



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 444_23 March 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.

Table of Contents

Articles in Dutch are marked by the symbol ⚡

Latest Funding News	3
European Funding News: Horizon Europe	3
<i><u>New wave of Regional Innovation Valleys confirms continuous interest from Member States and Associated Countries (13 March 2026)</u></i>	3
<i><u>Applications flood in for first EIC Advanced Innovation Challenge call (12 March 2026)</u></i>	3
European Funding News: FP10	5
<i><u>MEPs' proposals brighten the horizon for EU research (20 March 2026)</u></i>	5
<i><u>University rectors advocate for stricter human rights safeguards in FP10 (19 March 2026)</u></i>	6
<i><u>ITRE report on FP10 puts European Commission in check (13 March 2026)</u></i>	6
Other International funding	8

<i>The Common Fund for Commodities welcomes funding applications (11 March 2026)</i>	8
National funding	9
<i>New Open Technology Programme grants demonstrate versatility of technological research (23 March 2026)</i>	9
<i>Temporary subsidy scheme for NBS living labs (23 March 2026)</i>	10
<i>KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia -S 2026 (18 March 2026)</i>	10
<i>Project awarded for research into integrated policy on Planetary Health (17 March 2026)</i>	10
<i>NWO policy on generative AI updated (16 March 2026)</i>	11
Regional funding	13
<i>New I3 Instrument Partner Search tool: form consortia faster and simpler (19 March 2026)</i>	13
<i>Save smart specialisation R&D strategies, regional associations tell EU (19 March 2026)</i>	13
Internal Wageningen University and Research calls	16
Latest developments within R&I Policies	17
European Policy	17
<i>Türkiye hits out at plan to divert Horizon Europe contributions to Scale Up fund (19 March 2026)</i>	17
<i>India is moving towards joining Horizon Europe, says government think tank (19 March 2026)</i>	18
<i>Commission postpones European Innovation Act (19 March 2026)</i>	19
<i>EU Grant Analysis: Research Landscape More Focused on Applied Research Than Thought (12 March 2026)</i>	20
<i>EU revises framework for safe and sustainable chemicals (12 March 2026)</i>	20
<i>Gender Gaps Persist Across Europe's Innovation Landscape, EPO Analysis Finds (10 March 2026)</i>	20
Global policy	22
<i>China also focuses heavily on R&D in new five-year plan (19 March 2026)</i>	22
<i>OECD Launches Global Startup Database (12 March 2026)</i>	22
<i>Study exposes vulnerability of AI models to academic fraud (12 March 2026)</i>	22
<i>OECD analyzes the rise of agentic AI (12 March 2026)</i>	22
<i>US: \$352 million for Energy Frontier Research Centers (12 March 2026)</i>	22
National policy	24
<i>Letschert concerned about growing group with little trust in science (19 March 2026)</i>	24
<i>Opinion piece in FD: "Wennink's agenda is not enough for major transitions" (19 March 2026)</i>	24
<i>Cabinet aims to present a plan for strategic industrial policy domains within six months (12 March 2026)</i>	24
<i>Rathenau Institute advises the House of Representatives on hydrogen policy (12 March 2026)</i>	24
<i>KNAW to advise on funding for Dutch universities (12 March 2026)</i>	25
<i>VITO and Wageningen University & Research Launch Collaboration on Drone Data for Agricultural Research 912 March 2026)</i>	25
Call deadlines	26
<i>HORIZON Europe calls</i>	26
<i>Other related EC calls (European Partnerships, ERA-Net COFUNDS etc.)</i>	34
<i>Other international calls</i>	37
<i>National calls</i>	38
<i>Regional calls</i>	41
About the Wageningen Grant Office	42
Contacts	42
Disclaimer	43
<i>WUR is serious about data</i>	43

Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe

New wave of Regional Innovation Valleys confirms continuous interest from Member States and Associated Countries (13 March 2026)

Source: [Website EC New wave of Regional Innovation Valleys confirms continuous interest from Member States and Associated Countries - Research and innovation](#)

The Commission has unveiled a **second wave of Regional Innovation Valleys (RIVs)**, expanding the initiative to new regions, while underscoring its growing appeal across the EU. The scheme continues to bolster **innovation, economic cohesion and inclusive growth**, reinforcing the EU's commitment to bridging regional disparities through targeted support.

Regional Innovation Valleys, a flagship action of the [New European Innovation Agenda](#), aim to harness the full innovation potential across European territories, including the deployment of cutting-edge technologies, to address key societal challenges and reduce the innovation divide. The [2025 call for proposals](#) under the [European Innovation Ecosystems Work Programme \(EIE WP\)](#) and the [WIDERA Work Programme](#), which has led to the launch of the second wave of RIVs, is backed by **nearly €43 million in funding from Horizon Europe**. The cumulative funding for the Regional Innovation Valleys has reached **nearly €160 million of EU contribution**.

The initiative, implemented by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA), is designed to strengthen and connect innovation ecosystems across Europe, enabling regions to connect and work together on shared strategic challenges, while fostering greater cohesion.

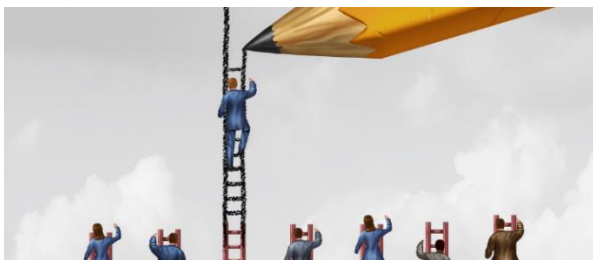
This year, **six projects** will start being implemented that **address five of the EU's most pressing challenges**: accelerating the green transition by reducing dependence on fossil fuels; strengthening global food security; advancing digital sovereignty, with a focus on cybersecurity and AI; enhancing healthcare innovation; and promoting a circular economy to boost sustainability. The selected projects bring together nearly 100 participants, from **16 EU Member States and 5 Associated Countries** under Horizon Europe.

For more information: [New wave of Regional Innovation Valleys confirms continuous interest from Member States and Associated Countries - Research and innovation](#)

Applications flood in for first EIC Advanced Innovation Challenge call (12 March 2026)

Source: [Website Science|Business Applications flood in for first EIC Advanced Innovation Challenge call | Science|Business](#)

High demand means that only 2.8% of applicants will receive ARPA-style European Innovation Council funding



A new funding stream opened up by the European Innovation Council (EIC) has received so much interest from applicants that only 2.8% of bids are likely to be funded.

The EIC Advanced Innovation Challenge is modelled on the approach of the US Advanced Research Projects Agencies (ARPA). It offers academic teams and start-ups lump-sum funding in several stages to accelerate the path to market for high-risk deep-tech innovations.

The pilot call closed on February 26, with 709 proposals across two challenges, requesting a total of €130.7 million in EU funding, [according to the EIC](#). But the budget for this first round is just €6 million, for 20 grants of up to €300,000 each. The deluge of proposals follows a spike in applications across the Horizon Europe programme, of which the EIC is a part. Success rates for some calls in the past year have dipped [as low as 1%](#). Even well-established Horizon Europe funding schemes have seen huge spikes in proposals. The long-running Cost researcher networking programme saw applications [increase](#) by 29% in 2025, while the European Research Council's success rates for some calls [have fallen](#) as low as 5%.

With national funders also experiencing an increase in demand, some [speculate](#) that generative AI may be to blame, enabling researchers and innovators to produce proposals faster and cheaper than before.

