilises science and practice for just climate transitions through doing-by-learning and learning-by-doing. Knowledge institutions and societal organisations can jointly apply for up to €50,000 for transformative, experimental intervention-projects to collaboratively explore what the value of transition can look like: what possible solutions, investigative questions and transition learning goals can accelerate the desired transition?

Foreseen Closing date full application: 14 April 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.

Foreseen call: KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food (3 February 2026)

Source: website NWO [KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food | NWO](#)

More and more large and complex datasets are being generated (automatically) in the agriculture, horticulture, water, and food sectors. Artificial intelligence (AI) can recognise patterns in such datasets. This enables complicated issues to be addressed, which can lead to accelerated innovations and further optimization in these sectors. This KIC call therefore aims to stimulate the application and expansion of AI methods in the agriculture, horticulture, water, and food sectors, thereby contributing to finding solutions to urgent societal challenges.

Disclaimer

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Regional funding

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

Green Deal: from 'man-on-the-moon moment' to watered-down laws (10 February 2026)

Source: Website Financieele Dagblad [Green Deal: van 'man-op-de-maanmoment' naar verwaterde wetten](#)

In short

- At the end of 2019, the European Commission launched the Green Deal, a comprehensive climate plan.
- Six years later, little remains of the enthusiasm that accompanied this launch.
- Brussels is watering down and postponing green laws extensively, and opponents smell blood.

The European Green Deal was presented by Brussels at the end of 2019 as a groundbreaking environmental and climate plan that would combine economic growth and sustainability. Six years later, proposed green laws and regulations are being increasingly watered down, and the question is where this will end.



"This is a very special day. We are going to reduce greenhouse gas emissions while simultaneously creating jobs and boosting innovation. This is our man-on-the-moon moment."

It's December 11, 2019, and Ursula von der Leyen is speaking. The German has just begun her first term as President of the European Commission.

The "moon landing" von der Leyen refers to in her impassioned speech is the Green Deal. A strategy that, through legislation, aims to ensure that the EU is climate-neutral and prosperous by 2050. It is the Commission's flagship project for the years to come.

Commission – which launched in December 2024, again with Von der Leyen as president – things are looking shaky. European multinationals are complaining about their declining competitiveness due to all the green regulations they have to comply with, but their international competitors are not.

Politicians on the right, whose influence has grown in recent years, are showing sensitivity to this and are putting pressure on the EU's executive board to curb the green over-regulation.

With success. Because Von der Leyen has now traded her moon landing spaceship for more down-to-earth omnibuses. These are proposals that are supposed to simplify laws, but in practice often weaken them. **Ten omnibuses** [Simplification - European Commission](#) followed in 2025, seven of which were for Green Deal laws.

The end of green deregulation seems to be nowhere in sight.

BusinessEurope, the lobby group for European businesses, recently published its "omnibook [The BusinessEurope Omnibook to reduce regulatory burdens - BusinessEurope](#)." It contains 140 "solutions" to EU regulations that would most impact businesses. A quarter of these concern environmental and climate regulations.

The European People's Party (EPP), the largest group in the European Parliament, is also not sitting idle. "We need even more simplification," the political family of CDA, BBB, and NSC states in **a recent document** [EPP-Retreat_Our-Priorities-2026_Adopted_260131_110102.pdf](#).

The Nature Restoration Act and the EU's CO₂ border levy – CBAM in jargon – are examples of Green Deal legislation the EPP wants to sink its teeth into. The evaluation of the EU Emissions Trading System, planned for later this year and intended to ensure the greening of industry, is also circled on the party's agenda.

Read full article here: [Green Deal: van 'man-op-de-maanmoment' naar verwaterde wetten](#) (in Dutch)

Intellectual Property-Intensive Sectors Boost EU Economy (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

Intellectual property (IPR)-intensive sectors accounted for nearly 48 percent of the European Union's gross domestic product (GDP) and 30.6 percent of employment between 2021 and 2023, according to a new study by the European Patent Office and the European Union Intellectual Property Office. These sectors pay an average of 40.9 percent higher wages than the rest of the economy, which, according to the study, indicates higher productivity. It also reveals that more than 88 percent of all private equity and venture capital investments in the EU go to start-ups in these IPR-intensive sectors, totaling €70.7 billion.

