



WGO Research and Innovation Funding News, N° 450_ 11 June 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.

The European Union and Australia successfully conclude Horizon Europe negotiations (9 June 2026)

Source: Website [The European Union and Australia successfully conclude Horizon Europe negotiations - Research and innovation](#)



EU-Australia Representatives at the Horizon Europe agreement initialling ceremony

Today, the European Commission and Australia have successfully concluded negotiations on Australia's association to [Horizon Europe](#), the EU's flagship €93.5 billion research and innovation funding programme.

Australia will associate to Pillar II of Horizon Europe, which addresses societal challenges in the digital, industry and space; climate, energy and mobility; and food, bioeconomy and agriculture fields.

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

"We can tackle the challenges of tomorrow only together. That is why the future of science and technology depends on strong international partnerships, like the one between the EU and Australia. Together, we've already delivered breakthroughs such as the Square Kilometre Array, one of the world's most advanced radio telescopes. By combining our strengths in industry, space, climate action, and the bioeconomy, we will drive the next generation of transformative innovations."

This milestone formalises an already thriving scientific partnership. To date under Horizon Europe, Australian organisations have participated in 239 projects. Highlighting the world-class calibre and exceptional quality of its research ecosystem, nearly one in four individual applications from Australia is selected for participation in the programme - resulting in an impressive 24.39% success rate.

From January 2027, under a transitional arrangement, Australian entities will transition from third-country rules - where they typically had to self-fund or rely on narrow exceptions for funding - to being treated as 'eligible entities' from an associated country. This will grant them direct, routine access to EU funding under Pillar II on equal terms with EU Member States, such as allowing them to lead project consortia.

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

Negotiations for association were successfully concluded with Japan and Australia

Background

Australia stands as an important strategic partner for the European Union, with a robust bilateral relation implemented over the past three decades. The foundation of this collaboration was laid in 1994 with the signing of the Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation [EUR-Lex - 21994A0722\(04\) - EN - EUR-Lex](#).

The first ERC Plus Grant competition opens (2 June 2026)

Source: Website ERC [The first ERC Plus Grant competition opens|ERC](#)

Today, the European Research Council (ERC) launched its first competition for the new ERC Plus Grants, a pilot funding scheme designed to support truly ambitious, transformative research in Europe.



Backed by €210 million under the 'Choose Europe' initiative, announced by President Ursula von der Leyen at the Sorbonne in Paris in May 2025, the new grants aim to further help Europe retain and attract the world's top scientific talent.

The ERC Plus Grants scheme, designed and implemented by the ERC, **will provide up to €7 million per project for a maximum of seven years**. The scheme targets outstanding researchers, of any nationality, with bold ideas capable of opening entirely new avenues of research and generating transformative scientific advances. Around 30 grants are expected to be awarded in this first competition.

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

'Europe has all the ingredients to remain a global leader in science: world-class researchers, strong institutions, and a commitment to academic freedom. With the new ERC Plus Grants and the broader 'Choose Europe' initiative, we are ensuring that Europe not only retains its brightest minds, but also becomes the destination of choice for the best scientific talent worldwide.'

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

'The ERC Plus Grants are set to give outstanding researchers in Europe and from further afield the chance to go after their most ambitious ideas, thanks to additional funds from the European Commission through the 'Choose Europe' initiative. The ERC Scientific Council looks forward to evaluating this pilot scheme. This is in line with the ERC international outlook and mission to make top science thrive in Europe.'

The new grants form part of a broader EU package for 2025-2027 under the "Choose Europe" initiative. In parallel, national and regional authorities across Europe are introducing new initiatives to attract international scientific talent. These measures include fellowship schemes, visiting researcher programmes and recruitment opportunities ranging from tenure-track positions to professorships and junior group leader roles.

Last year, the **ERC increased its support for researchers moving to Europe** <https://erc.europa.eu/news-events/news/increased-erc-funding-top-global-researchers-moving-europe-now-confirmed>. Applicants for Starting, Consolidator and Advanced Grants, currently based outside Europe, can since then request up to €2 million in additional funding to relocate their laboratory or research team to an EU Member State or a country associated with the ERC part of the Horizon Europe programme.

The increased support is already generating international interest. Although the vast majority of applicants for ERC funding come from Europe, the most recent ERC grant competitions have seen a sharp increase in applications from researchers based in the United States. In some calls, the number of US-based applicants was four times higher than in previous competitions.

Read full article here: [The first ERC Plus Grant competition opens|ERC](#)

European Funding News: FP10

Council presidency proposes €167B Horizon Europe budget (11 June 2026)

Source: [website Science|Business Council presidency proposes €167B Horizon Europe budget | Science|Business](#)
Council budget proposal for the Framework Programme comes 4% below Commission's starting line



Photo credits: Jennifer Jacquemart / European Union

The Cypriot presidency of the EU Council has published its figures for beginning talks between governments over the bloc's next long-term budget, for 2028-34. These would see Horizon Europe and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) hit particularly hard, with 4% cuts across the board relative to proposals from the European Commission. The so-called [negotiating box](#), which is a first basis for discussions at a meeting of EU leaders on June 18-19, puts forward €167.9 billion for Horizon Europe, below the €175 billion proposed by the Commission and far below the €200 billion proposed in the European Parliament's first draft report.

In the Cypriot proposal, Horizon Europe and the ECF are cut by about 4% relative to the Commission proposal. Erasmus+ could also see its budget cut from €40.8 to €39.1 billion.

ECF cuts

In the proposal, the ECF will be structured around four policy areas. The full breakdown in the Council text is as follows, with the comparison to the Commission's proposal in brackets:

- Clean transition and industrial decarbonisation: €25.1 billion (€26.2 billion)
- Health, biotech, agriculture and bioeconomy: €21.7 billion (€22.6 billion)
- Digital leadership: €52.6 billion (€54.8 billion)
- Resilience and security, defence industry and space: €125.4 billion (€130.7 billion)

The proposal represents a stark contrast with the political focus, at both EU and national level, on the importance of European competitiveness and investing in the technologies of the future.