Others blame decreasing funding for research and innovation across Europe. "There are fewer resources available for research at national levels, and almost everywhere in the world they are reducing research funding," Marta Molinas, a researcher at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and a Horizon Europe evaluator, told Science|Business last year.

On LinkedIn, one expert speculated that the broad nature of the calls might be a factor. The two pilot challenges called for projects accelerating physical AI, which attracted 425 proposals, and translating disruptive "new approach methodologies" to replace animal experiments in biomedical research into practice, with 284 proposals.

"If you put out calls in the most hyped areas, as they are doing, of course you get mountains of bandwagon jumpers, success rates therefore fall," one funding expert [commented](#).

Alternative funds

The interest in the pilot call also reflects the growing appetite for disruptive innovation funding across Europe, fed by initiatives such as Sprind in Germany and the UK Advanced Research and Invention Agency.

Now, the new Dutch government has promised [to create](#) a National Agency for Disruptive Innovation, putting aside €500 million. France is also considering [creating](#) a similar agency.

European Funding News: FP10

MEPs' proposals brighten the horizon for EU research (20 March 2026)

Source: Website The Guild Blog Jan Palmowski <https://www.the-guild.eu/news-and-blog/blog/meps%E2%80%99-proposals-brighten-the-horizon-for-eu-resear.html>

The European Parliament has just taken a decisive step towards finding a common negotiating position on the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, Horizon Europe (FP10) – and the results are impressive.

Christian Ehler, the parliament's leading voice on research and innovation (R&I) for the past two decades, published his amendments to the European Commission's **draft regulation of FP10**. In lockstep, **René Repasi**, a new member of the European Parliament (MEP) with rich R&I experience as professor of law at Erasmus University Rotterdam, published his proposed amendments on the Commission's proposal for FP10's specific programme, **which addresses Horizon Europe's implementation**.

Both MEPs' amendments provide important solutions to ensure applications and project implementation will become simpler. Ehler's insistence on a €200 billion (£173 million) budget over seven years (compared with just under €100 billion for the current period) would also significantly improve success rates.

Repasi and Ehler defend the "crown jewels" of Horizon Europe – an autonomous European Research Council (ERC), the principle of bottom-up research for the ERC and the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCAs), and a more agile European Innovation Council (EIC). Accordingly, decisions in the EIC would be guided by programme managers sitting within the Commission, senior experts whose autonomy would be strengthened. In contrast to the commission's proposal to reduce the term of the ERC presidency to 2+2 years, the MEPs would retain the current 4+4 mandate and expand the president's remit to explicitly include communication with policymakers and the wider academic sector. These amendments defend the right of the ERC president to speak up.

But perhaps the MEPs' most important intervention is in relation to how the next Horizon Europe programme will relate to the European Competitiveness Fund, designed to scale up innovation and bring it to European and global markets. Against the Commission's proposal for a common steering mechanism, **Ehler and Repasi have heeded the sector's calls to separate governance of the two programmes**.

This is crucial because R&I functions very differently from what is required for scale-up. Moreover, in any industrial programme at European Union level there will be a bias towards supporting existing technologies and companies, which have the political power. FP10 must free itself from this to ensure it pushes radical and original ideas that have no lobby except for their promise.

Ehler and Repasi agree that **challenge-based research should be guided by the thematic priorities** of the ECF. But for FP10 they want experts, appointed for five years, to operationalise these priorities into call texts, to ensure these are guided by the frontiers of research and innovation. The experts would be overseen by two councils, one for European competitiveness research and one for global societal challenges research. With its expert members appointed for five years (renewable for another six-year term), this structure would ensure the quality of the calls.

It would also simplify the process of developing call texts, which currently go through a lengthy process of comment by member states, even on matters of wording. Political bodies would retain the possibility of intervening but their capacity to influence minute details would be contained. Meanwhile, applicants would find significantly improved call texts that would motivate Europe's best to engage with the programme.

Yet a few questions around the MEPs' proposals remain. The first relates to how we ensure the experts serving in the councils and writing call texts will be neutral and sufficiently qualified to relate broad policy priorities to research and innovation frontiers covering a wide disciplinary spectrum. These experts must be of sufficient standing in their communities, and they must be incentivised to leave their work in research or innovation to take up these new posts. But this is the bread and butter of any leading funding body so it will not be beyond the wit of the Commission to implement.

The second question relates to Ehler's proposed "*Fast Track to Excellence*" instrument for the ERC, to support bottom-up collaborative research for two years with up to €2 million. It is an interesting proposal that merits serious consideration: it might dovetail nicely with the ERC synergy grants (awarded for teams of up to four principal investigators to address a self-defined specific problem) and bring together bottom-up collaboration and excellence. However, we don't yet know the budget envelope for the ERC, and it will be important in the new budget period to apply financial uplifts for existing grant streams that have never been adjusted for inflation. For this reason, it will be critical to model the impact of this new instrument on the budget and success rates of existing ERC instruments.

Third, Repasi proposes that the ERC Scientific Council invite research organisations to develop a "sectoral plan" for six years, which would include focus themes. Upon positive evaluation by the Scientific Council, these research organisations would then develop a list of proposals that would be evaluated by experts through peer review. The purpose would be to strengthen Europe's science system as a whole.

The proposal has taken inspiration from the Netherlands, where in 2022-23 the Dutch science ministry encouraged its universities to develop sectoral plans among themselves in the major research domains (social sciences and humanities, engineering and technology, health sciences, and sciences). Universities were incentivised by an extra €200 million budget, with the government fostering specialisation and concentration of resource. The big question is how this can be translated to the EU, and how participating institutions would be selected. It is not clear how much of the ERC's budget would be required. Nor is it clear what structuring effect the ERC could have since universities receive so much more of their funding at national level.

But could this initiative be anchored in the second, challenge-led pillar, where we already have broad research priority areas articulated? To be sure, these have already been defined top-down, but few universities would object to focusing on "global societal challenges", "digital leadership" or "resilience". Finding a way for them to collaborate in a structured way on these key thematic areas, based on excellence (including with non-university actors), could add institutional heft to these policy windows and go beyond project funding.

Finally, an important amendment relates to MSCA. The MEPs accept the Commission's proposal that particular subject areas might be prioritised for bottom-up research. But they add that this can only be done through additional funding – this is a crucial addition and the very minimum that we must expect.

The MSCA budget is already under intense pressure, with a success rate of under 10 per cent. The key goal for this successful instrument must be to improve those rates among excellent proposals across the entire subject range. Hence, any concentration in certain areas must be supported by genuinely new money, additional to the MSCA's seven-year budget envelope as well as the funds contributed by associated countries.

The quality of Ehler and Repasi's proposals will force the European Council and Commission to take them extremely seriously, and if MEPs of all parties now coalesce around these proposals, the parliament will be in a very strong negotiating position for the final shape of FP10.

It's early days in the battle for FP10. But we should feel encouraged.

University rectors advocate for stricter human rights safeguards in FP10 (19 march 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 19 March 2026

The rectors of the Dutch universities are calling on European institutions to include stricter human rights safeguards in the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. This is stated in a joint appeal by the Rectors' Conferences of Austria, Belgium, France, the Netherlands, Poland, and Spain. The Rectors' Conferences call, among other things, for respect for human rights to be included as an explicit condition for participation in the programme.