EPO News: [IPR-intensive industries drive Europe's economy, trade and startup funding | epo.org](#)

EUIPO News: [IP-driven industries contribute nearly half of EU GDP and create one in three jobs - EUIPO](#)

EIB invested over €4.1 billion in Dutch projects in 2025 (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

Dutch projects received over €4.1 billion in financing from the European Investment Bank last year. "The Netherlands' strong position as a leader in innovation, technology, and green growth has also been supported," it states. A record €100 billion has been invested across the EU. Last year, the TechEU program was launched, among other initiatives, through which the EIB aims to finance at least €250 billion in investments in technology and innovation by 2027.

Press release EIB (Netherlands): [EIB Group 2025 results for the Netherlands: €4.1 billion for innovation, small businesses and public services](#)

Press release EIB (Europe): [Europa krachtig maken: EIB-Groep investeert een recordbedrag van € 100 miljard om gedeelde welvaart, veiligheid en Europese waarden te ondersteunen](#) (in Dutch)

TU/e explores new composition of research institutes and AI integration (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

Eindhoven University of Technology is exploring several changes to the composition of its institutes and flagships. Among other things, TU/e is exploring how AI can play a more prominent role within the university. AI should be integrated into all aspects of the organization: from education and research to valorization and services. Other plans include the establishment of a new institute in the field of health and a flagship program in Advanced Materials.

TU/e News: [TU/e verkent nieuwe samenstelling onderzoeksinstituten en integratie van AI binnen hele organisatie](#) (in Dutch)

JRC Sees Major Innovation Disparities Between Urban and Rural Regions (5 February 2025)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

Innovation in the European Union remains strong in urban regions, while most rural areas lag behind in R&D investment. This is the conclusion of a study by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. At the same time, the study shows that a limited number of rural regions, including the Netherlands, perform above average on specific innovation indicators. According to the researchers, this is generally the result of specialized industries, strong public research infrastructure, or proximity to urban innovation hubs. The study also finds that the Netherlands is among the European leaders in patents per capita.

Joint Research Centre Publication: [JRC Publications Repository - Innovation in the EU: technological and creative performances in numbers across urban and rural regions](#)

European Commission Calls for More Room for Experimentation in Innovation Policy (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

The European Commission argues in a new policy report that European research and innovation policy makes insufficient use of experimentation, even though it is essential to better respond to rapid technological developments. According to the researchers, policy instruments such as pilots and regulatory sandboxes offer opportunities to test policy in practice and learn more quickly about what works. However, their use is still limited due to institutional barriers, a lack of expertise, and risk aversion. The report therefore advocates for a more structured use of experimentation, with targeted investments in skills.

News item: Innovation Growth Lab: [A new approach for impactful research & innovation policymaking - Innovation Growth Lab](#)

Publications Office of the European Union: [A new approach for impactful research & innovation policymaking - Publications Office of the EU](#)

EU and Vietnam strengthen strategic partnership and cooperation on innovation and education (4 February 2026)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > EU en Vietnam versterken strategisch partnerschap en samenwerking op innovatie en onderwijs](#)

The EU and Vietnam have strengthened their ties with a new strategic partnership. The parties have agreed to work more closely together on climate action, energy transition, digital transformation, science, innovation, and education. This includes joint research and innovation projects and increased knowledge sharing.



