



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 445_7 April 2026

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

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Latest Funding News

European Funding News: Horizon Europe

EIT Water Secures €5 Million Grant for Its Start-up Phase (1 April 2026)

Source: Website [EIT EIT Water Secures €5 Million Grant for Its Start-up Phase | EIT](#)



The Start-up Grant Agreement (SUGA) governing the start-up phase of EIT Water has now been signed, with the consortium set to receive €5 million to get EIT Water up and running for 2027.

The consortium will now focus on building EIT Water, putting in place its strategic, organisational and operational framework, with full operations expected to begin in 2027, as the SUGA period concludes at the end of 2026.
Building the Foundations

The €5 million allocation will support the start-up phase of EIT Water, enabling the development of its governance, operations, strategy and first business plan, supporting its long-term activities. During this period, EIT Water, with additional support from the Grundfos Foundation, will also carry out early pilot activities.

Driving Innovation Across Europe

The start-up phase's main objective is to establish strong governance structures and lay the foundations for long-term financial sustainability through impact-driven business planning and a diversified funding approach, in line with the EIT's model. Through the integration of the EIT model's 'knowledge triangle' (business, research and academia), EIT Water will deliver entrepreneurial education, support business creation and acceleration, and advance innovation-driven research to address Europe's most pressing water challenges. EIT Water will also develop its Strategic Agenda and build a growing pan-European network of partners across the water, marine and maritime sectors, expanding its current partnership.

EIT Water currently brings together 140 core partners across 29 countries. As part of its start-up phase, it is developing a network of Co-Location Centres across Europe, providing access to its services and the EIT's Europe-wide network for innovators, students, and entrepreneurs. These centres are located in:

- Headquarters – CLC North: Aarhus, Denmark
- CLC United Kingdom and Ireland: Leeds, United Kingdom
- CLC Central and Baltic: Berlin, Germany
- CLC West: Antwerp, Belgium
- CLC Central and Danube: Vienna, Austria
- CLC South: Sibenik, Croatia

- CLC Iberian Peninsula: Malaga, Spain
- CLC Black Sea: Varna, Bulgaria

Together, these efforts lay a strong foundation for EIT Water to play a central role in strengthening Europe's innovation ecosystem and addressing water-related challenges across the continent.

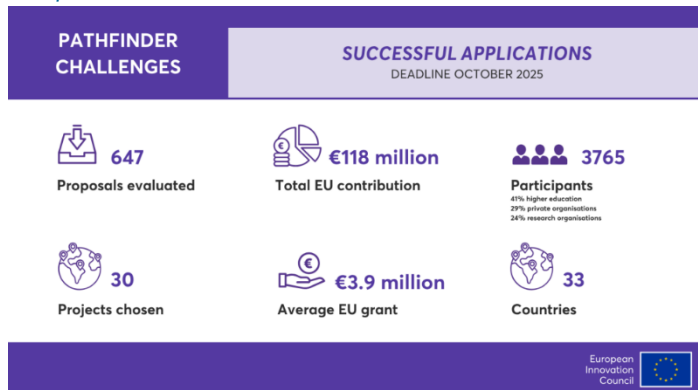
Consortium Partners

TIWAG-Tiroler Wasserkraft; BOKU University; Vienna University of Technology; Aquafin; Blue Cluster; Jan De Nul Group; North Sea Port Flanders; Marine Cluster Bulgaria; Tech Tour Global; Digital Innovation HUB Innovamare; Ruder Bošković Institute; Limassol District Local Government Organisation; University of Helsinki; French National Research Institute for Agriculture, Food and Environment; Toulon Var Technologies; BRYCK; RWE Offshore Wind; Society for Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology (DECHEMA); SUBMARINER Network for Blue Growth; Aristotle University of Thessaloniki; Igoumenitsa Port Authority; Region of Central Macedonia; BIOEAST HUB CZ; Aarhus University; Danfoss Power Electronics; Grundfos Holding; UNICEF Denmark; Water Valley Denmark; University of Tartu; MAHART-Freeport; University College Dublin; **Deltares; Wageningen University**; Akvaplan-niva; Elbląg Seaport Authority; Warsaw University of Life Sciences; University of Coimbra; FCC Aqualia; Institute of Agrifood Research and Technology (IRTA); Navantia; Port Authority of Vigo; Ricardo Valle Innovation Institute Foundation; Stockholm International Water Institute; Entertech Istanbul Teknokent; National University of Life and Environmental Sciences of Ukraine; Second Degree Irrigation Consortium for the Emilia Romagna Canal (CER); International Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM); The James Hutton Institute; PepsiCo; University of Leeds

Read more here: [Water Factsheet_winning consortia.pdf](#)

EIC awards €118 million to 30 breakthrough research projects under EIC Pathfinder Challenges (1 April 2026)

Source: Website EIC [EIC awards €118 million to 30 breakthrough research projects under EIC Pathfinder Challenges - European Innovation Council](#)



The European Innovation Council has **selected 30 new projects** [ea94063e-b082-4556-b1d8-699aae909ac2_en](#) under the 2025 EIC Pathfinder Challenges Call for cutting edge research projects delivering breakthroughs in four strategic areas:

- Biotech for climate resilient crops and plant-based biomanufacturing,
- Generative-AI based agents to revolutionise medical diagnosis and treatment of cancer,
- Towards autonomous robot collectives delivering collaborative tasks in dynamic unstructured construction environments
- Waste-to-value devices - circular production of renewable fuels, chemicals, and materials.

Note PJ: the Netherlands is leading 3 of the selected projects: WUR is partner in one of the selected projects led by Keygene.

The successful projects were chosen from 647 submitted eligible proposals and will receive around €118 million of EU funding (on average €3.93 million per project).

Participants predominantly come from higher education institutions (41%), private for-profit organisations (29%), and research organisations (24%).

Background information

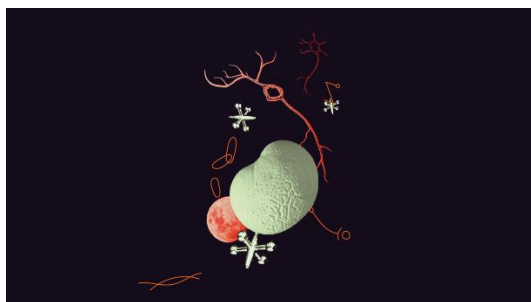
With its Pathfinder scheme, the EIC supports the exploration of bold ideas for radically new technologies. It welcomes high-risk/high gain and interdisciplinary cutting-edge science collaborations that underpin technological breakthroughs. EIC Pathfinder supports grants of up to €4 million on early-stage development of future technologies (e.g. various activities at low Technology Readiness Levels 1-3), up to proof of concept. EIC Pathfinder projects benefit from interactions with EIC Programme Managers and can receive additional funding for testing the innovation potential of their research outputs or for working across projects for portfolio actions.

Promising results can receive substantial follow up funding to create a commercial venture through the [EIC Transition](#) scheme or use the EIC Accelerator [Fast Track](#) scheme to bring innovations to the market.

MSCA awards €617.18 million for doctoral programmes (25 March 2026)

Source: Website MSCA [MSCA awards €617.18 million for doctoral programmes](#) | [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

The European Commission will support 141 doctoral programmes to train and develop the skills of around 2 115 doctoral candidates.



The European Commission has announced the results of the 2025 Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks call.

The Commission will fund a total of **141 doctoral programmes** with **€617,18 million** to train around **2 115 doctoral candidates** in and outside academia. Among them, funding includes **€19.7 million** for **5 Industrial Doctoral programmes** to train PhD candidates and develop their skills outside academia, including industry and business. Doctoral candidates will also benefit from joint industry-academia supervision. An additional **€34.6 million** will be allocated to **8 Joint Doctoral programmes**, which promote joint selection, training and supervision leading to joint or multiple doctoral degrees.

The European Research Executive Agency (REA) received **1,616 applications** for this call.

Close collaboration beyond academia

These doctoral programmes are implemented by international partnerships, involving **2,701 organisations in 61 countries** in the EU, Horizon Europe associated countries and beyond. **759 of these are private for-profit entities**. Selected projects are coordinated by organisations in **23 countries**.

An overview of the evaluation results, cut-off scores and statistics has been published on the [MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 call page](#) of the Funding and Tenders Opportunities Portal.

A list with all funded projects and coordinating organisations will be available in [CIRCABC](#). Please note that this list reflects the results of the evaluation before the Grant Agreement Preparation and formal selection decision.

Once grant agreements are finalised, the complete list of funded projects will be published on the same page and on [CORDIS](#).

For more information and statistics: [MSCA awards €617.18 million for doctoral programmes](#) | [Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions](#)

ERC calls for stronger action to close Europe's research performance gap (25 March 2026)

Source: Website ERC [ERC calls for stronger action to close Europe's research performance gap](#) | [ERC](#)

The European Research Council (ERC) has released a new white paper examining the persistent gap in participation and success rates between Europe's strongest research systems and a group of countries performing less well, the

'widening countries'. The paper highlights both the challenges and emerging examples of progress and calls for coordinated efforts at national and European level to leverage the continent's overall scientific potential.