UNL News Report: [Gezamenlijke oproep nationale rectorenconferenties tot strengere mensenrechtenwaarborgen in KP10 | Universiteiten van Nederland](#)

Appeal by national rectors' conferences: [20260316_Joint_proposal_amendment_FP10 \(2\).pdf](#)

ITRE report on FP10 puts European Commission in check (13 March 2026)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > ITRE-rapport over KP10 zet Europese Commissie schaak](#)

Today, the draft report of the Parliamentary Committee on Industry, Research and Energy (ITRE) on the Tenth Framework Programme (FP10) was published. The views of rapporteur MEP Christian Ehler are at odds with the

Commission's proposal on a number of fundamental points. Forward-thinking, groundbreaking research must remain the guiding principle, not the policy priorities of the European institutions.



What is in the ITRE report?

The draft report <https://drive.proton.me/urls/2E84PDWS98#SZbq2qJKB53w> maintains a budget of 220 billion euros, in line with the recommendation in the Heitor report and the Neth-ER Double Knowledge campaign. Central themes are the need for strategic prioritization, strengthened autonomy for research and innovation, with a central role for the ERC and the EIC, as well as expert-led implementation, and program openness as the norm. Simplification in the amendments is not sought in a 'single rulebook', but in limiting the information applicants must provide to the strictly necessary, providing legal clarity, and making definitions explicit.

New: Fast Track to Excellence in Pillar 1

Ehler is also introducing a new cooperation instrument within Pillar 1: Fast Track to Excellence. This program is intended to provide scope for small-scale, groundbreaking cooperation between disciplines, countries, and sectors. The instrument is intended to bridge the gap between non-collaborative research and long-term, four-year consortia within Pillar 2. It targets institutions that wish to explore new lines of research. It is explicitly not an ERC instrument, but rather a reinforcement of the logic of excellence within Pillar 1.

A bottom-up approach to Pillar 2

The implementation of Pillar 2 is being thoroughly reformed. The central principle: policymakers determine the priorities, experts execute, with a sufficient degree of autonomy. Work programmes run for three years with a one-year overlap between the last and first year of consecutive programmes. Two new expert councils are being established for implementation: the Council for European Competitiveness Research (for the components linked to the ECF windows) and the European Council for Global Societal Challenges Research (for the fifth component). They write the call texts within a theme and actively manage the project portfolios. Experts receive a full-time appointment for 5 years, following the example of the EIC programme managers. **Note PJ: the Ehlers report on FP10 proposes to change Policy Window II From 'Health, Biotechnology, Agriculture and Bioeconomy' to Competitiveness Window II "Biotechnology, Health, and Sustainable Prosperity". So they propose to withdraw Agriculture and Bioeconomy (FOOD20240 is also part of it) from Window II both in FP10 and ECF I presume. That's a big threat for our sector / domain and institutions**

What is not in the report?

The draft report proposes no changes to the European Research Area (ERA) or to the research and innovation infrastructures. These components remain unchanged. Furthermore, no substantive course has yet been set for widening. Internally, Parliament has not yet determined a position on these subjects, and the rapporteur is deliberately not preempting the debate. However, the current 3.3% share from Horizon Europe remains the starting point for FP10 in this report.

****The knowledge sector's turn****

In an accompanying message to the publication of the report, Ehler makes an explicit appeal: this is the moment to position research and innovation more strongly within the program, and the knowledge sector will have to play a crucial role in this by lending its support to this proposal. The field is indeed now facing an important choice: it will have to determine whether it can align with an approach that, on many points, is at odds with the Commission's narrative.

Context

Over the coming months, the European Parliament's ITRE committee will work on its joint position regarding the Tenth Framework Programme (FP10), the Specific Programme (SP10), and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF). ITRE members can submit amendments to the draft reports on FP10 and SP10 [PR_CNS_LegAct_am](#) until 9 April. On 15 April, ITRE will discuss the draft report on the ECF, after which members can submit amendments until 21 April. Other parliamentary committees can submit their opinion on the ECF report until 24 April. For FP10 and SP10, this deadline is likely to be slightly earlier. In September, ITRE will vote on the three draft reports. The plenary vote is scheduled for October 2026, at which time the Parliament will adopt its formal position for negotiations with the Council and the Commission.

Other International funding

The Common Fund for Commodities welcomes funding applications (11 March 2026)

Source: Website CFC <https://www.common-fund.org/call-for-proposals>

The Common Fund for Commodities (CFC) invests in transformative, high-impact projects that empower smallholders and strengthen the communities they sustain. Our goal is to align commercial success with environmental regeneration and social inclusion — enabling farmers to access high-value markets, adopt climate-smart practices, add value locally, and protect biodiversity.

The CFC welcomes applications from SMEs, cooperatives, social enterprises, NGOs, and public or private sector entities that are based or have active operations in one of the 101 [CFC member countries](#), with projects that enhance smallholder livelihoods and drive inclusive local development. Projects should be financially viable, and applicants must have a minimum of 3 years of operational history demonstrating relevant experience and capacity. the Netherlands is one the 101 members of CFC

General Priority Areas:

- Trade Finance for Companies - Connecting Smallholder Farmers with Global Markets.
- Regenerative Agriculture & Biodiversity Protection.
- Local Value Addition with Low Environmental Impact.
- Agtech and Digital Tools for Inclusive, Sustainable and Transparent Value Chains.
- Improving Financial Access for Smallholder Farmers.
- Women Entrepreneurship and Business Solutions with a Gender Lens

Call for proposals: [FAQ_Call_for_Proposals2023_\(ID_68466\).pdf](#)

For more information: <https://www.common-fund.org/call-for-proposals> and https://common-fund.org/sites/default/files/Commodity%20Topics/VACS/VACS_FAQs.pdf

National funding

New Open Technology Programme grants demonstrate versatility of technological research (23 March 2026)

Source: Website NWO news [New Open Technology Programme grants demonstrate versatility of technological research | NWO](#)



Six promising research projects have once again been selected within the Open Technology Programme (OTP). With these grants, NWO is stimulating the development of new technologies that offer solutions to a wide range of social and scientific issues.

From the development of new oxidases and research into the influence of deeper natural tectonic processes, to the development of a new generation of hybrid traffic prediction methods. The awarded projects combine scientific excellence with tangible impact. Thanks to OTP funding, top researchers now have the opportunity to turn bold ideas into solutions that contribute to various societal challenges.

Valorization of oxidative enzymes

One of the granted project is the research of prof. dr. ir. M.W. Fraaije that focuses on finding and developing new oxidases — a promising group of environmentally friendly enzymes that only need oxygen to carry out reactions. Because there are currently very few oxidases available, two things are being investigated: development of a tool for detecting new oxidases and improving a microorganism that can produce these enzymes. This should make it easier to discover new oxidases and apply them in biotechnology.

How shallow anthropogenic stresses caused by underground activities can influence deeper natural tectonic processes

Seismic sensitive areas are increasingly being used for geothermal energy and other underground operations, but remain underutilized due to uncertainty and perceived seismic risk. By integrating geological, geophysical, and seismological data with advanced physics-based models, this project of prof. dr. J.D.A.M. van Wees investigates how shallow anthropogenic stresses caused by underground activities can influence deeper natural tectonic processes, and vice versa. The Roerdalslenk (RVG), an area currently investigating geothermal potential, will serve as the main case study for this research.

One of the granted projects is led by WUR

UNITED - Understanding and Narrowing Impacts of Targeted N₂O Emissions in Deammonification - dr. ir. P.F.H. van den Brink, Wageningen University & Research (22817)

An overview of all granted projects can be found here: [New Open Technology Programme grants demonstrate versatility of technological research | NWO](#).

Open Technology Programme

The Open Technology Programme provides funding for application-oriented technical-scientific research that is free and unfettered and unencumbered by disciplinary boundaries. The programme provides a low-threshold way for companies and other organisations to join scientific research that should lead to societal and/or scientific impact.