New EU-Vietnam Research and Technology Collaboration

The EU and Vietnam have strengthened their ties **with a new strategic partnership** [Joint statement on upgrading relations between the European Union and Viet Nam](#). Both parties have agreed to intensify their collaboration in the areas of climate action, energy transition, digital transformation, science and innovation, and education. In the areas of education, research, and innovation, they aim to strengthen collaboration by exchanging information on research programs like Horizon Europe and by developing joint research and innovation projects. They will also focus on collaboration on emerging technologies in sectors such as agriculture, digital technology, and critical infrastructure, with a strong emphasis on artificial intelligence, digital transformation, and cybersecurity. Existing collaborations, including within ASEAN and the UN, will also receive increased attention. Scope-HE, a partnership between European and Southeast Asian knowledge institutions established by Nuffic, also falls within ASEAN.

Choose Europe for Science: over 100 national and regional initiatives aim to attract global research talent (30 January 2026)

Source: Website EC [Choose Europe for Science: over 100 national and regional initiatives aim to attract global research talent - Research and innovation](#)

The European Union is stepping up its efforts to become the world's leading destination for researchers. According to the [latest update](#) published by the Commission today, Europe now offers **101 national and regional funding and support schemes** designed to attract, retain and develop research talent. The increase in the number of initiatives, from 65 last May to over 100, shows EU countries are committed to making Europe a top choice for researchers worldwide. These initiatives complement opportunities at EU level, launched under the [Choose Europe](#) initiative by President Ursula von der Leyen in May 2025 and currently supported by nearly €900 million in EU funding - €400 million more than announced in May 2025.

The national and regional initiatives include competitive grants, mobility and reintegration schemes, tenure-track and long-term positions, fellowships for researchers at risk and career development support across all 27 Member States. Together, they represent **at least €1 billion in funding opportunities**, offering opportunities for researchers at all career stages and confirming the EU's leading position in a highly competitive global research landscape. The schemes are open to researchers worldwide as well as to those already based in the EU.

Where figures have been made public, these initiatives are already delivering concrete results. In second half of 2025 alone, Germany's Global Minds Initiative programmes selected 166 researchers, while Austrian APART-USA awarded 25 fellowships to top researchers.

France's Safe Place for Science initiative at Aix-Marseille University has selected around 60 international researchers, and Belgium's Vrije Universiteit Brussel has recruited 12 international researchers.

The initiatives were first presented last year by Commissioner **Zaharieva** as the [Choose Europe for Science](#) package. To facilitate access, the Commission is providing a single gateway to these actions through the [EURAXESS](#) platform, making it easier for global talent to identify opportunities across Europe.

European level actions

Since the launch of [Choose Europe](#), interest in EU research opportunities has increased sharply. Applications from **outside Europe or associated countries** researchers for **ERC Advanced Grants** have nearly quadrupled (168 compared to 45). For **ERC Starting Grants** they increased by more than 50% (246 compared with 159). The **ERC Consolidator Grant** 2026 call recorded a 130% increase in the number of applications from researchers currently based outside the EU and countries associated to Horizon Europe (115 compared to 50). Applications for **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) postdoctoral fellowships** also rose by 65% over the past year .

The Commission published the updated overview on the day of the adoption of the new Visa Policy Strategy, which simplifies processes, boosts access and strengthens capacities to help ensure that the brightest minds contribute to Europe's research and innovation." To "The Commission published the updated overview yesterday of the adoption of the new Visa Policy Strategy, which simplifies processes, boosts access and strengthens capacities to help ensure that the brightest minds contribute to Europe's research and innovation.

These national and regional funding schemes also contribute to building a single market for research, innovation and technology. In parallel, the EU supports research careers through the European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2025–27, which aims to improve working conditions, career development, mobility and skills recognition across the bloc. This will be one of the key components of the upcoming legislative initiative based on the ERA objectives – the ERA Act – that will help maximising the attractiveness of EU.

Background

The [Choose Europe](#) initiative was launched in May 2025 to promote Europe's values-driven research environment, freedom of scientific research and high living standards. The original package of €500 million in EU funding for 2025–27 was significantly expanded in the months that followed and now totals almost €900 million. New measures include a €240 million call for European Research Area Chairs under Horizon Europe 2026–27 and €51 million for MSCA Choose Europe for Science call 2027.