Read full article here: [Council presidency proposes €167B Horizon Europe budget | Science|Business](#)

Merging R&I (DG-RTD) with other commission departments would be a disaster (8 June 2026)

Source: [Blog Jan Palmowski \(the Guild\) and article in Timeshighereducation](#)

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/merging-ri-other-eu-departments-would-be-disaster>

As guardian of the world's largest transnational research and innovation programme, the European Commission's directorate-general for research and innovation (DG RTD) is unique in being both a political body and a major research funder guided by research excellence.

However, European Commission president Ursula von der Leyen is [reportedly](#) considering a major shake-up of commission departments, which could see DG RTD lose its separate function and identity – and open the way to politics dominating the commission's actions with regard to Horizon Europe.

Von der Leyen is rumoured to be considering creating a “**super**” department, **DG Invest**, that merges DG RTD with DG REGIO (managing regional funding), DG AGRI (managing the Common Agricultural Policy), DG Employment and DG Maritime Affairs and Fisheries. This new department would be responsible for agreeing with national governments what EU-funded [national and regional partnership plans](#) would be spent on.

In addition, DG Invest could oversee the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), designed to scale up groundbreaking ideas for market uptake. Given the close intended connection between the ECF and the next Horizon Europe programme (FP10), the commission leadership appears to be tempted also to bring FP10 spending into the fold of DG Invest. This would have short-, medium- and long-term consequences.

In the short run, work programmes and call texts could respond more closely to the logic of the European Competitiveness Fund than to the frontiers of science. Officials in DG Invest, created to foster competitiveness, could be subject to intense political lobbying from existing industrial sectors and their political representatives about the kind of economic future the EU should support. This could easily spill over into how R&I funding calls in Horizon Europe are framed, away from cutting-edge research problems.

The relationship between Horizon Europe and the ECF is already hotly contested between the commission (which wants a common governance between the two programmes) and the European Parliament (which [insists on separate governance](#) to respect the different rationales of the programmes). Whatever the policymakers agree on, any eventual deal will need to be implemented by the commission.

One argument for merger is efficiency, as the commission is under significant pressure from member states to cut costs. But while a single rulebook across all funding instruments would simplify things for the commission, it would be a nightmare for Horizon Europe applicants, belying their distinctive requirements.

For instance, researchers need long timelines for application and tailored application forms that allow them to put their best case forward. Unlike fish quotas or agricultural products, research cannot be funded based on quantifiable outputs. The criteria must be originality and knowledge creation. This can be evaluated only by peers, not by officials. In the medium term, officials who deeply care about R&I and what it can do will leave, frustrated by being in an over-politicised DG dominated by its own particular competitiveness logic. These are officials who understand what support research projects need to maximise their impact – but they will not be replaced by like-minded people.

In the longer term, the proposal for FP11, due in six years, could signal the end of the Horizon programmes as we have known them. Given that last year the existence of a stand-alone FP10 hung in the balance [until the very end](#), it would be hugely tempting for DG Invest officials who regard research funding as a mere instrument of industrial and competitiveness policies to lead a “hostile” takeover of Horizon Europe by the currently much smaller ECF.

The commission has been able to assume its predominance among European funders because of the expertise of its staff, its ability to galvanise European science ministries, and its explicit mission to strengthen European R&I. Its impact as a research funder has increased proportionately to the money it has had to allocate and the importance it assumed for universities.

Over the past 10 years, the commission has assumed a crucial role in pushing a sector-wide adoption of open science, research assessment reform and institutional gender equality plans. The proposal of a [European Research Area Act](#) later this year, which will include important measures to protect the freedom of scientific research, is testament to the importance of the EU as a rule-setter for Europe’s fragmented research space.

Merging different parts of the commission under a competitiveness heading may look appealing from on high – especially given the growing political importance of R&I. But putting Horizon Europe under the management of DG Invest would be a textbook case of killing the goose that lays the golden eggs.

European Parliament Study Calls for 'Widening 2.0' to Reduce EU Innovation Gaps (3 June 2026)

Source: Website ['Widening' Indicator: Leveraging the potential for inclusive European research and innovation | Think Tank | European Parliament](#)

The study proposes new data-driven framework to better target funding and strengthen research capacity across less-developed innovation systems.



A new European Parliament study sets out proposals for a revised 'Widening' approach to European Union (EU) research and innovation funding, aiming to tackle persistent disparities between Member States and strengthen overall innovation performance in the next framework programme after Horizon Europe. Commissioned by the Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA), the report argues that despite progress, structural gaps in research capacity remain a major policy challenge with implications for competitiveness and cohesion across the Union.

The study assesses the impact of existing 'widening participation and spreading excellence' measures introduced under Horizon programmes, which are designed to support countries with lower research and innovation performance. These measures have helped strengthen institutions, promote partnerships, and improve skills, contributing to early positive results. However, the analysis finds that participation barriers persist and outcomes vary widely between countries, often depending on complementary national investment and policy frameworks.

To address these shortcomings, the report proposes the development of a more systematic 'Widening 2.0' methodology. Central to this is a new framework of indicators that better capture countries' capacity to absorb, adapt and generate innovation. The study highlights three broad dimensions shaping innovation potential: access to technology and knowledge, firms' ability to adopt and use technologies, and the capacity to create and commercialise new ideas. These factors are influenced by elements such as digital infrastructure, openness to trade and foreign investment, educational quality, research excellence, and the availability of skilled personnel and finance.