Countries that belong to the widening group represent roughly a quarter of the EU population and are characterised by strong educational traditions and, in many cases, rapid economic growth. Yet, researchers based in these countries currently secure only around one-twentieth of ERC grants. Their success rates in ERC competitions typically range from 1 to 7 percent, well below the ERC average of about 11 percent.

According to the white paper [Widening excellence - Bridging the ERC gap for a truly pan-European Research Area - ERC Scientific Council white paper.pdf](#), this uneven distribution of grants reflects deeper structural barriers that limit the ability of researchers to compete successfully for highly selective frontier research funding. These include less favourable academic environments, lower national investment in research and development, limited access to international scientific networks, and weaker support systems for preparing competitive grant proposals. Language, cultural and psychological barriers can also discourage researchers from applying.

At the same time, the report highlights signs of improvement. Over the past decade, several widening countries have strengthened national research systems and introduced programmes designed to help researchers apply for ERC funding. More than 15 countries now operate dedicated support schemes, including programmes that provide national funding for highly ranked ERC proposals that were not funded at European level. These initiatives are financed through a variety of sources, including national budgets, public-private partnerships, EU Structural Funds, and the Recovery and Resilience Facility.

Read full article here: [ERC calls for stronger action to close Europe's research performance gap |ERC](#)
Download white paper here: [Widening excellence - Bridging the ERC gap for a truly pan-European Research Area - ERC Scientific Council white paper.pdf](#)

EIC Workprogramme 2026 and EIC Pathfinder call 2026 (24 March 2026)

Source: Website EIC

What is the EIC Pathfinder ?

The **EIC Pathfinder** is a funding programme under Horizon Europe that offers support to research teams by:

- funding **research** to develop the **scientific basis** to underpin breakthrough technologies
- supporting **the earliest stages** of scientific, technological or deep-tech R&D
- aiming to build on new, **cutting-edge directions in science and technology** to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities
- realising innovative technological solutions to identify, develop and scale up **breakthrough technologies** and **disruptive** innovations in Europe

Grant funding

Grants to support early stage development of future technologies (e.g. various activities at low TRL 1-4), up to proof of concept and booster grants for complementary activities:

- **Grants** - grants of up to EUR 4 million or more if duly justified
- **Booster grants** - grants of a fixed amount not exceeding EUR 50 000 for testing the commercialisation potential of their research outputs

Extensive support

Access to a range of tailor-made [Business Acceleration Services \(BAS\)](#) for beneficiaries:

- Access to **global partners**
- Access to **coaches, mentors, expertise and training**

- Access to **innovation ecosystem and peers**

EIC Pathfinder Challenges

For projects that match any of the predefined thematic areas of the Pathfinder Challenges. The overall budget for the EIC Pathfinder Challenges in 2026 is **€96 millions**. **Pathfinder Challenges 2026**: https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder/eic-pathfinder-challenges-2026_en

EIC Pathfinder Open

For projects in **any field of science, technology or application** without predefined thematic priorities. The overall budget for the EIC Pathfinder Open in 2026 is **€166 million**. **Pathfinder Open 2026**: https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder/eic-pathfinder-open-0_en

EIC Work Programme 2026

This document presents the 2026 European Innovation Council (EIC) Work Programme funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. It sets out how the EIC will allocate its funding of for the year 2026 and has been prepared following the advice of the EIC Board.

Current version can be downloaded here: [52598755-1351-4b54-b46b-e2682d0a3aec_en](https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder/eic-pathfinder-open-0_en)

Highlights from the 4th Annual Forum of Mission Ocean and Waters and the European Ocean Days (23 March 2026)

Source: *Mission Ocean and Waters Newsletter* - 23/03/2026 and <https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/restore-our-ocean-and-waters/mission-ocean-and-waters-service-portal>

On 5 March, the Mission 'Restore Our Ocean and Waters' community came together in Brussels for its fourth Annual Forum. The event celebrated the Mission's achievements as it enters its deployment phase and brought stakeholders together to shape its future.



Nearly 700 participants joined lively discussions with 40 speakers across six thematic sessions, tackling some of today's most pressing marine and freshwater challenges. An interactive on-site **exhibition** showcased cutting-edge solutions from 34 Horizon Mission projects that are ready to be scaled up.

The Forum took place as part of the 3rd edition of **European Ocean Days – European Ocean Pact: Sustaining the ocean that sustains us**, a dynamic week of activities featuring other key Mission-related sessions. Among them was the **6th EU Blue Parks Community workshop**, which brought together policymakers, researchers and practitioners to advance marine protection across Europe.

Published just after World Water Day on 22 March – an international day celebrating the importance of freshwater for ecosystems and people – this edition of the newsletter shares the latest funding opportunities, news and upcoming events. Among the highlights is the launch of the booklet **Scaling for Impact: Developing a Growth Blueprint for Mission Ocean and Waters Solutions**, showcasing scalable, replicable and impact-driven solutions from Mission-funded projects and Mission Charter Actions, ready for take-up.

For more resources and detailed information, visit the [Mission Ocean and Waters Service Portal](#)

European Funding News: FP10

Commission pushes back against MEPs' Horizon Europe proposals (26 March 2026)

Source: [Website Science|Business](#) [Commission pushes back against MEPs' Horizon Europe proposals | Science|Business](#)

But top advisor Manuel Heitor thinks his idea of expert councils to steer collaborative research will win political support in the end



Marc Lemaître, head of the European Commission's directorate-general for research and innovation. Photo credits: Lukasz Kobus / European Union

The European Commission's top research official has rejected the idea of setting up expert councils to steer collaborative research in the next Horizon Europe programme. But Manuel Heitor, the senior advisor who made the suggestion in the first place, thinks there is enough political support to push the councils through.

Appearing before the European Parliament's research committee on March 24, Marc Lemaître, head of the Commission's directorate general for research and innovation (DG RTD), said the councils would add "more complexity, heaviness and costly coordination, while undermining Commission implementation prerogatives and financial accountability."

Instead, experts from academia and industry should be involved via a planned observatory of emerging technologies, a strategic stakeholders board in the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and "thematic platforms," he said.

The councils were [first proposed](#) by an expert group on the next Horizon Europe, also known as Framework Programme 10 (FP10), led by Heitor at the Commission's request. The Commission chose not to adopt the idea in its draft legislation on FP10, released in 2025, but it has now been reintroduced by MEP Christian Ehler, the Parliament's lead rapporteur on the legislation.

Despite the push-back from Lemaître, Heitor still believes Ehler's suggestion will receive backing at the highest political level. "Marc Lemaître does not represent the European Commission, at least not the political part of the Commission," he told [Science|Business](#).

Both research Commissioner Ekaterina Zarahieva and Commission President Ursula von der Leyen come from political parties in the European People's Party (EPP) family.

Heitor also praised the work of Ehler, fellow rapporteur René Repasi and other MEPs in building political support for his group's recommendations. In the EU Council, Ehler's EPP and Repasi's Socialists and Democrats together represent a slim majority of EU governments. "I'm sure most of the prime ministers at Council level will adopt this," Heitor said of the proposal for expert councils.

According to one member state diplomat, however, research is traditionally a bipartisan topic in the Council, with national governments more likely to align over joint interests or circumstances such as industrial development or scientific strengths, rather than political ideology. Research and innovation policy is also primarily evidence-based, "so ministers usually trust their ministry experts," the diplomat said.

Heitor also countered Lemaître's claim that expert-driven governance would add complexity, calling it "completely wrong." Previous efforts to simplify Horizon Europe funding have brought down administrative costs for the Commission, but increased transaction costs for beneficiaries who are increasingly turning to external consultants, Heitor said. The best way to simplify funding and reduce transaction costs, he went on, is to replicate the European Research Council (ERC) model and allow experts to decide which types of projects should be funded.

In the current Pillar 2 of Horizon Europe, funding is often distributed across a large number of small projects involving large consortiums, but this is not the best way to address scientific, industrial or societal challenges, he said. "It is the result of a lack of adequate expertise in the programming combined with different kinds of 'pressures' applied by national delegations on the Commission services."

Clarifications to come

During the debate, Ehler reiterated his support for expert-led governance in Pillar 2, saying this would maintain the agility to launch calls quickly and change the direction of projects if needed. "Agility does not mean budget flexibility to shift money between political priorities as the Commission proposes," he said. "Agility means ensuring calls and projects are at the frontier of science and technology."

While Lemaître pushed back against the idea of expert councils, he acknowledged "the need for further clarity and discussions" and promised to provide a "detailed fiche" on governance in the coming weeks. A lack of detail on governance and priority setting is [one of the key issues](#) holding up negotiations between EU governments as they look to reach a partial agreement on their negotiating position by the end of May.