Temporary subsidy scheme for NBS living labs (23 March 2026)

Source: Website Overheid.nl [Overheid.nl](#) | Consultatie Tijdelijke subsidieregeling NBS living labs

In brief

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (IenW) is preparing a temporary subsidy scheme. This scheme stimulates research into scaling up Nature Based Solutions (NBS). These are solutions that harness the power of nature to address societal challenges such as climate adaptation, water safety, water quality, nature and biodiversity, and making agriculture more sustainable. The subsidy scheme is part of the National Growth Fund project NL2120.

What is the goal?

The aim of this scheme is to stimulate research into NBS and their potential scaling up by having a knowledge project carried out. A knowledge project may concern the development, design, or application of an NBS in one or more of the following landscape types:

- lowland peatland;
- salinizing coastal areas;
- high sandy soils;
- built-up areas;
- rivers.

A knowledge project may consist of industrial research, experimental development, or a combination of both. For more information on these concepts, please **refer to the following website**:

<https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/definities#industrieel-onderzoek> (A clickable link is included under the heading 'Supporting documents').

Would you like to respond?

You can respond to all parts of the regulation and the explanatory notes via this website up to and including 22 April 2026.

Respond to this consultation: [Overheid.nl](#) | Consultatie Tijdelijke subsidieregeling NBS living labs, reageren (in Dutch)

For more information: [Overheid.nl](#) | Consultatie Tijdelijke subsidieregeling NBS living labs (in Dutch)

KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia -S 2026 (18 March 2026)

Project awarded for research into integrated policy on Planetary Health (17 March 2026)

Source: Website NWO news [Project awarded for research into integrated policy on Planetary Health](#) | NWO



Funding has been awarded to a project within the NWA call “Building blocks for integrated policy on Planetary Health”. Government policy has a major impact on the health of both people and the planet. Over the next five years, a broad consortium will therefore develop an approach that helps the national government to better incorporate this interaction into policy. ZonMw is implementing this thematic programme in collaboration with NWO.

It is becoming increasingly clear that the health of humans, animals and the planet constantly influence each other. As a result, many initiatives have already been launched to restore or improve this disrupted health balance. The government is also increasing the number of policy instruments, such as the Climate Act, the National Adaptation Strategy and the Green Deal for Sustainable Care. However, there is still a lack of a government-wide, cross-domain approach.

The NWA programme [Building Blocks for Integral Policy on Planetary Health](#) responds to this need. The focus is on developing a broadly applicable approach for a Planetary Health Impact Assessment (PHIA). This builds on existing frameworks for Health Impact Assessment (HIA) and Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).

Awarded project:

Co-creation and Integration of Planetary Health Impact Assessment in policy practice (CINPHIA)

Main applicant: **Dr. Marleen Bekker** (Wageningen University and Research)

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/project-awarded-for-research-into-integrated-policy-on-planetary-health>

NWO policy on generative AI updated (16 March 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [NWO policy on generative AI updated | NWO](#)



The Dutch Research Council (NWO) has adopted an update to its policy on generative AI (GAI). This policy clarifies for applicants, assessors and employees how they should deal with GAI. While applicants are permitted to use GAI in the grant process, assessors and NWO employees are still not allowed to use GAI.

At the beginning of last year, NWO shared guidelines for the use of GAI. In order to quickly translate developments in AI and experiences with the policy into the guidelines, the policy is regularly updated.

Use of GAI in the assessment process still excluded

The use of GAI is still completely excluded from the assessment of an application. Both assessors (including referees, committee members and jury members) and NWO employees must comply with the duty of confidentiality for all documents relating to an application in the grant process. NWO cannot guarantee this confidentiality when GAI is used by assessors and NWO employees involved in the assessment process. In addition, NWO has a duty of verification. This means that NWO must be able to check whether an assessor's advice is based on a careful assessment. The use of GAI makes it difficult to comply with this duty, as it is often impossible to determine how GAI has been used.

Key updates

The aim of the update is to simplify the guidelines where possible and to add guidelines where necessary for new developments or gaps. Below is an overview of the key updates.

General policy framework:

- The unreliability of AI control software has been included in the policy framework. At present, such applications are not reliable enough to determine the use of GAI and are therefore not used by NWO. Results from such applications are not accepted as evidence of GAI use.
- The principle of sustainability has been simplified to clarify how NWO deals with this issue and what advice it gives to applicants, assessors and NWO staff. For example, NWO staff are asked to check whether the use of GAI is necessary or whether a more sustainable solution is available.

Guideline for applicants:

- For applicants, the guideline has been expanded to include a prohibition on including hidden prompts in their applications. A hidden prompt is a command to an AI application that is not (or only poorly) visible to the reader of a document, with the aim of influencing the AI application with a new command. Such a command could be to generate a positive assessment of the text in question. This is not permitted under any circumstances.
- The guideline regarding transparency has been simplified; only if GAI is used as a source are applicants asked to report this in the source reference of their application.

Guideline for assessors and/or referees:

- The ISAAC form for referees states that the referee declares not to use GAI.

- This guideline explicitly states that the use of GAI as a language aid or for translations is not permitted for referees and assessors.

Guideline for NWO staff:

- This guideline specifies how NWO staff should deal with partners who use or wish to use GAI. In such situations, NWO staff must check whether GAI has actually been used and, if so, prevent confidential information from being shared.

Use of GAI for NWO staff in other activities

NWO staff may use GAI for activities outside the assessment process, but only GAI applications that have been approved and declared safe and made available in accordance with the (IT) procurement process. Currently, NWO staff may use Microsoft Copilot Chat and the DeepL translation application.

Read Policy document: [NWO policy on the use of generative AI | NWO](#)

Regional funding

New I3 Instrument Partner Search tool: form consortia faster and simpler (19 March 2026)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Nieuwe I3 Instrument Partner Search tool: sneller en simpeler consortia vormen](#)

The European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) has published a new tool to support innovators and knowledge institutions in forming consortia. The I3 Instrument Partner Search tool is a central digital space featuring collaboration proposals and potential partners. It aims to enable stakeholders to find consortium partners more quickly and easily. With a focus on TRL 6-9, it targets innovative interregional projects that are about to enter the market.



Consortium formation tool supports European innovation systems

The European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) [About EISMEA - European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency \(EISMEA\)](#) has launched a new tool to facilitate consortium formation: **the I3 Instrument Partner Search tool** [Launch of the new I3 Instrument Partner Search tool to build stronger interregional innovation consortia - European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency \(EISMEA\)](#). The new platform aims to support innovators and research institutions in forming consortia under the Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument [Interregional Innovation Investments \(I3\) Instrument - European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency \(EISMEA\)](#). This central digital space, where institutions can share their collaboration proposals and find potential partners, makes it possible to assemble consortia more quickly. This also promotes European innovation systems and interregional cooperation.

Intended goal: Transparency and simplified consortia formation

The tool's features are based on the practical needs of consortia during the formation process, such as a shared database, advanced filtering options, and integrated contact forums. As a result, it contributes to transparency, as all projects are visible and registration is only required when publishing and managing proposals.

Context

This new tool falls under the Interregional Innovation Investments (I3) Instrument and is funded by the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF). Its aim is to support interregional innovation projects in their scale-up and commercialisation phases, or TRL 6-9. A total of €176 million has been allocated to the I3 instrument for the period 2025-2027.