By combining these elements into improved metrics, the proposed approach would allow EU policymakers to tailor support more effectively to national contexts and stages of development. The study suggests that future funding allocation could take greater account of both need and capacity to benefit, rather than relying predominantly on excellence-based competition. This would enable a more balanced strategy that continues to reward high performance while accelerating convergence across the European Research Area.

The findings come at a time when the EU is preparing discussions on the successor to Horizon Europe for the 2028-2034 period. Reducing innovation fragmentation is widely seen as essential to enhancing Europe's global competitiveness amid increasing technological rivalry and economic pressures. The study positions widening policy as a key instrument to ensure that all Member States can contribute to, and benefit from, the EU's innovation system. Notable is the report's emphasis on a more granular, data-driven approach to measuring and supporting innovation capacity, moving beyond existing classifications of 'widening countries'. It also underlines the importance of aligning EU-level interventions with national reforms, suggesting that funding alone cannot close performance gaps without broader structural improvements.

For research and innovation stakeholders specifically, the proposals signal a potential shift in how EU support is designed and distributed. A strengthened widening framework could open additional opportunities for collaboration and capacity-building, while also introducing new expectations around performance measurement and strategic alignment in the next generation of EU research programmes.

Link to full article: [Full Article Available via the European Parliament](#)

Competitiveness Council seeks final bridges for agreement on FP10 (1 June 2026)

Source: Website Neth-ER [Neth-ER > Onderzoek en innovatie > Raad Concurrentievermogen zoekt laatste bruggen voor akkoord over KP10](#)

During the Competitiveness Council on 29 May, the research ministers took further steps towards an agreement on the Horizon Europe package for 2028–2034. Although the Member States are clearly moving closer to an

agreement, several sensitive points remain unresolved. The Cypriot Presidency aims to reach a partial general position in June.



Negotiations on FP10 gaining momentum

During the Competitiveness Council on 29 May [Competitiveness Council \(Research and Space\) - Consilium](#), research ministers moved closer to an agreement on the Horizon Europe package for 2028–2034. Many Member States support proposed changes that involve national governments earlier in the process of determining programme priorities. In addition, several delegations emphasized that FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) need to be better aligned so that investments can flow smoothly from research to market. Nevertheless, open questions remain. Member States disagree on exactly what form this joint governance should take and how responsibilities are divided between the Commission and Member States.

Excellence versus geographical distribution

Although excellence remains the basis for the evaluation of applications within the framework programme, opinions differ on the implementation of widening measures. Some Member States want stronger instruments to reduce participation disparities, while others fear that this will put scientific quality under pressure. The discussion is therefore not yet concluded. At the same time, the ministers confirmed that excellence must be and remain the leading criterion in the assessment of applications.

Cyprus wants a Partial General Agreement (PGA) this month

The Cypriot Presidency concluded that the negotiations are “on track,” but that political choices are still needed to reach a Partial General Position (PGA). A PGA is the formal position of the Council by which the Member States establish their joint negotiating mandate towards the European Parliament. With only one month remaining in the Presidency, the ambition is to reach this agreement in June. The informal Council in mid-June constitutes the final political opportunity for Cyprus to attempt to achieve a PGA.

Context

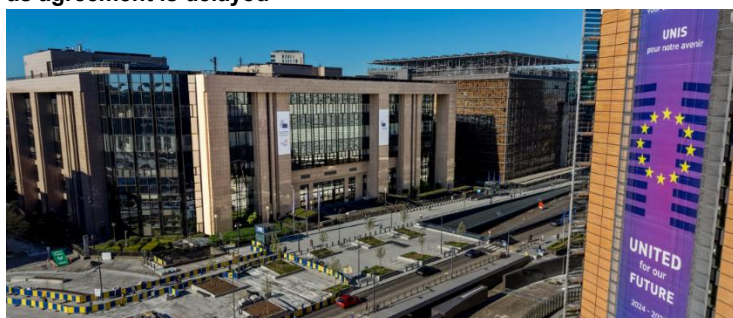
The Competitiveness Council (Research and Space) is the forum where ministers negotiate European research and innovation dossiers. The discussions on FP10 and the ECF are closely linked to the broader negotiations on the Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034. In January 2026, Cyprus took over the Presidency of the Council from Denmark. On July 1, 2026, the baton will be passed to Ireland. The meeting on May 29 was an important benchmark in the run-up to a possible agreement on FP10.

For publication European Council: <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/meetings/compet/2026/05/29/>

EU governments miss target for FP10 agreement (28 May 2026)

Source: Website Science|Business <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/fp10/eu-governments-miss-target-fp10-agreement>

Research sector urges Council to consider Parliament’s ideas for future research and innovation instruments as agreement is delayed



European Council buildings in Brussels, Belgium. Photo credits: European Council

EU governments will miss their May 29 target for an agreement on the future Horizon Europe programme, and are now being urged to consider ideas from the European Parliament to avoid further delays once trilogue negotiations kick off later this year.

The EU Council had hoped that Friday's meeting of research ministers would result in a partial agreement on the European Commission's €175 billion proposal for the next Framework Programme for research and innovation, also known as FP10. This would have settled a position on the structure of FP10, but left out figures or other elements that depend on broader negotiations over the next EU budget.

However, that is no longer on the cards as insufficient progress has been made in negotiations. A compromise could still be found in June, since it does not need to be approved at a ministerial-level meeting.

In a **steering note** <https://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-9509-2026-INIT/en/pdf> prepared ahead of Friday's meeting, the Cypriot presidency of the Council underlined four key issues that are still to be resolved: strategic priority setting, including the alignment between FP10 and the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF); partnerships; the Widening programme; and bottom-up collaborative research and innovation.

The Parliament's lead negotiators have already published their draft reports on FP10 and the ECF, but these still need to be amended and adopted. The research community has welcomed the Parliament's changes and is now calling on EU governments to take them seriously when drafting their own position.