Global policy

OECD: EU lags behind US in biotechnology financing and valorization (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

The OECD concludes in a comparative study that the European Union is strong in research and production capacity, but lags behind the United States in biotechnology financing and valorization. According to the OECD, the US biotech sector receives approximately twice as many patents and significantly more venture capital, while European start-ups often struggle to grow and sometimes relocate abroad. Furthermore, European regulations are more complex and slower, with higher costs and longer approval procedures.

OECD Report: [A comparison of the innovation and regulatory environments for biotechnology and biosolutions across the European Union and the United States | OECD](#)

World Economic Forum: Scaling Up Innovation Is the Biggest Challenge (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

The World Economic Forum argues in a new article that the key challenge of technological innovation is no longer invention, but the responsible scaling of existing technologies. The article, based on discussions at the annual meeting in Davos, concludes that many innovations stall between pilot and introduction. According to the WEF, this is primarily due to inadequate infrastructure, skills shortages, and lagging regulations. Successful scaling, experts say, requires strong institutions, investment in skills, and building trust.

World Economic Forum Article: [deploying-innovation-and-technology-at-scale-responsibly – Search results | World Economic Forum](#)

National policy

Coalition agreement: what are the plans for science, technology, and innovation? (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

The new cabinet wants to establish a National Agency for Disruptive Innovation. This is stated in the coalition agreement presented last Friday. This agency, using the American DARPA model, must ensure that the government uses its purchasing power to provoke disruptive innovations and offers an initial market. Other plans include reversing cuts to education and research, expanding the scope for experimentation through regulatory sandboxes, and consolidating existing technology transfer offices into a single national organization responsible for the development and rollout of best practices. The parties also want the National AI Delta Plan to be followed up and for the Netherlands to become a leader in digital innovation and key technologies. An important caveat to all measures is that the coalition holds a minority in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Therefore, all agreements will require agreements with opposition parties.

Coalition agreement: [Aanbiedingsbrief bij coalitieakkoord | Kabinetsformatie \(in Dutch\)](#)

Budgetary table and appendix: [Budgettaire tabel en bijlage bij coalitieakkoord Aan de slag | Kabinetsformatie \(in Dutch\)](#)

Submission letter to the coalition agreement: [Aanbiedingsbrief bij coalitieakkoord | Kabinetsformatie \(in Dutch\)](#)

Knowledge sector largely positive about coalition agreement (5 February 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 5 February 2026

The Dutch universities and the Association of Universities of Applied Sciences are largely positive about the plans of the forming parties to invest heavily in education, research, and innovation. This is reflected in the umbrella organizations' responses to the coalition agreement. The umbrella organizations also welcome the focus on international talent. Confederations of Netherlands Industry and Employers (VNO-NCW) and MKB-Nederland believe the agreement makes sound choices for the investment climate and future earning potential. Digital Holland and the AI Coalition are pleased with the inclusion of a separate chapter on digitalization.

Response from UNL: [De coalitie kiest voor kennis en zet in op internationaal talent | Universiteiten van Nederland \(in Dutch\)](#)

Response from VH: [Vereniging Hogescholen | Coalitie kiest voor investeren in onderwijs en onderzoek \(in Dutch\)](#)

Response from VNO-NCW/MKB-Nederland: [Ondernemersorganisaties: Coalitie maakt goede keuzes voor veiligheid en toekomstige welvaart \(in Dutch\)](#)

Response from Digital Holland: [Overwegend positieve reacties op plannen voor innovatie en digitalisering in het coalitieakkoord - Digital Holland \(in Dutch\)](#)

Response from the AI Coalition: [AI in het regeerakkoord • AI Coalitie 4 NL \(in Dutch\)](#)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 11 February 2026