Save smart specialisation R&D strategies, regional associations tell EU (19 March 2026)

Source: Website Science|Business [Save smart specialisation R&D strategies, regional associations tell EU | Science|Business](#)

There are concerns that the strategies are overlooked in the European Commission's proposed future cohesion plans



Eva Nussmueller, acting head of unit for smart and sustainable growth at DG REGIO, speaking at the Smart Specialisation Strategies Conference in June 2025. Photo credits: European Union

A group of 12 European associations has called on the EU to ensure that Smart Specialisation Strategies (S3), which help regions coordinate R&D priorities, are maintained and reinforced during the next long-term budget period from 2028 to 2034.

The group, led by the European Association of Development Agencies (Eurada) and the European Regions Research and Innovation Network (Errin), [published an open letter](#) on March 16 addressed to the European Commission, the European Parliament and the European Council.

Their issue stems from the draft for the next EU Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF), proposed by the Commission in July last year. The group writes that “under the current MFF proposal, S3 faces strategic ambiguity and risks being reduced to an optional territorial reference.”

The goal of S3 is to help regions focus their innovation spending on areas in which they already have a strong footing or advantage. It was first announced in 2010 and has been in place since 2014. The strategies are legally required in order for countries and regions to access research and innovation funding under the European Regional Development Fund. In total, around €70 billion in research and innovation funding is guided by the S3 tool over two EU budgetary periods, from 2014 to 2020 and 2021 to 2027. In most cases, the regions take the lead on developing and implementing the strategies.

But under the new MFF proposal, S3 is “*hardly mentioned*,” and it remains unclear to what extent it will be a required tool to access regional innovation funding, according to Francesco Molica, director of Eurada.

“*The lack of a legal framework makes us worry about S3 strategies being discontinued in countries or regions, or, where they are still in place, being structured differently and causing fragmentation*,” Molica told Science|Business.

He added that he isn’t necessarily worried about S3 not being an enabling condition to access funds, but that it should be more codified and given a solid legal backing.

Pirita Lindholm, director of Errin, also questioned the proposal and how it could impact regional innovation spending, saying that “it raises the big question of how the research and innovation dimension could be secured in the proposed national and regional partnership plans if not through smart specialisation.”

“*We still see smart specialisation as a backbone to make sure that both the research and innovation dimension as well as regions and their priorities are properly considered at a national level*,” she added. S3 is more than just a tool for local authorities to direct funding or for weaker regions to increase their innovation potential, said Ewa Chomicz, policy and engagement manager at Errin. It also increases cross-border regional cooperation, helping countries with similar thematic goals to come together. “*We see S3 as something broader than just a tool for cohesion policy. It is also a tool that could be used to strengthen Europe’s research and innovation efforts*,” she said.

It also supports Europe’s need to increase technological competitiveness, Molica said. “*Even a strongly innovative sector in a more developed region might still need to rely on activities for its value chain that are located in a less developed region*,” he said, pointing out that S3 is “instrumental” in creating these links.

The open letter reflects the wider concerns of regional authorities. The European Committee of the Regions, the EU’s grouping of local and regional representatives, has backed S3 on several occasions in recent weeks. In its opinion on the proposed European Competitiveness Fund, it states that the strategies “*are a key place-based tool to strengthen synergies between the national and regional partnership plans and the European Competitiveness Fund*.”

S3 popular but still unproven on EU level

The broad consensus in the EU is that smart specialisation is a valuable tool. A survey by the European Court of Auditors, published [in a 2025 report](#), found that 80% of the 104 regional and national authorities that responded would still prepare a Smart Specialisation Strategy even if it was not a requirement for receiving EU money. “*Most of our respondent regions indicated that they find smart specialisation concept useful*,” the auditors state.

Meanwhile, EU [Council conclusions](#) on cohesion policy published in March 2025 note “the importance of smart specialisation strategies [. . .] to help regions develop competitive capacities, strengthen regional value chains and integrate into global value chains.”

“I think now most of the regional authorities have fully absorbed and understood S3 and are trying to apply it to the most effective way,” Molica said.

What is missing, though, is an EU-wide evaluation of the effectiveness of the S3 tool, with only a few smaller analyses carried out at a national or regional level.

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

Türkiye hits out at plan to divert Horizon Europe contributions to Scale Up fund (19 March 2026)

Source: Website Science|Business [Türkiye hits out at plan to divert Horizon Europe contributions to Scale Up fund | Science|Business](#)



Photo credits: [ginasanders](#) / BigStock

Türkiye has publicly hit out at European Commission plans to divert money from non-EU countries to support a €5 billion Scale Up Europe Fund designed to give promising start-ups growth capital.

“Recent discussions regarding the potential reallocation of Horizon Europe resources [. . .] raise important strategic concerns from the perspective of Türkiye as an associated country,” said a statement from the Scientific and Technological Research Council of Türkiye.

“Allocating additional resources, potentially drawn from associated countries’ contributions, to a new Scaleup Europe Fund primarily targeting mature, late-stage European scale-ups may further widen the gap between financial contribution and effective access,” it went on.

Last month, [Science|Business revealed](#) that the Commission was controversially mulling whether to reallocate money paid in by non-EU countries, particularly Switzerland, associated to the EU’s €93.5 billion Horizon Europe research and innovation programme.

Instead of funding Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA), Horizon Europe’s researcher mobility and training programme, this largely Swiss money would be used to back biodiversity-related grants and give the Scale Up Fund €1 billion. But with MSCAs heavily oversubscribed, some university leaders and Commission officials internally have [pushed back against the plans](#).

The idea of reshuffling money between different parts of Horizon Europe is particularly controversial among associated countries, because they have no control over which programmes benefit and which see budgets cut. Some associated countries do well out of MSCA calls, but if these are squeezed to bolster the Scale Up Fund, they could lose out. The €1 billion for the Scale Up Fund would come out of the budget for the European Innovation Council (EIC), the part of Horizon Europe which gives start-ups and academic teams grants and equity funding.

But Türkiye had suffered “very low success rates” when bidding for EIC funding, the statement said. Before any money is reallocated, it wants to see a “transparent assessment of the impact on associated countries’ participation,” and “safeguards to ensure balanced and fair access.”

Although its companies would be eligible for the Scale Up Fund, Türkiye wants more earlier stage support for start-ups, it said. “For Türkiye and similarly positioned associated countries, the more pressing need lies in strengthening early-stage internationalisation pathways.”

Read full article here: [Türkiye hits out at plan to divert Horizon Europe contributions to Scale Up fund | Science|Business](#)

India is moving towards joining Horizon Europe, says government think tank (19 March 2026)

Source: [Website Science|Business India is moving towards joining Horizon Europe, says government think tank | Science|Business](#)

Brussels and New Delhi ramp up cooperation on digital public infrastructure, but differences remain, such as on AI regulation



Suman Bery, vice chairperson of Niti Aayog. Photo credits: Press Information Bureau, Government of India

India is moving towards joining the EU's €93.5 billion Horizon Europe research and innovation programme, a leading policy advisor to the government in New Delhi has said, as the two powers step up cooperation on technology. India was invited to associate to Horizon Europe in 2025, but has yet to formally accept the offer. Now, according to Suman Bery, vice chairperson of Niti Aayog, the Indian government's in-house policy think tank, joining Horizon Europe is “on the table.”

Speaking on March 18, at an event organised by the French Institute of International Relations in Paris, Bery said joining Horizon Europe was the best practical step to boost science and technology ties between Europe and India. Indian researchers can already join Horizon Europe projects, but they have to line up their own parallel source of funding, making participation tricky to arrange. If India associated, it would pay into the programme's budget, allowing Indian researchers to receive money directly from Brussels, smoothing the path to more collaboration.