"Europe cannot afford prolonged divergence of positions between EU institutions," seven groups representing universities and research institutes wrote in a joint statement published on May 27, ahead of this week's Council meeting. "Delayed progress would create uncertainty for researchers, institutions, companies and innovation ecosystems."

Fears of delays

The Council's failure to meet its May 29 target is not overly concerning, since the Parliament won't adopt its position until the autumn, said Julien Chicot, head of research and innovation policy at the Guild of European Research-Intensive Universities, one of the groups behind the joint statement.

The concern is that the two institutions appear to be shaping their positions in isolation, which could set the stage for drawn-out negotiations. The lobbies are urging EU governments to "build on Parliament's momentum" and engage with its proposals, "opening up to more innovative approaches," so that a compromise can be found without delay.

"Right now, there is no public sign that they are working on laying the grounds for a good compromise," Chicot told Science|Business. "From an external view, it seems that the Council is just ignoring what the Parliament is proposing."

"If we all are urging Europe to react as fast as possible and become competitive, then we really cannot afford to get delayed at the onset of FP10 and the ECF," said Marta Agostinho, executive director of EU-Life, an alliance of life science research institutes and another of the statement's signatories.

The talks are further complicated by the parallel discussions of the overall EU budget for 2028-34. The Parliament has suggested <https://www.politico.eu/article/eu-parliament-threatens-to-delay-e1-8t-budget-talks-until-2027/> that it will not begin negotiations with the Council on sectoral programmes such as FP10 until there is an agreement on the size of the EU budget.

This stance is understandable, Chicot said, but battle lines are currently being drawn between member states that support a larger EU budget and those that will resist any increase in spending, and there is no guarantee a deal will be reached before the end of the year.

"We understand that the Commission needs around six months to implement the changes that FP10 will require, so we really need an FP10 regulation agreed before summer 2027, and if the Parliament does not change position, I think that is a very tough deadline to meet," Chicot said.

Expert governance

Parliament's proposals include creating expert councils to steer collaborative research, introducing Horizon Europe Pathway Actions in the ECF to build on the results of Horizon projects, and providing a clear definition of competitiveness.

"We had several concerns regarding the proposal from the Commission, and these concerns were largely addressed in the drafts of the Parliament," said Agostinho.

The expert-led model is particularly important, she said, as there must be a long-term vision for how research and innovation can contribute to competitiveness, which does not always match short-term political cycles. "While it is of

course critical that we have strategic approaches to research and innovation, they cannot be hijacked by political manoeuvres.”

While the Cypriot presidency notes that a compromise still needs to be found on strategic priority setting, **draft plans do not include the expert councils** <https://sciencebusiness.net/news/fp10/exclusive-eu-governments-hatch-plan-secure-key-role-next-horizon-europe> proposed by MEPs and would instead give a greater say to EU member states. Meanwhile, the Council and Parliament have been left to fill in the gaps left by a Commission proposal that did not clearly define the links between FP10 and the ECF or the process for defining funding priorities.

The joint statement also points to Parliament amendments that would allow for swift association of Switzerland and the UK to FP10. “It is imperative for Europe’s competitiveness and resilience to avoid scientific ties being weakened or severed by delays in the association of countries that are already close partners,” it reads.

The statement’s other signatories are the Cesaer university group, the Coimbra Group, the European University Association, the League of European Research Universities and the Young European Research Universities Network. It’s not the first time the lobby groups have presented a united front. They previously published a list of **proposed amendments to FP10** https://www.coimbra-group.eu/wp-content/uploads/Joint-Amendments-FP10_01.12.2025.pdf and **a statement** <https://www.cesaer.org/content/5-operations/2026/20260225-ecf-joint-statement.pdf> on links to the ECF.

“In the past, we were criticised for not being united,” said Agostinho. Now, the research sector has come together to contribute to the co-creation of the future funding instruments, she said. “We are doing our job. Now it’s time for the politicians to do their job.”

Other International funding

NWO-DFG Dutch-German Lead Agency Procedure in Fields of the Sciences (3 June 2026)

Source: Website [DFG Funding Opportunity for Dutch-German Basic Research Projects in Fields of the Sciences \(NWO Domain Science – DFG\) | DFG](#)

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Foundation) is a self-governing organisation for the promotion of science and research in Germany and serves all branches of science and the humanities. It is almost entirely financed by the German Federal Government and by the Federal states. In line with its activities in the interest of research, the DFG maintains partnerships and relations with a large number of partner organisations on all continents, including the Nederlandse Organisatie voor Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek (NWO - Dutch Research Council).

As part of their cooperation, the DFG and NWO are now launching a three-year pilot for a joint Lead Agency Procedure for collaborative projects between researchers in Germany and the Netherlands. The funding opportunity is open for proposals that fit the scope of basic research in the remit of the NWO Domain Science (Astronomy, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematics, Physics) and the corresponding DFG review boards. NWO and DFG Lead Agency cooperation is applied to existing funding programmes ie NWO: 'Open Competition Domain Science - M', DFG: 'Research Grants Programme'.

Applicants should demonstrate how bringing together researchers based in the Netherlands and Germany will add value and advance their research. It is expected that each partner contributes substantially to the common project. There are no separate funds available for this joint initiative. Instead, the call follows the general funding lines and budgets of NWO and DFG. Proposals must succeed on the strengths of their intellectual merit and teams in competition with other proposals.

Eligibility Criteria

Funding is available for bilateral collaborative research projects comprising researchers from Germany and the Netherlands.

German applicants: Eligible for DFG funding are researchers who work in Germany or at a German research institution abroad, and have completed their academic training (usually with a doctorate). Applicants based at non-university research institutes must observe their **duty to cooperate**. Any duty to cooperate can only be fulfilled through cooperation with a partner at a German university.