Call identifier	Deadline
Pillar I Excellent Science	
ERC	
ERC-2026-AdG	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>)
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 • TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-01 MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programme	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>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TMA-Cofund-Doctoral • TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-COFUND-02 MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2027	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>)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TMA-Cofund-Postdoctoral
HORIZON-MSCA-2027-CITIZENS-01	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>)
Research Infrastructures	
<u>Destination</u> INFRADEV - Consolidation and evolution of the European Research Infrastructure landscape (2026-27)	
HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-DEV	Opening 10 March 2026 and deadline 16 June 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-DEV: call INFRADEV</i>)
HORIZON-INFRA-2027-01-DEV	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>)
<u>Destination</u> INFRAEOSC - Enabling an operational, open and FAIR EOSC ecosystem (2026-27)	
HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-EOSC	Opening 10 March 2026 and deadline 16 June 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2026-01-EOSC: call INFRAEOSC</i>)
HORIZON-INFRA-2027-01-EOSC	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>)
<u>Destination</u> 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)	
HORIZON-INFRA-2026-SERV-01	Opening 10 March 2026 and deadline 16 June 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-INFRA-2026-SERV-01: call INFRASERV</i>)
HORIZON-INFRA-2027-SERV-01	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>)
Cluster 1 HEALTH	
<u>Destination</u> - Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-STAYHLTH-two-stage	18 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage), 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-STAYHLTH single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-STAYHLTH	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination</u> - Living and working in a health-promoting environment	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-ENVHLTH-two-stage	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage)
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-ENVHLTH single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time

HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-ENVHLTH single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination</u>– Destination - Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden	
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-DISEASE-02-two-stage	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) (First Stage), 16 April 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-DISEASE two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination</u> - Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare	
<u>Destination</u> - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-TOOL single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-03-TOOL single stage	Foreseen opening: 3 June 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-TOOL-01-two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Cluster 2 Culture Creativity and Inclusive Society</u>	
<u>Custer 3 Civil Security for Society</u>	
<u>Cluster 4 Digital - Industry - Space</u>	
<u>Destination</u>: Leadership in materials and production for Europe	
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 (HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-two-stage)
<u>Destination</u>: 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>)
<u>Destination:</u> 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>)
<u>Destination:</u> 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>)
<u>Destination:</u> 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-HUMA- EMERGING</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>)
<u>CLUSTER 5 - Cluster 5: Climate - Energy - Mobility</u>	
<u>Destination</u> - 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</u> - Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition	

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:</u> Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply	
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
Destination: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-05-D5-01	14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination:</u> Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D6	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) 20 January 2026 17.00 Brussels time
<u>CLUSTER 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment</u>	
<u>Destination 1:</u> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-BIODIV-two-stage	4 September 2025 (First Stage) 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) and 18 February 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV single stage	Foreseen opening: 17 April 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 17 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV two-stage	Foreseen opening: 12 February 2026; Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time

<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)
Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-COMMUNITIES single stage	Foreseen opening: 14 January 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-COMMUNITIES single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
Destination 7 – Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE single stage	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-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:</u> Widening participation and spreading excellence	

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)
Destination: Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system	
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 11 February 2026 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/	2 nd co-funded call for proposals of the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) "Shaping the Future of Animal Health and Welfare" NEW: The 2 nd call for research projects is open since 26 th January, 2026. Pre-Proposals must be submitted electronically via this EUPAHW submission tool.