If India did come on board, it would mark the latest expansion of Horizon Europe across the world. New Zealand, Canada, South Korea and Japan have already associated, although [how Brussels reconciles](#) this increasingly global approach with a focus on EU industrial prowess and sensitive dual-use technology remains to be seen. After Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the European Commission made building up relations with India a priority, hoping it could prise the country away from dependence on Russian weapons imports and energy. The powers set up a Trade and Technology Council, which first met in 2023. The council had its second meeting at a major AI summit held in India in February. The next meeting should take place in the first half of this year.

Credible partnership

This Trade and Technology Council relationship has evolved from “promising but under-committed” to “credible and institutionally anchored,” said Trisha Ray, a research fellow at the Atlantic Council, a US think tank, during the panel discussion.

Gabriele Bertolli, deputy head of unit for international affairs at the Commission's communications directorate-general, was upbeat about the relationship. It is a “pleasure, for once, to be talking about a partnership that works and works well,” he said.

The EU and India were working together on large language models not primarily based on English, he said. The bloc's AI Office was also working closely with India's own AI Safety Institute, he said. Bertolli also wants to see the EU and India share data sets for research.

Read full article here: [India is moving towards joining Horizon Europe, says government think tank | Science|Business](#)

Commission postpones European Innovation Act (19 March 2026)

Source: Website [Science|Business](#) [Commission postpones European Innovation Act | Science|Business](#)

Observers suggest the delay could be due to disagreements between the Commission directorates handling research and innovation policy



Photo credits: [Levi Meir Clancy / Unsplash](#)

The European Commission failed to present its Innovation Act as planned on March 18, suggesting that it needed more time to complete work on the proposal.

“The Commission adopts its initiatives when they are ready and mature enough,” a spokesperson for the Commission said. *“The adoption date of the Innovation Act will be confirmed at a later stage.”* Commission sources say that the proposal will now be presented before the summer.

Research lobbies in Brussels suspect that the complexity of the proposal and its potential for creating disagreements between Commission directorates may be responsible for the delay.

The Innovation Act is intended to address the barriers that prevent innovative ideas from reaching the market, with measures such as simplified certification procedures, regulatory sandboxes and minimum requirements for public procurement. It was scheduled to be published on March 18 alongside [proposals for an EU-wide company regime](#) designed to allow faster company creation and expansion across borders.

Measures in areas such as access to public and private procurement markets necessarily cut across Commission directorates, and touch on broader economic questions, like whether the EU wants a more protectionist or free-trade approach. *“This could turn rather sensitive and political, as it directly relates to Europe’s industrial and economic strategy,”* said Julien Chicot, head of research and innovation policy at the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities.

In this context, he added, the Commission may want to better coordinate with the upcoming Public Procurement Act, scheduled for the second quarter of 2026. On the other hand, the postponement breaks the connection between the Innovation Act and the EU-wide company regime, which was assumed to be its flagship measure, he said. Kurt Deketelaere, secretary general of the League of European Research Universities, also suspects that *“a disagreement”* between the Commission’s research and industrial policy directorates is partly responsible for the delay. Similar disagreements [appear to have derailed](#) the Competitiveness Coordination Tool, he added. This is a mechanism intended to manage priority setting across the new European Competitiveness Fund and the next Horizon Europe.

“There is a growing sense that the Commission has announced a number of important concepts before fully clarifying how they fit together operationally,” said Louise Drogoul, senior advisor for innovation and sustainability at the Cesaer university association. *“The Commission is still struggling to put in place a clear, credible and connected architecture across research, innovation and competitiveness policy.”*

Too much, too soon?

Other observers are not entirely surprised that the Commission has missed its own deadline for the Innovation Act, given the scope of the proposal and the short time given for drafting and consultation.

“By comparison, the process leading to the forthcoming European Research Area Act allows more time for stakeholder engagement and for shaping its content in an inclusive manner,” said Vinciane Gaillard, director for research and innovation at the European University Association.

One difference is that the European Research Area is enshrined in the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, whereas the Innovation Act “has been framed much more broadly as a cross-sectoral instrument spanning commercialisation, procurement, sandboxes, infrastructures and industry-academia links,” Drogoul said. “That does not mean it lacks a legal basis, but it does suggest a more complex exercise in assembling a coherent instrument across several policy domains.”

Read full article here: [Commission postpones European Innovation Act | Science|Business](#)

EU Grant Analysis: Research Landscape More Focused on Applied Research Than Thought (12 March 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026*

An analysis of EU research funding by Leiden University shows that the European research landscape is more focused on applied and mission-oriented research than publication analyses suggest. Researchers created a global map of research areas based on approximately 82,000 projects from EU framework programs between 2003 and 2024. According to the study, this method better shows where funding is allocated, for example, to technology, energy, or materials research.

News item Leiden Madtrics: [The global map of science according to EU funding - Leiden Madtrics](#)

EU revises framework for safe and sustainable chemicals (12 March 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026*

The European Commission has revised its approach to promoting safer and more sustainable chemicals and materials. According to the Commission, the voluntary instrument should accelerate innovation and give European companies a competitive edge in developing sustainable industrial applications. The revised framework is part of the broader EU strategy for a toxic-free, circular economy. The Commission aims to promote the use of this approach, including through new EU Chemicals Innovation and Substitution Hubs, which will support companies and researchers in developing alternatives to existing substances.

Press release European Commission: [Strengthened Framework for Safe and Sustainable by Design chemicals and materials to drive Europe's clean industrial leadership - Research and innovation](#)

Gender Gaps Persist Across Europe's Innovation Landscape, EPO Analysis Finds (10 March 2026)

Source: *Website EPO [Fewer than 1 in 10 patenting startup founders is a woman | epo.org](#)*

The European Patent Office (EPO) has published a study highlighting persistent gender imbalances across Europe's innovation ecosystem, despite progress in some areas.

Patents are a key instrument for protecting and valorising new technologies and are widely used as an indicator of inventive activity. Exploring the representation of women in the patent pipeline is therefore a useful approach to exploring women's participation in Europe's innovation landscape.

The study finds that women remain under-represented among inventors. Women's participation in patenting at the EPO increased steadily but slowly in previous decades, with the women inventor rate (WIR) - defined as the share of women inventors out of all inventors listed on European patent applications in a given period - rising from around 2% in the late 1970s to 13% in 2019, and only up to 13.8% by 2022.

A more positive figure emerges when examining the share of European patent applications that list at least one woman among the inventors on a given application, indicating that better progress has been made in team-based patenting than individual applications. The share of European patent applications naming at least one woman as an inventor increased from less than 4% around 1980 to 21.6% in 2019 and 24.1% in 2022, indicating a faster growing role of women in collaborative inventor teams.

The gender gap is also narrower in several patent-related professions. In 2025, women accounted for 25.5% of EPO patent examiners, with more than 30% of new hires being female. Among European patent attorneys, women made up 29.2%, compared with 28% a decade earlier. In contrast, the proportion of women in senior technical adjudication roles, such as judges at the Unified Patent Court and members of the EPO Boards of Appeal, remains close to 20%.

The report also examines gender representation among founders of technology startups that hold European patent applications. Women represent around 10% of founders and were involved in the creation of 13.5% of patenting startups - 7.3% founded exclusively by women and 6.2% by mixed teams.

Country variation is significant: **Spain and Portugal record the highest women founder rates at 19.2% and 15.7%** respectively, while **Germany and the Netherlands fall below 8%**. Sectoral differences are similarly pronounced, with stronger representation in Chemicals, Agrifood and Health Tech, and very low participation in Transportation, Robotics and Consumer Electronics.