Dutch applicants: Dutch applicants must meet the eligibility requirements of [NWO Open Competition Domain Science - M](#) programme.

Value Notes

The duration of the projects must not exceed 36 months. Each organisation supports the researchers for whom it is responsible.

German applicants: Funding will be provided according to the rules of [DFG Research Grants \(Sachbeihilfe\)](#).

DFG funding can be requested to cover the following modules:

- Basic Module: direct project costs, project-specific staff and instrumentation necessary to carry out the project.
- Temporary Positions for Principal Investigators.
- Replacements: funding to cover the costs of replacements in order for participating investigators to be released from teaching or administrative duties.
- Temporary Substitutes for Clinicians: funding for temporary substitutes to take over patient-care responsibilities of participating investigators.

In addition, it is possible to request funding for:

- Mercator Fellows: funding for intensive and long-term exchange with researchers in Germany and abroad.
- Project-Specific Workshops.
- Public Relations.
- Standard Allowance for Gender Equality Measures.

[Individual guideline documents](#) provide information about each of these DFG funding modules.

Dutch applicants: For Dutch applicants, funding is provided in line with the NWO guidelines. Details are provided in the [NWO Open Competition Domain Science - M](#) call.

For more information: <https://www.dfg.de/en/research-funding/funding-opportunities/countries-regions/nl-nwo> and

Commission unlocks Erasmus+ cash for Hungary, Horizon could be next (3 June 2026)

Source: [Website Science|Business](#) [Commission unlocks Erasmus+ cash for Hungary, Horizon could be next | Science|Business](#)

Hungarian researchers could soon regain access to EU research funding, but the new government needs to ensure academic freedom first



Péter Magyar, new prime minister of Hungary (left), and Ursula von der Leyen, president of the European Commission (right), meeting in late April. Photo credits: Xavier Lejeune / European Union

The European Commission has announced it will unlock €16.4 billion in previously frozen funds for Hungary, including access to Erasmus+, the EU's education and training programme. But the new Magyar government must tackle the question of government-controlled university trusts before Hungarian researchers can regain access to Horizon Europe funds.

An agreement reached in late May between the European Commission and the Hungarian government recognises progress on reforms to counter corruption and state capture, and to protect fundamental rights. Providing these reforms move forward, the Commission will release €10 billion from the NextGenerationEU recovery fund, €4.2 billion in cohesion funds, and an additional €2.2 billion tied to the completion of academic freedom milestones.

The €16.4 billion deal does not cover Horizon Europe, a Commission source told Science|Business, as the EU executive expects public interest trusts to be phased out first.

These trusts were created by the Orbán government to run many of Hungary's academic and scientific institutions. Their board members are strongly linked to the government, with lifelong mandates and significant decision-making powers with little oversight. The EU deemed that this undermined academic freedom and transparency, leading to a ban in 2022 that stopped the institutions from accessing Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ grants.

Negotiations to end this deadlock [had stalled](#), but in light of "a strong wind of change across Hungary," Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said on May 29 that Hungarian students would be able to participate in Erasmus+ "as early as the next academic year."

The timing for unlocking Horizon Europe funding is less clear, although the direction of travel seems positive. Following talks with Hungarian science and technology minister Zoltán Tanács on the margins of May's Competitiveness Council, **research Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva** (3) [Post](#) | [LinkedIn](#) that she welcomed "our shared commitment to academic freedom, stronger European scientific cooperation and restoring Hungary's full participation in Horizon Europe."

Back in the game

After [years of isolation](#), these developments come as a relief to Hungary's academic community.

"For Hungarian students, researchers and universities, the prospect of fully rejoining the Erasmus+ and Horizon Europe programmes is not only a financial issue, but also a matter of belonging to the European academic network," said Tamas Ruppert, co-chair of the Hungarian Young Academy. "It is crucial that young researchers, in particular, can participate in

European networks again without facing institutional uncertainty.”István Kenesei, a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, is “highly optimistic” that most of the funds will be released, including for Horizon Europe. “While students will be able to enjoy the benefits of the Erasmus+ programme as soon as possible [. . .] research within the Horizon Europe programme will have to take time to start, since the formation of new consortia and the evaluation of the research projects cannot be executed overnight,” he told Science|Business. “We all feel liberated however.”

Read full article here: [Commission unlocks Erasmus+ cash for Hungary, Horizon could be next | Science|Business](#)

National funding

Sixteen innovative research projects launched through Open Competition Domain Science-M programme (11 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO news [Sixteen innovative research projects launched through Open Competition Domain Science-M programme | NWO](#)



The NWO Science Board has approved sixteen grant applications in the Open Competition Domain Science-M programme. The topics vary from the study of the folding patterns of each person's brain, the detection of neutrino's and cosmic rays, and understanding how viruses are capable of killing dormant bacteria. M-grants are intended for innovative, high-quality, fundamental research and/or studies involving matters of scientific urgency.

WUR is involved in two of the granted applications

1. Addressing Cultivated Meat Bottlenecks Through Computational Biology: **Prof. Dr Maria Suarez Diez (WUR)**
2. Deciphering plant temperature dose-responsiveness to develop climate warming-resilient crops: **Dr Ing Martijn van Zanten & Dr Mark Sterken (UU/WUR)**

Granted projects

For an overview of the granted applications with NWO as partner agency: [Sixteen innovative research projects launched through Open Competition Domain Science-M programme | NWO](#)

About the NWO Open Competition Domain Science-M

M-grants are intended for realising non-programmed, curiosity-driven scientific research with impact. There are four categories of M-grants:

- ENW-M-1: one scientific position
- ENW-M-1X: one ENW-M-1 application with an additional investment component
- ENW-M-1-Weave: Dutch main applicant with one or more co-applicants from Germany, Flanders Luxembourg (NWO as 'lead agency' and DFG, FWO or FNR as 'partner agency')
- ENW-M-2: Two scientific positions in collaboration.