	<p>Submission deadline for pre-proposals: March 30th, 2026, 12:00 h (CEST) Deadline for full-proposals 16th September 2026, 12:00 CEST EUPAHW: Call 2 PP</p>
<p>European Partnership Biodiversa+ https://www.biodiversa.eu/</p>	<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>
<p>European Partnership Water4All https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/</p>	<p>Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/28-million-available-for-research-into-the-interaction-between-water-and-health and https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2025-joint-transnational-call</p> <p>Tentative timeline Call opening: 12 September 2025 Submission deadline of preproposals: 13 November 2025, 15:00 CET (CLOSED) Selection of preproposals: End of February 2026 Submission deadline of full proposals: 13 April 2026, 15:00 CEST Selection of funded proposals: September 2026 Projects start: End 2026/beginning 2027 Kick-off meeting of the funded projects: Spring 2027</p>
<p>European Partnership FutureFoods https://www.futurefoodspartner ship.eu/</p>	<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 Deadline for pre-proposal submission: ~ 11 February 2026 (CLOSED) Deadline for full-proposal submission: ~27 July 2026 (only by invitation)</p>
<p>European Partnership Agroecology https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/</p>	<p>NEW: Announcement 3rd call AGROECOLOGY partnership 3rd co-funded call — Agroecology Partnership and Agroecology: Call3</p> <p>Tentative timeline Deadline for pre-proposal submission is 18 February 2026, 14:00 CET. Deadline for full proposal submission is 08 July 2026, 14:00 CEST.</p>
<p>European partnership Agriculture of Data</p>	<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” Agriculture of Data: Call 1 Procedure Short proposal & full proposal step The deadline for short proposals is January 21, 12:00h CET (noon). (CLOSED) 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 Call launch (provisional): 15 September 2025, 15:00 CEST Deadline submission Pre-proposals 17 November 2025 (CLOSED) 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 <u>Foreseen timeline and information day</u> The timeline for this call is as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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 (CLOSED) • 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/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water challenges for a changing world (Water-JPI): http://www.waterjpi.eu/ • Cultural Heritage a Challenge for Europe (Cultural Heritage): http://www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu/
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Other international calls

This list is a SELECTION of other international calls. The list was compiled on **11 February 2026**. 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
03-03-2026	Deadline for submission Notice of Intent to apply (NOI) in the portal of the NFRF Call '2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges' Deadline for submission of the required Notice of Intent to apply (NOI) in the portal of the NFRF. Please check the website of the NFRF for exact details. Call open: International Call for groundbreaking innovations to address global challenges NWO and 2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges NWO and Call-for-proposals-NFRF-221225_1.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/
09-06-2026	Deadline for submission required Letter of Intent to apply (LOI) in the portal of the NFRF Call '2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges' Deadline for submission of the required Letter of Intent to apply (LOI) in the portal of the NFRF. Please check the website of the NFRF for exact details. Call open: International Call for groundbreaking innovations to address global challenges NWO and 2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges NWO and Call-for-proposals-NFRF-221225_1.pdf
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

From 20-01-2026 until 23-06-2026	Deadline for submission proposals for The second 'NWO Hop-On Call for Researchers Based in Ukraine 2025 . Applications can be submitted continuously until the deadline of Tuesday 23 June 2026 at 14:00:00 CE(S)T, or until the budget has been exhausted. Open: Hop-On Call for Ukrainian researchers NWO and NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative NWO and NWO-NRFU Partnership Initiative NWO
23-06-2026	Deadline for submission of the mandatory Letter of intent for KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future call with Brazil . Deadline for submission of the mandatory Letter of intent is 23 June 2026 14:00:00 CET (via e-mail) and 23 June 2026 23:59:59 BRT (SAGe) . Call open: Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future (KIC) NWO and KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future NWO and Call for Proposals - Integrated biorefineries for a circular future
03-10-2026	Deadline for submission Full Proposals in the portal of the NFRF Call '2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges' Deadline for submission of the full proposals in the portal of the NFRF. Please check the website of the NFRF for exact details. Call open: International Call for groundbreaking innovations to address global challenges NWO and 2026 International Joint Initiative for Research Harnessing Disruptive Technologies to Address Global Challenges NWO and Call-for-proposals-NFRF-221225_1.pdf
20-10-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals for KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future call with Brazil . Deadline for submission of Proposals is 20 October 2026 14:00:00 CEST (ISAAC) and 20 October 2026 23:59:59 BRT (SAGe) . Call open: Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future (KIC) NWO and KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future NWO and Call for Proposals - Integrated biorefineries for a circular future