Lemaître also defended the Commission's plans to integrate Pillar 2 calls into the ECF work programmes. This will ensure "a strong, dedicated [research and innovation] component without subordination, and common priorities for formally 15 different programmes," he said.

In contrast, MEPs and the research community want separate work programmes for Horizon Europe calls. Ehler, who is also co-rapporteur for the ECF legislation, said he would propose including in each ECF policy window a dedicated part for deploying and scaling up Horizon Europe results.

Read full article: [Commission pushes back against MEPs' Horizon Europe proposals | Science|Business](#)

Horizon Europe is now truly global. But what comes next? (26 March 2026)

Source: Website [Science|Business](#) [Horizon Europe is now truly global. But what comes next? | Science|Business](#)

As Australia agrees to associate, questions remain over whether the programme will be genuinely international, or EU-first



Anthony Albanese (left), prime minister of Australia, and Ursula von der Leyen (right), president of the European Commission, during her visit to Australia on March 24. Photo credits: Christophe Licoppe / European Union

Australia has agreed to associate to Horizon Europe, capping the global expansion of the EU's €93.5 billion research and innovation programme.

A programme whose predecessors started in the 1980s as a way to link up scientists and companies across Europe is now arguably the world's premier vehicle for cross-border research, having also brought in New Zealand, [Canada](#), South Korea and Japan. [India](#) may also join in the near future.

With ever [tenser geopolitics](#) and [outright war](#) straining international academic ties, Horizon Europe's expansion is a rare counter-weight to the splintering of global research.

Yet the current programme expires next year, and its successor is set to have a stronger focus on EU industrial and military strength, leaving the role in the programme of countries outside the bloc less clear.

“The EU faces a once-in-a-century opportunity to leverage a truly global and powerful research and innovation network,” said Andrea Renda, director of research at the Brussels-based Centre for European Policy Studies think tank. If India and Singapore joined too, the combined GDP and public R&D budgets of associated countries would slightly outweigh that of the EU. “This is an impressive prospect,” he said.

However, this “opportunity” could “easily be missed” if the EU “places excessive emphasis on research and innovation ‘made in the EU’ and on narrowly EU-centric strategic priorities,” said Renda, who is currently drafting a report on Horizon Europe’s international future.

Horizon Europe, which began in 2021, is the first EU research programme to offer association to democracies with strong science systems outside the European region. After some stops and starts, the European Commission has managed to seal association deals with almost all countries on its target list. Association means that countries pay Brussels to join and, in return, their researchers can apply to grant calls on an equal footing to those from the EU, and receive money directly from the EU, making it much less of a bureaucratic hassle to participate in research consortia.

Australia still needs to formally negotiate the full terms of its association. But during a visit to Australia this week by Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, Canberra and Brussels presented it as a done deal.

“This is a great example of international research cooperation at a time when the world needs more constructive collaboration,” said Australia’s science minister Tim Ayres in a [statement](#).

Complications

The announcement has been cheered by Australian universities, and Australian researchers are expected to have access to the programme from early 2027, according to [the government](#).

However, 2027 will be the last year of the current programme. From 2028, the EU will begin a mooted €175 billion successor, the tenth Framework Programme (FP10), which will also be known as Horizon Europe. Asked whether Australia will associate to FP10 as well, a spokesperson for the Department of Industry, Science and Resources said the government would consider this in “due course.”

FP10, however, is set to change in several ways that could cause complications for non-EU associated countries. For a start, under Commission proposals put out last July, some of the programme will be made to serve the goals of an [overarching](#) €409 billion European Competitiveness Fund, which aims to “accelerate strategic technologies in Europe” as the bloc frets about reliance on the US and China.

Exactly how the fund’s priorities will impact FP10 calls remains hazy. The Commission is still to spell out the details, and the worry is it could make the future research programme much more about EU goals, not global collaboration.

Dual use

Another sticking point could be military-related projects. Research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva has said FP10 will be “[dual use by default](#)” but this risks creating a quagmire of exclusions, as the bloc will have to decide which non-EU countries are allowed to join sensitive, defence-related projects.

Complicating matters further, Australia and the UK are also members of [AUKUS](#), a defence partnership with the US that involves working together on military technology. This issue has sharpened after the US threatened to seize the Danish territory of Greenland by force earlier this year.

Governance quandary

Then there’s the issue of FP10’s [governance](#). Even as associated countries make an ever greater contribution to the programme’s budget, they don’t get a vote when deciding on work programmes, which set out grant calls. And EU countries alone decide whether to exclude those from outside the bloc from certain projects. Previously, the Commission has [excluded Switzerland and the UK](#) from sensitive quantum and space calls. In FP10, the worry is that exclusions could become ever more frequent.

Christian Ehler, the European Parliament’s rapporteur for FP10, earlier this month [submitted amendments](#) to the Commission’s proposals that would force it to publicly justify any exclusions. “Without predictability, the offer the Union makes by opening the programme for association by our international allies becomes meaningless,” the MEP, who sits with the European People’s Party group, said.

Read full article: [Horizon Europe is now truly global. But what comes next? | Science|Business](#)

Other International funding

Record Interest for EIT Higher Education Initiative 2025 Call (24 March 2026)

Source: Website [EIT Record Interest for EIT Higher Education Initiative 2025 Call | EIT](#)

The EIT Higher Education Initiative has attracted record interest in its 2025 call for proposals, with 138 applications submitted, marking the highest number to date.

The call, offering up to €2 million per project, supports universities and their partners in strengthening innovation and entrepreneurship capacity, with a focus on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) talent and closer collaboration between higher education, industry and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) ecosystem. A total of €70 million in EIT funding is available to support selected projects.



Strong Demand from Across Europe and Beyond

The call mobilised a broad and diverse innovation ecosystem, bringing together 1 865 organisations from across Europe and beyond. This includes 861 higher education institutions and 515 private companies, alongside other innovation actors, reflecting strong collaboration between academia, industry and the wider innovation landscape.

Participation spans 61 countries, with all EU Member States represented and strong engagement from countries in the [EIT Regional Innovation Scheme \(RIS\)](#). The call also demonstrates the initiative's expanding reach, with 455 higher education institutions not previously funded participating, while returning partners continue to engage, confirming the programme's growing impact.

Driving Collaboration and Innovation

In addition, 36 [European Universities alliances](#) (cross-border collaborations between higher education institutions) submitted proposals, highlighting the increasing role of cross-border cooperation in strengthening Europe's higher education and innovation systems. The strong response also reflects a growing alignment with the EIT's Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs), particularly in areas such as digital technologies, manufacturing, climate and health, further reinforcing connections between higher education and Europe's key innovation ecosystems.

Overall, the results underline the increasing ambition of Europe's higher education institutions to play a central role in driving innovation, skills development, and competitiveness across the continent.

Evaluation of proposals is currently ongoing, with results expected in July 2026.

About the EIT Higher Education Initiative

Launched by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), the [EIT Higher Education Initiative](#) is the only European funding programme that is solely dedicated to strengthening innovation in higher education. The initiative helps higher education institutions and their partners with the funding and support they need to become success stories. By uniting higher education and industry, the initiative nurtures nascent ideas into market-ready solutions, making Europe ever more competitive on the global stage.

National funding

Call for Sessions for the 7th WINNER Conference now open! (3 April 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Call for Sessions for the 7th WINNER Conference now open! | NWO](#)



This year marks the 7th edition of WINNER – the Week of Indonesia–Netherlands Education and Research. The conference will be organised as a hybrid event, allowing participants to join sessions on-site in Indonesia and the Netherlands, as well as online. The main theme for WINNER 2026 is “Competitive and Resilient Societies: Human Capital, Innovation & Sustainability.”

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Through this call for sessions, WINNER invites Indonesian and Dutch researchers, educators, and practitioners to submit proposals for sessions that explore how education, research, science, and technology contribute to building competitive, resilient, and sustainable societies. Sessions should highlight innovative approaches, collaborative efforts, and best practices, with a strong focus on real-world impact and interdisciplinary exchange.

WINNER aims to foster dialogue between academia, policy, industry, and society. It provides a unique opportunity to deepen and expand collaboration within the Indonesian-Dutch knowledge field and to share insights, experiences, and visions on bilateral cooperation.

Session organisers will have the opportunity to host their sessions in a hybrid format, either on-site in Indonesia (Jakarta) with a live audience, or online. Sessions are scheduled to take place on **7 October 2026 (Day 2 of the conference)**.

The deadline for submitting a session proposal is 11 May 2026.

Register here: [Call for sessions WINNER 2026 | NWO](#)

About WINNER

The WINNER conference intends to focus on research and education in a wide range of topics that are of mutual interest to Indonesia and the Netherlands, centred around the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Researchers, educators, and stakeholders from government, industry, and civil society can learn about each other's work, share best practices, and identify opportunities for collaboration between Indonesia and the Netherlands.