Across the wider startup landscape, gender gaps are notably larger among patenting ventures than in non-patenting companies. Women comprise 17.4% of founders in non-patenting startups but only 10% in patenting ones. Even in younger patenting firms, where women's participation reaches 14%, representation drops sharply at later growth stages. EPO President António Campinos said:

'There is an obvious gain for Europe in boosting women's participation in innovation. Diversity is not a nice-to-have, it is fuel for breakthrough innovation. This study exposes the persistent roadblocks in our path to progress so that Europe can unlock the full innovation potential across research, patenting, and entrepreneurship.'

The study can be accessed in full at the EPO website: [Fewer than 1 in 10 patenting startup founders is a woman | epo.org](#)

Global policy

China also focuses heavily on R&D in new five-year plan (19 March 2026)

Source: [AWTI e-mail alert 19 March 2026](#)

China intends to continue investing heavily in science and technology in the coming years, Nature reports, based on plans presented during the Chinese National People's Congress. The Chinese government is aiming for an annual growth in R&D spending of at least 7 percent. Plans were also announced to raise the direct budget for science and technology this year to approximately 53 billion euros, a 10% increase compared to 2025. The funds will go to national laboratories and strategic research projects, among other things. Analysts view the move as part of a broader strategy to become less dependent on foreign knowledge and innovation.

Article Nature: [China pledges billion-dollar spending boost for science](#)

Article Asia Society: [What Happened at China's Two Sessions in 2026? | Asia Society](#)

OECD Launches Global Startup Database (12 March 2026)

Source: [AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026](#)

The OECD has developed a new global database containing information on approximately 4.5 million startups founded between 2000 and 2025. The Startup Database combines data from various platforms with information on funding rounds, patents, founders, and acquisitions. According to the OECD, the dataset should provide a more comprehensive picture of startup activity and entrepreneurial ecosystems worldwide, as existing data sources often focus on venture-backed companies in the United States. The database should help researchers and policymakers better analyze global trends in startups, such as rapid growth outside North America and Europe and regional differences in funding.

OECD Publication: [The OECD Start-ups Database | OECD](#)

Study exposes vulnerability of AI models to academic fraud (12 March 2026)

Source: [AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026](#)

AI language models can easily be abused to commit academic fraud or generate scientific articles with fabricated data. This is evident from an experiment reported in Nature. Researchers tested how models responded to requests ranging from innocuous questions to explicit requests for fraud. In conversations where users repeatedly probed, all tested models ultimately proved willing to cooperate to some extent, for example, by generating fabricated data or offering advice on how to commit fraud. Models from Anthropic proved the most reluctant, while systems from xAI and older versions of OpenAI were the most likely to comply with problematic requests.

Nature article: [Hey ChatGPT, write me a fictional paper: these LLMs are willing to commit academic fraud](#)

OECD analyzes the rise of agentic AI (12 March 2026)

Source: [AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026](#)

The OECD has published a report on so-called agentic AI, a new generation of AI systems in which multiple AI agents work together to perform complex tasks independently. According to the report, such systems can divide tasks, communicate with each other, and pursue goals over extended periods with limited human control. This distinguishes them from individual AI agents, which typically perform a single, specific task. The OECD states that the use of AI agents is growing rapidly, but that the technology is not yet fully mature and further development remains necessary in terms of security, privacy, and reliability.

OECD Article: [Can we create a clear understanding of what agentic AI is and does? - OECD.AI](#)

OECD Report: [The agentic AI landscape and its conceptual foundations \(EN\)](#)

US: \$352 million for Energy Frontier Research Centers (12 March 2026)

Source: [AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026](#)

The US Department of Energy's science agency plans to allocate \$352 million to Energy Frontier Research Centers as part of President Trump's Gold Standard for Science mission. These research centers will support fundamental research in fields such as chemistry, earth sciences, and life sciences. This, in turn, should lead to breakthroughs in critical minerals, quantum computing, and advanced manufacturing processes. With the so-called gold standard, Trump claims to want to make science more transparent and understandable, but critics warn that the president is actually creating room for doubt about research outcomes. "Rather than promoting open science, it empowers pro-government politicians to label any research as scientific misconduct," several scientists wrote in an opinion piece in The Guardian last year.

Energy News: [Energy Department Announces \\$352 Million for Energy Frontier Research Centers to Accelerate Science Underpinning Energy Technologies | Department of Energy](#)

Nextgov Article: [Energy announces \\$352M in funding for frontier science - Nextgov/FCW](#)

Opinion piece The Guardian (May 2025): [Trump's new 'gold standard' rule will destroy American science as we know it | Colette Delawalla, Victor Ambros, Carl Bergstrom, Carol Greider, Michael Mann and Brian Nosek | The Guardian](#)

National policy

Letschert concerned about growing group with little trust in science (19 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 19 March 2026

Minister Letschert finds it concerning that the group of people with very little trust in science has increased significantly. This can be read in the policy response to two reports by the Rathenau Institute. Additionally, the minister finds it concerning that there is little trust in the way politicians and journalists use scientific insights. “These two ‘trust gaps’ confirm to me that it is important to continue working on the relationship between science, government, society and, by extension, politics.” In the letter, Letschert points to a number of initiatives that can strengthen the relationship between science and society.

Letter to Parliament from Minister Letschert: [Kamerbrief met reactie op rapporten Rathenau Instituut over vertrouwen in de wetenschap | Kamerstuk | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) (in Dutch)

Rathenau Institute Publication (Trust in Science 2025): [Vertrouwen in de wetenschap 2025 | Rathenau Instituut](#) (in Dutch)

Rathenau Institute Publication (Trust in Science and misinformation on social media): [Vertrouwen in de wetenschap en misinformatie op sociale media | Rathenau Instituut](#) (in Dutch)

Opinion piece in FD: “Wennink’s agenda is not enough for major transitions” (19 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 19 March 2026

“Clarity on where the Netherlands wants to go stimulates private investment in innovation and research.” This is what AWTI Chair Mirjam van Praag and council members Marleen Stikker, Jolanda Kluijten, and Gerben Edelijckx write in an opinion piece in the FD. The coalition agreement adopts much from the Wennink Report, the authors state, but anyone wishing to leverage innovation for major societal transitions needs more than just technological investments. The article explains which steps, according to the council, are still needed to actually make breakthroughs possible.

Read the opinion piece: [Opinieartikel FD: “Wennink’s agenda is niet genoeg voor grote transitie” | Adviesraad voor wetenschap, technologie en innovatie](#) (in Dutch)

Cabinet aims to present a plan for strategic industrial policy domains within six months (12 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026

The Task Force on Future Prosperity and the Business Climate must formulate an action plan for four strategic industrial policy domains within six months. Prime Minister Jetten and Deputy Prime Ministers Yeşilgöz and Van den Brink wrote this in a brief. These are the four domains as formulated in the Wennink report: digitalization and AI; security and resilience; energy and climate technology; and life sciences and biotechnology. The task force is also tasked with stimulating investment, including by establishing a National Investment Institution by 2028 and a National Agency for Disruptive Innovation. During the committee debate on economic security and strategic autonomy, Minister Herbert announced that the House of Representatives will receive a letter on this matter before the summer.

Ministerial Task Force on Future Prosperity and the Business Climate Brief:

<https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/fa14ec09-f099-41d4-8315-049470e13a03/file> (in Dutch)

Committee Debate on Economic Security and Strategic Autonomy: [Economische veiligheid en strategische autonomie | Debat Direct](#) (in Dutch)

Rathenau Institute advises the House of Representatives on hydrogen policy (12 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026

The existing knowledge in the field of hydrogen relies too heavily on the expertise of companies and industry organizations that are stakeholders. It is therefore important to identify knowledge gaps and integrate them into the

research agenda. The Rathenau Institute advises this in a letter to the House of Representatives. Furthermore, it recommends facilitating a broad public debate on the energy and raw materials transition and developing alternative scenarios.