National calls

This list is a selection of open national calls. The list was compiled on **11 February 2026**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

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
From 15-01-2026 until 01-03-2026	Deadline for pre-registration for PPS-call Innovatie-Impuls Agri&Food . Pre-registration is required and can be done until March 1st via this button vooraanmelding . PPS-call 'Innovatie-impuls Agri&Food' geopend - Topsector Agri & Food and PPS-Oproep innovatie-impuls agri&food - Topsector Agri & Food
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	Deadline for submission pre-proposals NWO-Talent Programme Vici 2026 . The deadline for submitting pre-proposals is March 10, 2026, by 14:00:00 CET. Vici round 2026 now open for pre-proposals NWO and NWO Talent Programme NWO
From 06-02-2026 to 17-03-2026	Deadline for registration and participation in collaborative workshops NWA-ORC 2026 call . Registration for and participation in collaborative workshops (mandatory for main applicants) Between 6 February and 17 March 2026, NWO organizes 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: Collaborative workshops NWA ORC 2026 NWO . Research along Routes by Consortia 2026 NWO
19-03-2026	Deadline submissions proposals The Demonstrator 2026 call . 19 March 2026 at 14:00:00 hours CET. Demonstrator 2026 round open: marketing your own Demonstrator knowledge now also possible NWO and Demonstrator 2026 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	Deadline for Full proposals Rubican call 1 2026. The deadline for this round is Tuesday 24 March 2026 at 14:00:00 hours CET (2 PM sharp). Rubicon 2026-1 NWO and Call for Proposals - Call for proposals SGW Rubicon 2025-2
24-03-2026	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/en/calls/tulip-fund and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20Proposals%20Tulp%20Fonds_EN%20%282%29.pdf
07-04-2026	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 . Second round of SSH Open Competition XS 2026 open for applications NWO and SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 2 NWO and Call for Proposals - SGW Open Competitie XS
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	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
14-04-2026	NEW: Foreseen deadline for submission Full proposals Knowledge-in-Action - Economic transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action . Foreseen closing ate full application 14 April 2026 14:00 hrs. (s.t.c.) .
15-04-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals for PPS-call Innovatie-Impuls Agri&Food. Proposals can be submitted until April 15, 2026 . Pre-registration is mandatory and can be submitted until March 1, 2026. PPS-call ‘Innovatie-impuls Agri&Food’ geopend - Topsector Agri & Food and PPS-Oproep innovatie-impuls agri&food - Topsector Agri & Food
07-05-2026	Deadline for submission full applications thematic Call Use of space infrastructure for vegetation research (Part of GO programme) . The deadline for submitting proposals is 7 May 2026 at 14:00 CEST. Call “Use of space infrastructure for vegetation research” is open for submission NWO and Use of space infrastructure for Earth observation and planetary research NWO and Preparatory workshops: 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