NWO disappointed by the discontinuation of ‘Perspectief’: at odds with innovation plans (2 April 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [NWO disappointed by the discontinuation of ‘Perspectief’: at odds with innovation plans | NWO](#)



NWO is deeply disappointed that the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) has decided to end funding of NWO ‘Perspectief’ programme. The round opening in 2026 will be the last. This is stated in the first supplementary budget to the Spring Memorandum, which the government published today. “It is precisely this programme that bridges the gap between science and practice in the field of new technologies that will shape our country’s future. Discontinuing ‘Perspectief’ is not in line with the new government’s policy,” says NWO’s President Marcel Levi.

The Perspectief grant instrument stimulates large-scale, interdisciplinary collaboration between researchers, businesses and civil society organisations, focusing on technology-driven innovation. The discontinuation of this programme is at odds with the coalition plans the newly elected government has for science, technology and innovation. For instance, this government has announced that it will reverse the cuts to higher education and research, introduce essential measures such as working towards the 3% benchmark for investment in research and innovation, and press ahead with the implementation of the National Technology Strategy (NTS). The Coalition Agreement also devotes considerable attention to innovation, for example through the intention to establish a National Agency for Disruptive Innovation (NADI) and a National Investment Institution (NII). These are important plans for a resilient and future-proof Netherlands.

Talent magnet

To no longer invest in the essential link between fundamental research and the upscaling and commercialisation of innovations at this stage makes no sense: “The Perspectief programme fulfils an essential bridging function between fundamental research and the commercialisation of developed products,” says Marcel Levi in response to the proposed decision. Perspectief focuses on high-risk, early-stage technology development (Technology Readiness Level – TRL 1–6) and successfully fills a gap in the innovation toolkit, as shown by [the programme’s evaluation](#).

“For twenty years, Perspectief has demonstrably acted as a magnet for attracting, training and retaining technical talent for the Netherlands, and has led to strong, sustainable networks and ecosystems around various key technologies. These are all matters that this new government considers necessary to keep our country future-proof. It is incomprehensible that an existing, proven effective programme is being discontinued. This programme contributes to what our country needs to withstand future societal challenges and to strengthen our competitiveness.”

Key technologies such as Imaging Technologies

Perspectief has been contributing to so-called key technologies for years: groundbreaking technologies that are essential for a more productive, sustainable, healthier and safer Netherlands. An example of such a key technology – on which many Perspectief projects are working – is *Imaging Technologies*. This technology focuses on the generation, analysis and visualisation of images (optical and non-optical). It concerns the entire imaging chain, which requires both hardware and software. Imaging Technologies have many applications across various sectors, such as the medical sector, the semiconductor industry, the security sector, agriculture, and space travel. For healthcare, for example, this will mean that diagnoses can be made much more quickly without medical interventions or unpleasant examinations.

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-disappointed-by-the-discontinuation-of-perspectief-at-odds-with-innovation-plans>

Final round

This summer, the final round will open (Perspectief 2026), leading to funding for new projects in 2027. Consortia comprising researchers, companies and civil society organisations can submit their plans for collaboration once more under this grant instrument. NWO is keen to continue discussions with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate regarding the decision and the importance of Perspectief’s bridging role between fundamental research and the market introduction of new products and services.

Three research projects launched for NGF-call Cellular Agriculture (30 March 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Three research projects launched for NGF-call Cellular Agriculture | NWO](#)



NWO and the National Growth Fund's Cellular Agriculture (CA) programme have awarded €4.1 million to three projects under the 'Cellular Agriculture' call. This funding will enable cost reductions and upscaling, specifically in the research areas of precision fermentation and cultured meat.

Cellular Agriculture (CA) is a promising new technology to produce animal products using animal cells and micro-organisms, without the actual animal. It offers prospects for interesting economic developments, reduction of environmental impact, reduction of footprint and improvement of animal welfare. Cells are grown in bioreactors and then structured into meat or used as ingredients to improve the taste and texture of meat substitutes. Animal proteins or other molecules can also be produced by specifically adapted microorganisms using precision fermentation.

WUR is co-applicant in one of the awarded projects

Main applicant: dr. David Kilian - MERLN Institute, Maastricht University

Co-applicants: dr. Olaf Brouwers - Hogeschool Zuyd, **dr. Antoinette Kazbar - Wageningen University & Research**, dr. Lorenzo Moroni - Maastricht University, dr. Matt Baker - Maastricht University.

Consortium partners: CHILL, lamFluidics B.V., Seaweedland (Iceventures BV).

For more information about awarded projects: [Three research projects launched for NGF-call Cellular Agriculture | NWO](#)

About the National Growth Fund programme Cellular Agriculture

This call for proposal has been developed in collaboration with the [Dutch Cellular Agriculture Foundation](#) and forms part of The National Growth Fund Programme for Cellular Agriculture. This programme aims to train sufficient qualified personnel, develop fundamental and applied knowledge, and make scale-up facilities available to companies. All this to put the Netherlands firmly on the map as an international epicenter of activity, leadership, and entrepreneurship for this form of food production. In 2023, the Cellular Agriculture proposal received an allocation of 60 million euros from the National Growth Fund.

CERN to host Europe's flagship open-access publishing platform Open Research Europe (26 March 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [CERN to host Europe's flagship open-access publishing platform Open Research Europe | NWO](#)



The European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) has been selected to host a new phase of Open Research Europe (ORE), supported by the European Commission and a new funding consortium of European national funding agencies and research organizations. NWO recently joined this consortium.

With the launch of the new [ORE platform](#) later this year, authorship eligibility will expand to include researchers affiliated with institutions in countries participating in the consortium. Publishing will remain completely free for both European Commission-funded researchers and authors from participating countries. With NWO joining ORE, this will mean that the platform will be available as a publication channel for researchers affiliated with a Dutch research organisation, regardless of whether they have an NWO grant or not. The aim of the platform is to promote equity, diversity, and transparency in scholarly communication while maintaining high standards of quality and integrity.

Marcel Levi, president of NWO and vice president of Science Europe: “For NWO, the development of the Open Research Europe platform aligns perfectly with NWO’s institutional open access strategy. This strategy focuses on stimulating and encouraging alternatives to open access beyond commercial parties and open access fees via the APC-model. What makes the new ORE stand out is its inherently collaborative nature: a broad coalition of funders and institutions from across Europe jointly building a sustainable open access publishing infrastructure. As such advancing open science practices together, like open peer review. Hosting the platform at CERN sends a powerful message to academic communities that the new ORE is firmly grounded in public values and committed to safeguarding publicly funded research.”

Read full article here: [CERN to host Europe’s flagship open-access publishing platform Open Research Europe | NWO](#)

NWO joins Transition Programme for Innovation without the use of animals (25 March 2026)

Source: [Website NWO News NWO joins Transition Programme for Innovation without the use of animals | NWO](#)



From lab-grown brains to a kidney-on-a-chip. A future with more humane research models and fewer lab animals seems to become an increasingly achievable goal. The scientific world has been working hard for decades to make research without laboratory animals possible. However, at this moment lab animals cannot always be replaced and are sometimes still necessary to find the right answers during scientific research. While NWO emphasises the latter, it also wants to stimulate the transition to animal-free research. To address this and collaborate with other stakeholders more closely, NWO has become a partner in the Transition Programme for Innovation without the use of animals.

The Netherlands wants to be at the forefront of the transition to animal-free research. This means that the scientific community must fully engage in developing alternatives. “But there is much more to this than just developing alternative research models and measurement methods,” says NWO’s President Marcel Levi: “We also need to look at the research culture and stimulate discussion in science about what we accept as a suitable model that guarantees the quality and validation of our research results.”

Working together on the transition to animal-free research

In order to work more closely with other organisations on this issue, NWO recently became a partner in the Transition Programme for Innovation without the use of animals of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature. This is in line with NWO’s ambition to accelerate the transition to animal-free research wherever possible in its role as a science funding body. NWO promotes and innovates world-class scientific research that has scientific and societal impact. This fits with the mission and ambition of the Transition Programme for Innovation without the use of animals. NWO as a science funder has been contributing for years to research on such a transition to alternative models, through a number of research programmes aimed at replacing animal testing and promoting the acceptance and implementation of animal-free models.

Promoting research with scientific and societal impact

Both within science and society, the use of laboratory animals is increasingly under scrutiny. Because NWO strives for scientific and societal impact, it considers reducing the use of laboratory animals via a lab animal-wise policy to be an

important task, while recognising that research involving animals will remain necessary to a certain extent and in certain scientific fields. Maintaining the high quality and reliability of scientific research and finding ways to reduce the use of laboratory animals should therefore go hand in hand, in collaboration with the scientific community. This includes promoting awareness among researchers and assessors regarding the use of New Approach Methodologies (NAM's), but also improved standardisation, pre-registration and transparency, and improving access to data from lab animal research in order to prevent unnecessary repetition.

The dilemma of animal testing in science: what more can we do?