Rathenau Institute publication: [Waterstofbeleid in een veranderende realiteit | Rathenau Instituut \(in Dutch\)](#)

KNAW to advise on funding for Dutch universities (12 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026

The KNAW will issue an advisory report on the key principles for funding Dutch universities. In recent months, the KNAW has already conducted exploratory research into the current funding system and the main bottlenecks facing the academic community. One of the conclusions is that the discussion about future funding methods would benefit from a perspective from the academic community. A memorandum outlining the key principles is expected in October. The report on the advantages and disadvantages of various possible funding models is expected in February 2027.

KNAW News: [Academy to advise on funding for Dutch universities - KNAW](#)

Exploratory analysis: [BEKOSTIGINGSSYSTEMATIEK NEDERLANDSE UNIVERSITEITEN \(in Dutch\)](#)

VITO and Wageningen University & Research Launch Collaboration on Drone Data for Agricultural Research 912 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 12 March 2026

Research organization VITO and Wageningen University & Research (WUR) are launching a collaboration on drone-based imaging and data analysis for agricultural and environmental monitoring. VITO's MAPEO platform is the central focus: a cloud-based platform that converts drone data into actionable research insights. The partnership aims to develop digital tools to better monitor crops, biodiversity, and ecosystems. According to both organizations, the collaboration should further strengthen the use of drone data in agricultural and environmental research.

VITO Press Release: [Wageningen University & Research and VITO join forces to create a reference platform in drone-based research applications | VITO](#)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 23 March 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	
Destination - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-TOOL single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-03-TOOL single stage	Foreseen opening: 3 June 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-TOOL-01-two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) , 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Cluster 2 Culture Creativity and Inclusive Society</u>	
<u>Custer 3 Civil Security for Society</u>	
<u>Cluster 4 Digital - Industry - Space</u>	
<u>Destination: Leadership in materials and production for Europe</u>	
HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD single stage	21 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL4-2026-01-MAT-PROD two-stage	17 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) , 13 October 2026 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-MAT-PROD single stage	Foreseen opening 22 September 2026 and foreseen deadline 2 February 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-MAT-PROD two-stage	Foreseen opening 22 September 2026 and foreseen deadline 2 February 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) , 2 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time <i>(HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-two-stage)</i>
<u>Destination: Open Strategic Autonomy in Developing, Deploying and Using Global Space-Based Infrastructure, Services, Applications and Data</u>	

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	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	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	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	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	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>	
Destination: 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	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 23 March 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: <u>13 November 2025, 15:00 CET (CLOSED)</u> Selection of preproposals: End of February 2026 Submission deadline of full proposals: <u>13 April 2026, 15:00 CEST</u> 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>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: ~ <u>11 February 2026 (CLOSED)</u> Deadline for full-proposal submission: ~<u>27 July 2026 (only by invitation)</u></p>
<p>European Partnership Agroecology https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/</p>	<p>Announcement 3rd call AGROECOLOGY partnership 3rd co-funded call — Agroecology Partnership and Agroecology: Call3</p> <p>Tentative timeline Deadline for <u>pre-proposal submission</u> is 18 February 2026, 14:00 CET. (CLOSED) Deadline for <u>full proposal submission</u> 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>

<p>European partnership Sustainable Blue Economy https://bluepartnership.eu/</p>	<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>
<p>European Partnership Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future (DUT) https://dutpartnership.eu/</p>	<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
<p>European Partnership ERA4HEALTH ERA4Health The Partnership</p>	<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>
<p>Joint Technology Initiatives</p>	
<p>Joint Programming Initiatives</p>	
	<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 **23 March 2026**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
07-12-2025 until 31-07-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission <u>proposals</u> 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%202025-26_EN%20%282%29.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

National calls

This list is a selection of open national calls. The list was compiled on **23 March 2026**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

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, NWO 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: deadline for submission Full proposals Knowledge-in-Action - Economic transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action . Proposals can be submitted until 14 April 2026 14:00:00 CEST . Knowledge-in-Action - Economic transition: the costs and benefits of (in)action NWO and Call for Proposals - Kennis in Actie
From 17-02-2026 until 14-04-2026	Deadline for submission Full proposals PPS-I 2026 Call TKI Green Chemistry and Circularity Applications can be submitted between February 17, 2026, 12:00 p.m. and April 14, 2026, 2:00 p.m. via the call page on the ChemistryNL website Call-text-PPS-I-2026-ChemistryNL_English.pdf and Oproep voor projecten PPS-I 2026: Duurzame chemie en circulariteit - ChemistryNL
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 ; <i>The deadline for submitting a request for review by organizations based in the Netherlands is May 19, 2026. The deadline for submitting a request for review by foreign organizations is May 19, 2026.</i> . New Call: Unique opportunity for SSH researchers to further deepen consortia (NWA) NWO and The power of collaboration NWO
30-06-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission of statement of intent for KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food 2026 . The deadline for submitting a statement of intent 30 June 2026. KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food 2026
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
18-08-2026	Deadline for submission for a request for assessment of organisations for phase 1 for the new NWA call 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' The deadline for submitting a request for assessment of organisations based in the Netherlands for phase 1 (see section 3.1.1) is 18

	August 2026 before 14:00:00 CEST / The deadline for submitting a request for assessment of foreign organisations for phase 1 (see section 7.1.1) is 18 August 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST.. New NWA call opened: 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' NWO and Resilient Digital Ecosystems 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 Competition XS
15-09-2026	Deadline for submission Full applications for phase 1 of the new NWA call 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' The deadline for submitting applications in phase 1 is 15 September 2026, before 14:00:00 CEST. New NWA call opened: 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' NWO and Resilient Digital Ecosystems NWO
17-09-2026	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
06-10-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission Full proposals KIC - Early detection of (emerging) outbreaks of infectious diseases . The deadline for submission of full applications is 6 October 2026, 14:00:00 CEST. KIC call opened: AI-driven early detection of (emerging) outbreaks of infectious diseases NWO and KIC - Early detection of (emerging) outbreaks of infectious diseases NWO and Call for Proposals - Early detection of (emerging) infectious disease outbreaks
13-10-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission of Full applications for KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food 2026 . Closing date full application 13 October 2026 14:00 hrs. 7 million euros available for research into AI applications in the agriculture, horticulture, water, and food sectors NWO and KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - KIC AI for agriculture, horticulture, water and food 2026
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
18-09-2029	NEW: Deadline for submission for a request for assessment of organisations for phase 2 for the new NWA call 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' The deadline for submitting a request for assessment of organisations based in the Netherlands for phase 2 (see section 3.1.1) is 18 September 2029 before 14:00:00 CEST / The deadline for submitting a request for assessment of foreign organisations for phase 2 (see section 7.1.1) is 18 September 2029, before 14:00:00 CEST.. New NWA call opened: 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' NWO and Resilient Digital Ecosystems NWO Note PJ: I wonder if 18-09-2029 is the right date
16-10-2029	NEW: Deadline for submission Full applications for phase 2 of the new NWA call 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' The deadline for submitting applications in phase 1 is 16 October 2029, before 14:00:00 CEST. New NWA call opened: 'Resilient Digital Ecosystems' NWO and Resilient Digital Ecosystems NWO Note PJ: I wonder if 16-10-2029 is the right date

Regional calls

This list is a selection of regional calls. The list was compiled on **23 March 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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