All categories are evaluated in mutual competition.

In this M-round (package 25-1), a total of 75 grant applications were evaluated, of which 48 M-1 proposals, 8 M-1-Weave proposals, 4 M-1-X proposals and 15 M-2 proposals. The NWO Science Board decided to award ten M-1 proposals, one M-1X proposal and five M-2 proposals.

Positive evaluation of the Thematic Digital Competence Centres (10 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Positive evaluation of the Thematic Digital Competence Centres | NWO](#)



The evaluation shows that the TDCC programme has laid a strong foundation for a federated system of digital research support in the Netherlands. In future, greater attention will be paid to the mission, positioning and governance of the Thematic Digital Competence Centres (TDCCs).

The evaluation demonstrates that the TDCCs have, in a short space of time, laid a valuable foundation for a national system of digital research support. At the same time, they are still in a development phase and further steps are needed to structurally embed their role within the research landscape. The Research Digitalisation Commission (CDO) endorses these findings and emphasises that not all bottlenecks lie solely with the TDCCs: knowledge institutions and other parties also bear responsibility.

About the TDCCs

The TDCCs were established in 2022 by NWO to support the digitalisation of science around common themes. There are three TDCCs: Life Sciences and Health (LSH), Natural and Engineering Sciences (NES), and Social Sciences and Humanities (SSH). The TDCCs focus on improving researchers' digital research competencies by, among other things, developing guidelines and protocols, offering training courses, and providing support.

Recommendations

The three TDCCs have been evaluated on their quality, relevance and viability. The evaluation has yielded a number of recommendations that are endorsed by the Research Digitalisation Committee. These include the need to strengthen the strategic positioning of the TDCCs within the research ecosystem. Clarifying the roles of TDCCs, Local Digital Competence Centres (LDCCs), funders and national infrastructures. In addition, the TDCCs must work to improve communication and visibility, expand KPI frameworks to better map structural impact, and develop sustainable funding and staffing strategies.

Executive response

The NWO Executive Board is positive about the continuation of the TDCCs in the years 2027–2031. The TDCCs deliver clear added value for digital transformation in science, but need to be further developed and better embedded strategically in order to be sustainably effective. The full executive response can be downloaded at the bottom of this post.

Pre-announcement: the final round of Perspectief opens this summer (10 June 2026)

Source: [Website NWO News Pre-announcement: the final round of Perspectief opens this summer | NWO](#)



The final round of Perspectief is expected to open for applications this summer. For the last time, researchers from universities, universities of applied sciences and TO2 institutions can submit their proposal to work in consortia with businesses and civil society organisations on research projects for technological innovation.

Perspectief offers researchers the opportunity to set up a large-scale research project and to establish or further develop a cross-discipline consortium. Researchers, companies and civil society organisations must submit a joint project proposal. Fostering close and sustainable collaborations between different researchers and civil society partners is a key aspect of the programme. Due to the **discontinuation of funding for the programme**

<https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-disappointed-by-the-discontinuation-of-perspectief-at-odds-with-innovation-plans>, this will be the final round of Perspectief.

Proposals within Perspectief are assessed on three criteria: technology development, scientific quality and societal impact. The criterion of technological development relates, among other things, to the degree of technological innovation and the (further) development of one or more key technologies. The 2026–2027 round of Perspectief will be open to research projects that contribute to the **Knowledge and Innovation Agendas (KIAs)** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/researchprogrammes/knowledge-and-innovation-covenant/knowledge-and-innovation-agendas> and focus on **Key Enabling Technologies** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/key-enabling-technologies> and digitalisation.

Practical details

Between 2 and 5 million euros is available per research project. Awarded projects have a maximum duration of six years. The submission requirements and general timeline for this round will be in line with those of the previous round. The full Call for proposals for the 2026/2027 round is expected to be available on this website by the end of July. This document will set out the submission requirements, budget and deadlines.

Information session

An online information session on Perspectief will take place on 1 September 2026 from 15:00-16:00. You can register by emailing ttw-perspectief@nwo.nl. You can also contact this address with any questions about the programme.

Disclaimer

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

KIN makes a significant contribution to the National Climate Adaptation Strategy (NAS'26) with an innovative approach (9 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [KIN makes a significant contribution to the National Climate Adaptation Strategy \(NAS'26\) with an innovative approach | NWO](#)



Commissioned by the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management, KIN made a significant contribution to NAS'26 by developing a new approach that ensures future policy choices are better aligned with practical realities, whilst also making them fairer and more inclusive. A supplementary social impact analysis provides policymakers, for the first time, with insight into potential social effects prior to and during the policy-making process, enabling them to factor these into their decisions.

By bringing together experts from academia, policy and practice to work on this, social, scientific and experiential knowledge has been combined. This creates a picture of what policy choices might mean for areas such as health, resilience, access to services and social cohesion. The NAS'26 will be finalised at the end of this year.



Publication of the Social Impact Analysis for the National Climate Adaptation Strategy 2026 (NAS'26)

A key finding is the transition paradox: choices that appear attractive or manageable in the short term may, in the longer term, actually lead to greater societal consequences. Conversely, far-reaching choices in the short term can contribute to more resilient and equitable outcomes in the long term.