A report of the Netherlands Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority shows that lab animals are still widely used in the Netherlands: around 400,000. A substantial part is used for scientific research. Despite promising alternatives, it is simply not always possible to conduct research of comparable quality without them. The coronavirus vaccine is an example of this. And even for animal-free models that do already exist, widespread use is still lagging behind. After all, the road from development to widespread acceptance is a long one. Still, we can and should do more. By asking researchers to carefully consider whether animal testing is really necessary or whether alternatives exist before they start their project, for example, there is already much to be gained. The same applies to point towards [ARRIVE](#) guidelines for publication of lab animal research, more [pre-registration](#) and the sharing of research data. In this way, we reduce the likelihood of unnecessary repetition of experiments, ultimately resulting in much less animal suffering.

Read full proposal: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-joins-transition-programme-for-innovation-without-the-use-of-animals>

With its new policy goals, NWO aims to facilitate and promote a healthy research culture (24 March 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [With its new policy goals, NWO aims to facilitate and promote a healthy research culture | NWO](#)



NWO has set new strategic goals for a healthy research culture. In doing so, NWO is giving concrete shape to the ambitions set out in its current strategy, 'Science works!', in which a healthy research culture is one of the four building blocks of a strong and resilient science and innovation system. With these goals, NWO emphasizes that fostering a healthy research culture is not a one-time task, but an ongoing responsibility.

NWO believes that a healthy research culture—including broader recognition and rewards of science, diversity, inclusion and equity—is essential to advancing scientific knowledge. It is important that different people come together so that societal problems can be examined from multiple perspectives. This not only fosters new ideas and creative thinking but also leads to a deeper and better understanding of topics and issues. High-quality research requires a diverse academic community.

More room for scientific talent and scientific endeavors

NWO therefore aims to continue building a research culture that offers more room for diversity in tasks, people, perspectives, and talent. After all, those who participate in science help determine the questions that are asked, the perspectives from which they are examined, and the solutions found for the societal challenges of today and tomorrow. This means not only that researchers must be safe, valued, and respected, but also that diverse contributions to science—from collaboration and leadership to societal engagement—are equally recognized and valued. This makes science more equitable and better equipped to answer broad, complex questions in a way that does justice to the diversity of our society. As such, this also requires a critical examination of existing structures and practices in science. Traditional views on quality, careers, and evaluation can (unintentionally) reinforce exclusionary mechanisms and structurally disadvantage certain groups. By actively addressing barriers and setting goals for itself, NWO contributes to a research environment in which everyone can fully contribute to knowledge that matters, both for science and for society.

Read full article here: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/with-its-new-policy-goals-nwo-aims-to-facilitate-and-promote-a-healthy-research-culture>

Scientific organisations present new evaluation protocol for research (24 March 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Scientific organisations present new evaluation protocol for research | NWO](#)



Universities of the Netherlands, NWO and the KNAW have updated the evaluation protocol for scientific research. The Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2027–2033 (SEP) primarily serves to clarify and simplify the previous protocol. The SEP is a flexible tool for evaluating the quality and societal relevance of scientific research.

It also assesses the viability of research units. Under the protocol, research groups within public research institutions will be evaluated every six years by an independent, external committee. The evaluation is based on the research unit's own objectives and strategies, and is carried out on the basis of a self-evaluation and a site visit.

The evaluation criteria and procedures are set out in the Strategy Evaluation Protocol. KNAW, NWO and UNL have revised the protocol to ensure it better aligns with the day-to-day practice of research units. No quantitative assessments are given to research units; the emphasis is on a formative and development-oriented evaluation.

The SEP will apply to evaluations in the period 2027–2033. Research units due to be evaluated by the external committee in 2027 may choose to do so on the basis of either the new or the old SEP (2021–2027). Further information is available on the website of the Universities of the Netherlands, where both the old and new evaluation protocols can be downloaded.

View the new Strategy Evaluation Protocol 2027-2033 (SEP) here:

<https://www.universiteitenvannederland.nl/files/publications/Strategy%20Evaluation%20Protocol%202027-2033%20v6.pdf>

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 projects 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 about consultation: [Overheid.nl | Consultatie Tijdelijke subsidieregeling NBS living labs \(in Dutch\)](#)

The deadline for submitting a request for review of foreign organisations (see section 7.1.1) is **25 August 2026**, 14:00:00 CEST.

For more information: [KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia -S 2026 | NWO](#) and [Call for Proposals - KIC Demand-driven Research by Consortia - S 2026](#)

Regional funding

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

EIB expands instruments to close European investment gap (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

The European Investment Bank (EIB) is expanding existing investment instruments to make more funds available for European technology and defense. The European Tech Champions Initiative (ETCI) is being expanded and aims to raise €15 billion in investments from institutional investors. The goal is to ultimately raise €80 billion in investments. These investors can indicate via a new platform how much money they wish to invest and what it is intended for. The Defence Equity Facility is also being expanded into a fund structure with a target size of €1 billion to stimulate investments in defense. In addition, the EIB is approving €11.4 billion in new financing for energy, housing construction, and the aerospace sector, among others. According to the EIB, these measures should reduce the financing gap for innovative companies and strengthen Europe's competitive position.

EIB Press Release: [EIB Group powers up flagship investment instruments to boost Europe's tech leadership and defence capabilities](#)

European Commission expands Open Research Europe (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

The Open Research Europe publication platform is expanding access for researchers. In addition to researchers with EU grants, researchers from participating countries who do not receive EU funding will also have the opportunity to publish without publication fees. From autumn 2026, the platform will be managed by CERN and supported by research organizations from 11 countries, including NWO. According to the Commission, this expansion should contribute to free access to research results, better dissemination of knowledge, and a greater impact of publicly funded research.

European Commission Press Release: [A new era for Open Research Europe - Research and innovation](#)

NWO News Release: [CERN to host Europe's flagship open-access publishing platform Open Research Europe | NWO](#)

JRC: only a fraction of clean technologies already competitive (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

Accelerating the development and application of clean energy technology is necessary to limit global warming to 1.5°C, states the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. Based on their analysis, it appears that 4 of the 15 necessary solutions, such as solar and wind energy, electric cars, and biofuels, are already competitive with fossil alternatives and are on track for large-scale application. At the same time, many other options, such as synthetic fuels and carbon capture, are still lagging behind. The JRC also notes that while an increase in trade barriers reduces emissions, this leads to economic losses and delays further sustainability efforts.

JRC Press Release: [Strengthening clean energy competitiveness is key to keeping the 1.5°C goal within reach - Joint Research Centre](#)

JRC Publication: [JRC Publications Repository - Global Energy and Climate Outlook 2025](#)

CESAER calls for clearer delineation of dual-use in EU research (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

University umbrella organization CESAER calls for a clear definition of the concept of dual-use in future EU research to prevent confusion in policy and implementation. In a note, the organization states that the concept of dual-use is currently used too broadly and inconsistently, leading to unclear rules. CESAER proposes applying dual-use in two ways: as a legal category for export rules and as a practical tool to determine the extent to which research is relevant to defense and which rules apply.

Executive summary

This input note responds to a growing and practical challenge in ongoing EU-level discussions: the concept of “dual-use” is currently applied too loosely and inconsistently. This creates avoidable confusion in the design of FP10, the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and the successor to the European Defence Fund (EDF), risking suboptimal programme architecture and outcomes.

The purpose of this note is therefore to clarify—not to redefine exhaustively—the conceptual and operational foundations. It provides a timely, experience-based contribution grounded in the extensive real-world expertise of universities of science and technology across Europe, which as a community have long operated across the civil–defence continuum.

The note introduces a clearer framing to address current ambiguities:

- Dual-use should be treated in two complementary ways: as a (1) legal category for compliance (well-defined and non-negotiable); and (2) strategic pathway to situate defence-relevance of specific research and innovation, and to make informed choices about developmental pathways
- For the strategic pathway, the concept of a spectrum of defence-proximity or defence-relevance should replace binary or vague interpretations. This enables proportionate, operational decision making on where activities belong, and which type and level of restrictions apply.

This approach directly addresses several key points:

- It recognises that all advanced technologies in strategic domains have relevance for both civil and defence contexts.
- It avoids unnecessary complexity by providing a practical organising principle focused on the aspect to be governed (i.e. the type and level of restrictions needed), rather than abstract labels.
- It complements, rather than replaces, existing frameworks such as Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), which are helpful but insufficient in themselves; for example, a high TRL does not in itself determine the level of defence relevance or defence proximity.
- It ensures that openness and collaboration are maximised where appropriate, while enabling proportionate restrictions where required.

While concrete examples of how decision-making frameworks based on defence relevance or defence proximity can be operationalised do exist, it is not the purpose of this note to examine these in detail. This note is not intended as a final or comprehensive framework; rather, it is an evolving contribution to a rapidly developing policy landscape. Its value lies in providing a clear, credible and operational basis to improve ongoing discussions and avoid conceptual confusion at EU level.

The measure of success for EU action should be explicit: to maximise excellence, speed and integrity across outcomes in all domains, from civil-focused to defence-oriented research and innovation.