26-05-2026	: deadline for submission Full applications for Faculty of Impact round 2026 . The deadline for submitting full proposals is Tuesday 26 May 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST. Faculty of Impact round 2026 now open: focus on all five themes NWO and Faculty of Impact 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - Faculty of Impact
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
09-06-2026	Deadline for submission of Full proposals for KIC call Adaptivity in transitions . The deadline for submitting the full application is 9 June 2026 at 14:00 CEST. Call open: Adaptivity in transitions NWO and KIC Adaptivity in transitions NWO and Call for Proposals - Adaptivity in transitions
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	Deadline for submission of full applications Call ‘The power of collaboration’ for or SSH researchers to further deepen consortia (NWA) . 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. . 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	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
02-07-2026	Deadline submission proposals NWO Impact Explorer 2026 fall round . Deadline for submission proposals fall deadline 2 July 2026 14:00:00 CET . Full 2026 round of Venture Challenge open now NWO and Venture Challenge Spring 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - Venture Challenge
08-09-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals NWO-Talent Programme Vici 2026 . The deadline for submitting full applications is September 8, 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST. Vici round 2026 now open for pre-proposals NWO and NWO Talent Programme NWO
15-09-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 3 . Closing date full application Round 3: 15 September 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST.. Second round of SSH Open Competition XS 2026 open for applications NWO and SSH Open Competition XS 2026 - round 2 NWO and Call for Proposals - SGW Open Competitie XS
17-09-2026	NEW: Foreseen Deadline for Full applications TRI-POLAR call The deadline for submitting the application is Thursday, 17 September 2026, before 14:00:00 CET. Pre-announcement: TRI-POLAR call expected to open in March 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
22-09-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission Full applications KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia -S 2026 . Foreseen closing date full application: 22 September 2026 14:00 hrs. KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia -S 2026 NWO and Demand Driven Research By Consortia - S 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
06-10-2026	Deadline submission of Full proposals for the NWA-ORC 2026 round . The deadline for submission of proposals via ISAAC is 6 October 2026, at 14:00:00 CEST . NWA call for Research along Routes by Consortia 2026 now open NWO and Research along Routes by Consortia 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - NWA ORC
20-10-2026	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	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	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 **11 February 2026**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

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

	subsidy ceiling is €6.7 million, of which €5 million for activities that benefit Gelderland and €1.7 million for activities that benefit Overijssel.
2023-2024	EFRO 2021-2027 Eastern Netherlands: For for overview calls go to EFRO Oost https://www.efro-oost.eu/geplande-openstellingen
2023-2024	EFRO 2021 – 2027 Western Netherlands: For calls Kansen voor West III https://kvw3.kansenvoorwest.nl/openstellingen/openstellingen-/
2023-2024	EFRO 2021-2027 Northern Netherlands: For calls Northern Netherlands go to Website SNN https://www.snn.nl/programmas/efro-2021-2027
2023-2024	EFRO 2021-2027 Southern Netherlands: For calls Southern Netherlands go to website Stimulus https://www.stimulus.nl/opzuid-2021-2027/openstellingen/
24-02-2025 to 04-04-2025	Foreseen deadline Spring call OP-Zuid 2025: from 24 February 2025 (from 9 a.m.) to April 4, 2025 (until 5 p.m.);
15-09-2025 to 24-10-2025	Foreseen opening Autumn call OP-Zuid 2025: from 15 September, 2025 (from 9 a.m.) to 24 October, 2025 (until 5 p.m.).

About the Wageningen Grant Office

Wageningen Grant Office

The Wageningen Grant Office (WGO) is a team of experts across Wageningen University & Research (WUR) dedicated to supporting WUR's participation in national, European, and global funding programs. WGO offers information, guidance, and training on available funding opportunities and on effective, efficient application processes. The team includes specialized advisors, i.e. Grant Support Officers, Policy Officers, Liaison officers from various science groups and Officers dealing with Co-creation Value & Impact.

This expert team—providing second-line support services—delivers technical and personalized advice on specific funding programs and themes. They work closely with the liaison offices, which provide first-line support within the science groups.

WGO primarily focuses its generic support on Horizon Europe (including ERC, MSCA, Research Infrastructures under **Pillar 1**; Clusters, Missions, and Partnerships under **Pillar 2**, and EIC and WIDENING under **Pillar 3**), and on NWO-programmes (such as the **Talent Programme** (Veni-Vidi-Vici), **Open Competition M1 and M2 (OC)**, **Open Technology Programme (OTP)**, and **Research along Routes by Consortia (NWA-ORC)**). More specific support is given to large initiatives WUR coordinates.

Through the WGO web portal (<https://intranet.wur.nl/Project/GrantOffice>), users can access up-to-date information on the latest developments within specific funding programmes, along with links to relevant resources, documents, and contacts. There, also the link can be found to our funding identification tool Research Connect (<https://search.myresearchconnect.com/Default/Index?ReturnUrl=%2fHome>), that can be used by all WUR colleagues to assess national, European and global grant opportunities by themselves.

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