For more information: <https://hetkin.nl/en/contribution-national-climate-adaptation-strategy-nas26-with-an-innovative-approach/> and <https://hetkin.nl/en/an-innovative-social-impact-analysis/>

Important Project of Common European Interest (IPCEI); Survey of Interest for 3 Biotechnology IPCEIs (8 June 2026)

Source: Website RVO <https://www.rvo.nl/onderwerpen/ipcei>

Would you like to collaborate with your company or research organization on important European goals, such as sustainability, digitalization, and reducing production dependency on other continents? Then the 'Important Project of Common European Interest' (IPCEI) program might be something for you. **An IPCEI is an integrated European project initiative consisting of multiple national projects by companies and/or research institutions from various EU member states.**

IPCEI Interest Surveys

Through an interest survey, the Dutch government identifies how many and which organizations are interested in a specific IPCEI project initiative. Partly based on this, the Dutch government decides whether the Netherlands will participate in the European IPCEI and whether a (grant) project will be launched for it.

Survey of Interest for 3 IPCEIs in Biotechnology

This survey of interest is a call to express your interest in participating in a potential European IPCEI (Important Project of Common European Interest) **in the field of biotechnology**. Several European Member States are launching 3 different IPCEIs, each with its own sub-area:

- an IPCEI for biochemicals
- an IPCEI for biomaterials
- an IPCEI for innovative ingredients for food and animal feed.

With this call, the Dutch government is assessing the interest among companies in the Netherlands regarding potential participation in these European IPCEIs.

Purpose of an IPCEI

The purpose of an IPCEI is to create a combination of interconnected projects with a reinforcing effect. These projects must offer participants the opportunity to develop further technical solutions and economies of scale.

You can register your interest for the IPCEI Biochemicals, IPCEI Biomaterials, and IPCEI Innovative Ingredients for Food and Feed via this page <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/ipcei/interessepeiling-ipcei-biotech>.

Survey without obligation

By registering, you are not applying for a subsidy for specific projects in these areas. You are merely expressing your interest. By doing so, you are not committing to anything yet. The Ministries of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK) and Agriculture, Fisheries, Food Security and Nature (LNV) are also not entering into any commitment through this survey of interest. Therefore, you cannot derive any rights from this.

It is important that you express your interest now. If you do so later, you may no longer be able to participate in the European process currently being developed. Only through this survey will you potentially be eligible for a subsidy within one of these IPCEIs later on.

Within this survey of interest, we are looking for 2 types of projects:

1. Large development projects with a pre-commercial character based on innovative technology

If your project meets the conditions below, you are a 'direct participant', or a direct participant in the relevant IPCEI. For direct participants in an IPCEI, governments may provide more subsidy than within the usual state aid frameworks. The subsidy is then a maximum of 100% of the non-recoverable portion. This is the part of the costs that you cannot recoup from the revenues of your project.

This applies only if your project meets the above general conditions for IPCEI projects and has been approved by the European Commission. In addition, your project must meet a number of specific conditions as:

- the project duration is 2 to 7 years (first industrial application but not yet commercial, and possibly preparatory R&D activities);
- the project primarily concerns the first industrial application;
- the end result must be a product that preferably enters the market on a large scale;
- there is demonstrable market failure;
- the project meets the European Commission's 'do no significant harm' criterion;
- the project causes as little market distortion as possible; ♣ regarding spillover effects and collaboration: the parties within the project have clear visibility and a strong role within communities of the IPCEI Biochemicals, the IPCEI Biomaterials, or the IPCEI Innovative Ingredients for Food and Feed.

2. Collaborative projects within research & development

In addition to direct IPCEI projects, we are also looking for promising (medium-sized) collaborative projects in the field of research and development. These projects receive state aid based on the rules of the General Block Exemption Regulation (GBER). If your project meets the conditions below, you are an 'associated participant' to the relevant IPCEI.

First of all, this type of project must comply with the general conditions for IPCEI projects. In addition, your project must meet a number of specific conditions:

- the end result can be a proof of concept or prototype;
- extensive collaboration takes place for the project between companies and/or knowledge institutions, including collaboration with at least 1 direct participant to the relevant IPCEI ('direct participant', see the first category of projects);
- the R&D project has a grant requirement of € 10 to 20 million;
- the maximum R&D project duration is 5 years; ♣ regarding networks and visibility: the project members are involved in the communities of IPCEI Biochemicals, IPCEI Biomaterials, or IPCEI Innovative Ingredients for Food and Feed.

For more information about the conditions and the technology scope <https://www.rvo.nl/subsidies-financiering/ipcei/interessepeiling-ipcei-biotech> (in Dutch)

Ministry of Defence invests in national security via NWO (8 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Ministry of Defence invests in national security via NWO | NWO](#)

The Ministry of Defence and NWO are launching a strategic partnership to fund groundbreaking research that bridges the gap between science and innovations designed to make our country more resilient. Through a financial boost, the Ministry of Defence is investing in a series of research programmes that will strengthen the Netherlands' national security, resilience and broader capacity for innovation.

The current threats facing our world are constantly increasing: from conflicts to foreign interference that threaten our security, economy, infrastructure and values. The coalition agreement of the current government therefore states: 'The Netherlands and Europe must become resilient. We will not accept remaining dependent on others for our protection.' Technology, knowledge and innovation are playing an increasingly important role in safeguarding our national security and strategic autonomy. The Advisory council for science, technology and innovation (AWTI) also reached this conclusion as early as 2024: 'To enhance our national security, educational and knowledge institutions and the Ministry of Defence must collaborate more closely.'



Signing of the agreement by NWO's Executive Board member Jan de Boer and State Secretary for Defence Derk Boswijk

As a result NWO and the Ministry of Defence signed a strategic agreement on 8 June 2026 to jointly contribute to our national security by stimulating knowledge development and knowledge utilisation with and through civilian research organisations. The Ministry of Defence is investing €35 million in research into a wide range of topics, including smart materials that are both strong and lightweight, space technology for defence applications, advanced sensors capable of detecting subtle signals, and quantum technology for enhanced security of (data) communications. Investments are also being made in resilience, strategic policy-supporting research and in intelligent systems capable of performing tasks more quickly and accurately.