CESAER Press Release: [Clarifying and optimising civil, dual-use and defence research and innovation in future EU funding programmes - CESAER](#)

CESAER Position Paper: [20260326-cesaer-input-note-dual-use.pdf](#)

EIC Tech Report 2026 identifies 25 emerging deep tech signals to support Europe’s strategic autonomy and resilience (30 March 2026)

Source: [Website EIC EIC Tech Report 2026 identifies 25 emerging deep tech signals to support Europe’s strategic autonomy and resilience - European Innovation Council](#)



European Union 2026

The European Innovation Council (EIC) has published the EIC Tech Report 2026. It identifies 25 signals of emerging deep technologies at low to mid maturity levels, that may play a key role in shaping Europe's future innovation, industrial and market capabilities. They are based on EIC portfolio data from 2021 to 2025, including both funded projects and high-quality non-funded proposals.

Three domains of strategic relevance

The 25 signals highlight technological developments with potential relevance for Europe's competitiveness, resilience and strategic autonomy across three domains aligned with the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP):

- **Digital and space technologies**, notably advanced semiconductor materials, secure and distributed AI systems, quantum communication infrastructures, or orbital servicing and maintenance systems.
- **Clean and resource-efficient technologies**, encompassing critical raw material recovery, water treatment and desalination, advanced materials for heat-to-electricity conversion and heat recovery, or energy-active buildings.
- **Biotechnologies and health, covering novel food production systems**, computational protein design and advanced therapy manufacturing, or next-generation diagnostic and intervention devices.

The report provides a curated snapshot rather than an exhaustive mapping of emerging technologies. These signals are not predictions, rankings or funding priorities, but structured insights that may evolve into more defined technological trajectories through further validation, scaling or convergence.

Download report here: [EIC Tech Report 2026](#)

Read full article here: [EIC Tech Report 2026 identifies 25 emerging deep tech signals to support Europe's strategic autonomy and resilience - European Innovation Council](#)

Knowledge valorization requires an institution-wide approach (26 March 2026)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Kennisvalorisatie vraagt om instellingsbrede aanpak](#)

Universities and universities of applied sciences are more successful in translating knowledge into societal and economic impact when they develop an institution-wide strategy for this purpose. This is evident from a new report by the Community for Educational Innovation (CEI).



Make support visible and structural

The Community for Educational Innovation (CEI) has published a **new report** [Report highlights the benefits of knowledge valorisation in higher education | European Education Area](#) on knowledge valorization. The report offers tools for knowledge institutions to translate research results into concrete applications. Examples include valorization offices and business developers who guide researchers in this process. This support must be visible and structurally aligned with the entire research cycle. Finally, according to the CEI, it is ultimately people who make the difference: they must possess the right skills, networks, and motivation.

Adopt a whole-of-institution approach

The report emphasizes that knowledge valorization is achieved more quickly when institutions commit to a whole-of-institution approach. Knowledge valorization must be structurally embedded to counter fragmentation caused by isolated initiatives. For instance, permanent positions for knowledge transfer work better than temporary projects because they offer continuity.

Focus on collaboration

In addition, the authors state that collaboration with partners, including other knowledge institutions, companies, and civil society organizations, is necessary to achieve impact. Moreover, programs such as the Dutch Biotech Booster demonstrate how establishing thematic clusters and pooling expertise accelerate valorization. Since 2022, this national program has supported the commercialization of biotechnological research with funding from the National Growth Fund.

Context

The Community for Educational Innovation (CEI) [Community for Educational Innovation | HEInnovate](#) is a European network with more than 1,400 members from 96 countries. Within the Erasmus+ programme, the CEI works on educational innovation and knowledge sharing. The CEI is an initiative of the European Commission and is part of the EHESO Strategic Transformation Toolbox. Knowledge valorisation is also on the broader European agenda: in 2024, European Research Ministers adopted Council Conclusions on strengthening valorisation as part of the European Research Area (ERA).

Bruegel: Long-term investors crucial for climate financing (26 March 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026*

Large economies and long-term investors are the key drivers behind the green transition, because they have the greatest incentive to invest in global climate measures. This is stated by think tank Bruegel in an analysis. A new model from the think tank shows that the choice for green investments is primarily influenced by the size of a country, its wealth, and the level of patience of an investor. Larger countries invest more because they retain a larger share of the climate gains themselves, while long-term investors, such as pension funds, more often choose green bonds for their portfolios. According to the researchers, it is crucial that large groups of countries cooperate to increase total investments worldwide.

Bruegel Note: [Investing for tomorrow: long-term investment, economic scale and the green transition](#)

European Commission postpones proposal for Innovation Act (26 March 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026*

The European Commission has postponed the presentation of the Innovation Act. According to Science Business, the scientific community suspects that this is due to disagreements between various directorates. The European Commission also points out that the broad scope of the proposal and measures affecting multiple policy areas make internal coordination difficult. The Innovation Act aims to accelerate innovation, among other things through the simplification of certification procedures, an EU framework for regulatory sandboxes, and the setting of minimum requirements for public procurement. The European Commission expects to present the proposal before the summer.

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

European Commission presents proposal for European company EU Inc. (26 March 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026*

The European Commission has presented a proposal for a new European legal form for companies. EU Inc. will make it easier to start and grow businesses in the EU. For instance, it will be possible to set up a company online within 48 hours and at a low rate. The initiative is intended to form the basis of the so-called 28th regime, creating a single European legal framework for businesses alongside the existing rules of the 27 member states. "Europe has the talent, the ideas, and the ambition to become the best place for innovators to settle. But at the moment, European entrepreneurs looking to scale up are faced with 27 legal systems and more than 60 national business forms," said Commission President Von der Leyen.

European Commission Press Release: [Commission presents proposal for EU Inc.](#)

EU and Australia strengthen relations with Security and Defence Partnership and Trade Agreement (24 March 2026)

Source: [Website EC EU and Australia strengthen relations with Security and Defence Partnership and Trade Agreement](#)

The EU and Australia have today announced the adoption of a groundbreaking Security and Defence Partnership. They have also concluded negotiations for an ambitious and balanced free trade agreement (FTA) **and agreed to launch formal negotiations for the association of Australia to Horizon Europe**, the world's largest funding programme for research and innovation. With these steps, the EU and Australia are delivering mutually beneficial outcomes and further reinforcing their already close relations in a time of geopolitical uncertainty.

The FTA final text was agreed during a leaders' meeting in Canberra between European Commission President Ursula **von der Leyen** and Prime Minister of Australia Anthony Albanese. The Security and Defence Partnership (SDP) was signed virtually by High Representative/Vice President Kaja **Kallas** and Australian Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence, Richard Donald Marles, and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Penny Wong on 18 March 2026.

For more information: [EU and Australia strengthen relations with Security and Defence Partnership and Trade Agreement](#)

Digital Europe Programme amended to continue the deployment of innovative digital capacities across the EU (23 March 2026)

Source: [Website EC Digital Europe Programme amended to continue the deployment of innovative digital capacities across the EU | Shaping Europe's digital future](#)

The Digital Europe Programme adapts to deliver for Europe's evolving digital needs.



The Digital Europe Work Programme 2025-2027 has been amended to keep pace with Europe's digital priorities. This amendment introduces a number of new actions such as digital infrastructure for schools or an online safety application to support the [EU Action plan against cyberbullying](#).

The amendment also ensures the programme continues to deliver for Europe's evolving digital needs. It includes a new call for [Safer Internet Centres](#) aiming to ensure wide geographical coverage across the EU and Associated countries and a new work strand for the action on multi-country European Digital Infrastructure Consortia to strengthen their collaboration.

Other changes aim to ensure the implementation of [Testing and Experimentation Facilities for AI](#) as well as for the deployment of the European Electronic Health Record Exchange Format and digital health services. There is also an amendment concerning the previous topic on Situational Awareness and Operational Centre (SAOC) to align with the [European Democracy Shield](#).

The amendment follows the first DIGITAL amendment, adopted in October 2025, which reinforced the Commission's ambitions on developing and deploying critical technologies in Europe.

Find more information here: [Digital Europe Programme](#) and its [work programmes](#).

Global policy

WEF: Lower investments in fundamental research threaten future breakthroughs (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

Virtually all major technological breakthroughs originate in fundamental research, but investments in it are declining, writes the World Economic Forum. Funding is shifting increasingly towards applied research by companies, while governments are investing less in long-term research without a direct commercial goal. This is problematic, because technologies such as the semiconductor and the internet stem from fundamental research, which only led to applications decades later. According to the author, more investment and closer cooperation between government, companies, and knowledge institutions are needed to enable future innovations.

WEF Opinion Piece: [Why investing in basic research is crucial to technological advances – and a brighter future | World Economic Forum](#)

Trump appoints primarily tech executives to scientific advisory body (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

US President Trump has assembled a new scientific advisory body composed almost entirely of leaders from the tech sector. Of the 13 members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, only one is a university researcher, writes Nature. In contrast, there is a large number of top executives and billionaires from the business world, including Mark Zuckerberg. According to critics, this composition results in limited scientific breadth. According to experts, the composition aligns with the administration's priorities, which are focusing heavily on technology fields such as AI, quantum technology, and nuclear energy.

Nature Article: [Trump's new science advisers include 12 technology chiefs — and one academic](#)

UK works on scaling up deep tech internationally (26 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026

To make the UK an international leader in deep tech, more attention must be paid to scaling up and industrialization. In particular, efforts should be focused on six priority sectors, including clean energy, defense, and digital technology, advises Innovate UK in a report stating that innovations currently too often fail prematurely or are taken over by foreign companies. "Innovation is in our blood – but we must focus on its industrialization, because fast-growing companies are the driving force behind real economic value," says Tom Adeyoola of Innovate UK.

UKRI Press Release: [New plan to help the next generation of tech businesses thrive – UKRI](#)

UKRI Report: [Innovate UK: turning breakthrough ideas into industry giants – UKRI](#)

OECD: AI sandboxes important for safe innovation and trust (26 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026

AI sandboxes help governments test new AI applications in a controlled manner and identify risks early. The OECD states this in an analysis. In these test environments, companies are given temporary space to develop innovations under the supervision of regulators, allowing rules and risks to be better mapped out before systems are deployed on a large scale. According to the OECD, sandboxes are being used increasingly often, but there are also challenges, such as limited capacity at regulators and translating test results into concrete regulations.

OECD Analysis: [Why AI Sandboxes matter for responsible innovation and public trust - OECD.AI](#)

Academic Freedom Index: The Netherlands below EU average (26 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026

Academic freedom is declining worldwide, with the sharpest drop in the United States. This is evident from the latest edition of the Academic Freedom Index. The global index score fell from 0.6 in 2015 to 0.54 in 2025. In the United States, the score dropped from 0.68 to 0.4 in a single year. The Netherlands also shows a decline and, at 0.76, now scores below the EU average. Only Greece, Romania, and Hungary score lower. Worldwide, the Czech Republic, Estonia, and Belgium form the top 3 in terms of academic freedom.

Academic Freedom Index: [Academic Freedom Index](#)

Academic Freedom Index report: [Academic_Freedom_Index_Update_2026-2.pdf](#)

National policy

Rathenau Institute: science policy requires political choices (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

In the coming years, politicians must make choices regarding the future-proofing of science funding. This is stated by the Rathenau Institute in a message to the House of Representatives, ahead of today's committee debate on research and science policy. The memorandum outlines five challenges that politicians should address during the upcoming cabinet term. Other topics covered include the use of generative AI in research, academic freedom, and internationalization. The committee debate with Minister Letschert can be followed today starting at 13:15.

Rathenau Institute Publication: [Wetenschapsbeleid onder druk | Rathenau Instituut](#)

Committee Debate Research and Science Policy: [Onderzoeks- en Wetenschapsbeleid | Debat Direct](#)

Letschert presents legislative proposal for doctoral degree at universities of applied sciences (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

The Cabinet wants to make it possible to obtain a doctoral degree at universities of applied sciences. Minister Letschert published the first draft of a legislative amendment this week, which is necessary for this purpose. The professional doctorate (PD) can be awarded following a practice-oriented research project of 4 to 6 years. According to Letschert, this concerns "a missing puzzle piece" to show more appreciation for practice-oriented research. From the 2027-2028 academic year, graduates with a master's degree would be able to start the track. Furthermore, the legislative proposal provides for an engineering doctorate (EngD) title, intended for technological design tracks at universities. The online consultation closes on May 8.

Government news Item: [Wetsvoorstel: masterstudenten kunnen ook Doctor worden op hbo | Nieuwsbericht | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) (in Dutch)

VH news Item: [Vereniging Hogescholen | Internetconsultatie gestart voor wettelijke verankering professional doctorate](#) (in Dutch)

Online Consultation: [Overheid.nl | Consultatie Wet invoering professioneel en engineering doctoraat](#) (in Dutch)

Letschert provides first insight into investment plans for education and research (2 April 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 2 April 2026

The Cabinet expects to allocate a structural 434 million euros to invest in research and science. Minister Letschert and State Secretary Tielen state this in their response to written questions. The ministers emphasize that this concerns a preliminary elaboration of the coalition agreement, in which approximately 1.5 billion euros is allocated for investments by the Ministry of Education, Culture and Science. The House will receive a policy letter in April regarding the final elaboration of the investments. Last Friday, the Council of Ministers approved the Spring Memorandum. The investments have not yet been incorporated into this.

Response to written questions: <https://open.overheid.nl/documenten/aab8fe92-d271-43a4-bb52-c174ec2d80d4/file> (in Dutch)

Government Press Release: [Voorjaarsnota OCW: investeringen in emancipatie en basisvaardigheden, ook bezuinigingen | Nieuwsbericht | Rijksoverheid.nl](#) (in Dutch)

Article HOP/U-Today: [110 miljoen euro voor verhogen basisbeurs uitwonenden - U-Today](#) (in Dutch)

The Netherlands remains one of the frontrunners in European patent applications, despite slight decline (27 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026

Last year, the Netherlands was among the leading European countries in terms of patent applications, but saw a slight decrease overall. This is evident from figures from the European Patent Office. Last year, the EPO received a record

number of patent applications. Most applications originate from the US. Among EU countries, the Netherlands ranks third with 3.5% of the total, behind Germany and France. The number of applications from the European frontrunners – including the Netherlands – has decreased slightly in percentage terms compared to a year earlier. Finland, Denmark, and Austria show the strongest growth.

EPO News Report: [Demand for European patents in 2025 exceeded 200 000 for first time | epo.org](#)

BNR Article: [Nederland opnieuw een van de koplopers bij Europese octrooiaanvragen | BNR Nieuwsradio \(in Dutch\)](#)

Rathenau Institute: speed up regulations for AI use in science (26 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026

Universities must quickly establish standards or rules for the responsible use of generative AI in science. This is argued by Laurens Hessels of the Rathenau Institute in an opinion piece. According to Hessels, scientists are currently often given the leeway to make their own assessment, while it is questionable whether individual researchers can handle this responsibility. In addition, Hessels states that this also requires a political assessment regarding conflicting values such as efficiency, autonomy, sustainability, and justice.

Opinion piece Rathenau Institute: [Maak haast met regels voor verantwoord AI-gebruik in wetenschap | Rathenau Instituut \(in Dutch\)](#)

Opinion: Universities need valorization funding (26 March 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 26 March 2026

The Jetten cabinet has the ambition to consolidate universities' technology transfer offices into a single national structure. However, this plan could backfire, argues Luc Sels, Chair of the Executive Board of Leiden University, in an opinion piece in the FD. According to Sels, the idea that centralization automatically leads to greater impact is a misconception. "Anyone who wants to strengthen valorization should not disarm universities, but better equip them," the piece reads. Sels points out that a number of the most successful European universities in the field of valorization possess embedded TTOs: with a broad mandate, close to researchers, and interwoven with faculties.

FD Opinion Piece: [Universiteiten hebben valorisatiefinanciering nodig \(in Dutch\)](#)

LinkedIn post Luc Sels: [Post | LinkedIn](#)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Overview of the foreseen HORIZON Europe deadline 7 April 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 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	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	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	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	16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-01-DISEASE single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-DISEASE two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination</u> - Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare	
<u>Destination</u> - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-TOOL single stage	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 (HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-two-stage)
<u>Destination: Open Strategic Autonomy in Developing, Deploying and Using Global Space-Based Infrastructure, Services, Applications and Data</u>	
HORIZON-CL4-2027-03 single stage	Foreseen opening 9 March 2027 Foreseen deadline 2 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-CL4-2027-03)

<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-HUMAN-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-CL5-2026-09-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-CL5-2026-02-D4	16 September 2025 17.00 Brussels time (CLOSED) Deadline(s) 20 January 2026 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination:</u> 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	
<u>CLUSTER 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment</u>	
<u>Destination 1:</u> Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services	
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	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:</u> Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK single stage	14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK two-stage	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:</u> Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors	

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	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-CL6-2026-01-ZEROPOLLUTION single stage	17 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-ZEROPOLLUTION two-stage	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-CL6-2026-01-CLIMATE single stage	14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-CLIMATE single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-CLIMATE-01-two-stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2027; Deadline(s): 8 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
<u>Destination 6 – Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities</u>	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-COMMUNITIES single stage	14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-COMMUNITIES single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination 7 – Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal</u>	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE single stage	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	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	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 2026; 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	23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-06-SOIL-CANCER Joint call SOIL and CANCER mission	Foreseen opening: 9 December 2026 and foreseen Deadline(s): 21 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-MISS-2027-07-CLIMA-CIT-NEB Joint Call between the Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities Mission and the Adaptation to Climate Change Mission	Foreseen opening: 9 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 16 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
<u>WIDERA 2026 - 2027</u>	
<u>Destination:</u> Widening participation and spreading excellence	
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01-WIDENING-01: Teaming Synergies	Foreseen opening Opening: 23 April 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 24 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01 Call - Teaming Synergies</i>)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02-WIDENING-01: Twinning	9 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-02 Call - Twinning</i>)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03: Hop-on Facility	24 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03 Call – Hop on Facility</i>)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05-WIDENING-01: ERA Fellowships	9 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05 Call – ERA Fellowships</i>)
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 (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-01: ERA Chairs</i>)
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 (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-02: ERA Research Managers</i>)
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 (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03-WIDENING-01: ERA TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European</i>)
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 (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01: Excellence Hubs</i>)
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 (<i>HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-01: Pillar I: Facilitating development of institutional open access policies through the retention of intellectual property rights</i>)

Destination: Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system	
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 7 April 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/	<p>2nd co-funded call for proposals of the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) "Shaping the Future of Animal Health and Welfare"</p> <p>NEW: The 2nd call for research projects is open since 26th January, 2026. Pre-Proposals must be submitted electronically via this EUPAHW submission tool.</p> <p>Submission deadline for pre-proposals: March 30th, 2026 (CLOSED), 12:00 h (CEST)</p> <p>Deadline for full-proposals 16th September 2026, 12:00 CEST</p> <p>EUPAHW: Call 2 PP</p>
European Partnership Biodiversa+ https://www.biodiversa.eu/	<p>A two-step application procedure will apply, with a mandatory submission of pre-proposals at the first step and submission of full proposals at the second step, via the Electronic Proposal Submission System (EPSS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deadline for pre-proposals submission (mandatory): Friday 7 November 2025, 12:00 CET (CLOSED) • Results of the evaluation of the first step: mid-February 2026 • Deadline for full-proposals submission: Tuesday 14 of April 2026, 12:00 CEST • Recommendations for funding: late September 2026 • Start of the projects: between 1st of December 2026 and 1st of April 2027 <p>https://www.biodiversa.eu/2025/09/09/2025-2026-joint-call/</p>
European Partnership Water4All https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/	<p>Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/28-million-available-for-research-into-the-interaction-between-water-and-health and https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/joint-activities/water4all-2025-joint-transnational-call</p> <p>Tentative timeline</p> <p>Call opening: 12 September 2025</p> <p>Submission deadline of preproposals: 13 November 2025, 15:00 CET (CLOSED)</p> <p>Selection of preproposals: End of February 2026</p> <p>Submission deadline of full proposals: 13 April 2026, 15:00 CEST</p> <p>Selection of funded proposals: September 2026</p> <p>Projects start: End 2026/beginning 2027</p>

	Kick-off meeting of the funded projects: Spring 2027
European Partnership FutureFoods https://www.futurefoodspartner-ship.eu/	FutureFoodS hereby pre-announces the 2nd co-funded call for transnational research projects Second Joint Transnational Co-funded Call — FutureFoodS and FutureFoodS: Call2 The call will follow a two-step procedure with the following important steps:]Call launch: Second half of November 2025 Deadline for pre-proposal submission: ~ 11 February 2026 (CLOSED) Deadline for full-proposal submission: ~ 27 July 2026 (only by invitation)
European Partnership Agroecology https://www.agroecologypartnership.eu/	Announcement 3 rd call AGROECOLOGY partnership 3rd co-funded call — Agroecology Partnership and Agroecology: Call3 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.
European partnership Agriculture of Data	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).
European partnership Sustainable Blue Economy https://bluepartnership.eu/	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 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
European Partnership Driving Urban Transitions to a sustainable future (DUT) https://dutpartnership.eu/	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 Foreseen timeline and information day The timeline for this call is as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17 November 2025: stage 1 closing (Pre-Proposal submission deadline) (CLOSED) • 20 February 2026: stage 2 opening • 23 April 2026: stage 2 closing (Full Proposal submission deadline) • Summer of 2026: decision-making
European Partnership ERA4HEALTH ERA4Health The Partnership	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 <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 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 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
Joint Technology Initiatives	
Joint Programming Initiatives	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A healthy diet for a healthy life (HDHL): http://www.healthydietforhealthylife.eu/ • Agriculture, food security and climate change (FACCE): http://www.faccejpi.com/ • Antimicrobial Resistance- The Microbial Challenge - An Emerging Threat to Human Health (JPI AMR): http://www.jpiamr.eu/ • Connecting Climate Knowledge for Europe (Clik'EU): http://www.jpi-climate.eu/home • Healthy and Productive Seas and Oceans (JPI-Oceans): http://www.jpi-oceans.eu/ • More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change (JPI MYBL): http://www.jp-demographic.eu/ • Neurodegenerative Disease/Alzheimer's (JPND): http://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/ • Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions (Urban Europe): http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ • Water challenges for a changing world (Water-JPI): http://www.waterjpi.eu/ • Cultural Heritage a Challenge for Europe (Cultural Heritage): http://www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu/

Other international calls

This list is a SELECTION of other international calls. The list was compiled on **7 April 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 <u>Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)</u>, <u>Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR)</u> or the <u>Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO)</u>. You can submit your proposal at any moment from 7 August 2025 up to and including 31 July 2026, 14:00:00 CEST, with the exception of ENW-M-1-Weave proposals with FWO as partner agency, which may be submitted from 1 December 2025 to 24 February 2026 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/weave-with-nwo-as-partner-agency-2025/2026 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20proposals%20OC%20ENW-M%20ronde%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 (KIC) NWO and KIC Integrated Biorefineries for a Circular Future NWO and Call for Proposals - Integrated biorefineries for a circular future

National calls

This list is a selection of open national calls. The list was compiled on **7 April 2026**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list:

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 ; The deadline for submitting a request for review by organizations based in the Netherlands is May 19, 2026 . The deadline for submitting a request for review by foreign organizations is May 19, 2026 . . New Call: Unique opportunity for SSH researchers to further deepen consortia (NWA) NWO and The power of collaboration NWO
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 Competitie 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 7 April 2026. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
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.

Contacts

EU Team:

Peter Jongebroed	Horizon Europe	0317 486876	Peter.Jongebroed@wur.nl
Christianne Marcelis	Horizon Europe	0317 480843	Christianne.Marcelis@wur.nl
Vanya Simeonova	Cluster 5, WIDENING	0317 485978	Vanya.simeonova@wur.nl
Reynout Hana	Contact point legal matters	0317 485857	Reynout.Hana@wur.nl
Rene van Ree	Cluster 5, CBE	0317 480710	Rene.vanree@wur.nl
Judith Battjes	European partnerships	070-3358188	Judith.battjes@wur.nl

NWO Team:

Jos Teunissen	Contact point financial and procedural	0317 485313	Jos.teunissen@wur.nl
Henriëke de Ruiter	Contact point content and strategy	0317 484395	Henriëke.deruiter@wur.nl
Patty Brouwer	Contact point content	0317 481310	Patty.brouwer@wur.nl

Science Groups Liaison Officers:

ASG

Hans Spoolder	Wageningen Livestock Research	0317-480652	Hans.Spoolder@wur.nl
Nienke Runge	Wageningen Livestock Research	06- 34027938	contractoffice.WLR@wur.nl
Ilse Schippers	Wageningen Livestock Research	06-18869067	contractoffice.WLR@wur.nl
Annika Dijkstra-Garritsen	Department Animal Sciences	0317-482524	annika.dijkstra-garritsen@wur.nl

Guus Baarends	Department Animal Science		Guus.baarends@wur.nl
Erik Bouwmeister	Department Animal Sciences	0317-483027	erik.bouwmeister@wur.nl
Jorai van Driel	Department Animal Sciences	0317-483952	Jorai.vandriel@wur.nl
Patty Brouwer	Department Plant Sciences	0317-481310	Patty.brouwer@wur.nl
Liaison Office ESG	ESG	0317-477768	liaisonoffice.esg@wur.nl
Jos Teunissen	AFSG	0317-485313	jos.teunissen@wur.nl
Tom van Zandvoort	AFSG	0317-488381	Tom.vanZandvoort@wur.nl
Rene van Ree	WFBR	0317 480710	Rene.vanree@wur.nl
Monique den Nijs	WFSR	0317-480370	Monique.denijis@wur.nl
Miranda ten Holder	SSG departement	0317-481378	miranda.tenholder@wur.nl
Luc van Hoof	Wageningen Marine Research	0255-564646	Luc.vanhoof@wur.nl
Christianne Marcelis	PSG	0317-480843	Christianne.Marcelis@wur.nl
Wim van der Poel	Wageningen Bio Veterinary Research	0320-238383	Wim.vanderPoel@wur.nl
Judith Battjes	Wageningen Economic Research	070-3358188	Judith.battjes@wur.nl
Eefje Hilarides	SSG-WCDI	0317-483496	Eefje.hilarides@wur.nl
John Hollands	SSG-WCDI	0317-486859	John.hollands@wur.nl

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