Building up a knowledge advantage

Through the collaboration with NWO, the Ministry of Defence is bolstering the Netherlands' innovative capacity and its own operational capabilities. These research programmes will contribute to new, widely applicable knowledge and innovations; knowledge that is more important than ever for maintaining, protecting and strengthening national security and strategic autonomy.

State Secretary for Defence, Derk Boswijk: 'Strengthening, safeguarding and maintaining our national security is increasingly becoming a sprint for knowledge, new technology and innovation. By actively strengthening collaboration with the Dutch research sector at every level and making targeted investments in knowledge, the Ministry of Defence is working every day to build a strong and smart defence force that is ready for the challenges of today and tomorrow.'

NWO launches new awards for impact, open science and team science (5 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [NWO launches new awards for impact, open science and team science | NWO](#)



The world of science boasts a large number of prestigious prizes: from the Nobel Prize to the Spinoza and Stevin Prizes, which NWO itself awards each year. These are intended for pioneering researchers in their field, serving both as recognition and as an incentive to take their research a step further. However, there are also themes within science – and researchers working on them – for which a relevant platform for recognition and encouragement is still lacking. The Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NWO) is therefore introducing the NWO Awards.

With these new awards, NWO honours inspiring researchers working on themes of great importance to science. The aim is to **highlight groundbreaking initiatives** and **the individuals or teams behind** them who contribute to remarkable developments in science – from scientific culture to the relationship between research and society. By establishing **four awards** covering the themes of **a healthy research culture, societal impact, collaboration** and **open science**, NWO demonstrates its commitment to these developments and connects scientists with one another and with society by putting their achievements in the spotlight.

What can be nominated for?

The awards support or strengthen initiatives that can increase the impact of research. The awards deliberately focus not only on individuals but also on research groups, as many outstanding achievements are the result of collaboration. For the **Agora Award for Collaboration** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/agora-award-collaboration>, NWO recognises initiatives that have implemented collaboration in a surprising and distinctive way, thereby achieving demonstrable results. In addition, there is the **Arete Award for a Healthy Research Culture** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/arete-award-healthy-research-culture>. This is intended for initiatives or individuals who contribute to or exemplify a healthy research culture. With the **Atlas Award for societal impact** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/atlas-award-social-impact>, NWO aims to highlight initiatives that have established an effective connection with society through knowledge utilisation and/or science communication. Finally, the **UKB Leo Waaijers Open Science Award** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/leo-waaijers-open-science-award> is for initiatives that have made a sustainable contribution to the open science movement.

Who can nominate?

Anyone may submit a nomination. Researchers and research teams may nominate themselves and each other. However, support staff, societal partners, and people working outside academia may also nominate an initiative or individual. Have a potential winner in mind? **For the nomination procedure and criteria, visit [nwo.nl/nwo-awards](https://www.nwo.nl/nwo-awards).**

The deadline for nominations is 23 June 2026 for the Leo Waaijers Open Science Award and 10 September 2026 for the other three awards.

For more information: <https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/nwo-launches-new-awards-for-impact-open-science-and-team-science>

Widespread support for Recognition & Rewards, but still work to be done (4 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Widespread support for Recognition & Rewards, but still work to be done | NWO](#)



The Recognition & Rewards Culture Barometer shows that researchers support the programme's ambitions, but are yet to see sufficient results. This is evident from the conclusions of the second culture barometer, which was conducted among researchers earlier this year as part of the national Recognition & Rewards programme, in which NWO is actively involved.

With this culture barometer, the research organisations aim to provide insight into whether the programme's ambitions and associated behaviour are recognised, experienced and shared in the workplace. In addition, the culture barometer highlights the extent to which the intended cultural change is progressing. The survey shows that, on the one hand, there is broad support among researchers for the programme's ambitions, but at the same time that researchers in the workplace have not noticed enough of the policies that institutions have developed.

Broad support, but a gap between policy and practice

Almost all respondents identify with the five core ambitions. Furthermore, a majority of academics feel recognised and valued for the work they do. This is an important, positive sign. The results also confirm that many academics support the movement and hope for an academic culture in which there is room for diverse talents, collaboration, leadership, impact, open science and education. At the same time, the barometer shows that many academics still experience limited change in their work. Over forty per cent see positive developments at policy level, but the majority still notice too little of this in the system, culture and practice. Some still view this as a reality on paper only. Old assessment mechanisms often remain dominant, and promotion criteria are not always clear. Although this discrepancy is characteristic of a cultural shift in general.

Recognition & Rewards at a crucial turning point

The broad support, combined with concerns about implementation, shows that a majority of university staff actually want more change, not less. It also appears that all disciplines support these ambitions. The results thus dispel the myth that some disciplines value only quantitative metrics. Furthermore, there has indeed been a significant shift in recent years within institutions in terms of thinking about development, quality, leadership and careers. This has led to new policies, new processes and new tools. Good examples of this are now becoming visible in more and more places. The Recognition & Rewards programme is therefore at a crucial juncture: the principles and tools are increasingly in place, but must become part of everyday behaviour, leadership and academic practices.

About Recognition & Rewards

Every researcher is unique, with their own academic qualities, and can excel in many ways. In 2019, the knowledge institutions and research funders (NWO, UNL, KNAW, UMCNL and ZonMw) therefore presented the **position paper 'Room for everyone's talent'** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/position-paper-room-for-everyones-talent> to achieve a better balance in the recognition and rewards of researchers. Since then, the institutions have been collaborating in the national Recognition & Rewards programme to work together towards a new balance in the recognition and appreciation of scientific work and talent. **Read more here** <https://www.nwo.nl/en/recognition-and-rewards> about NWO's role in this. **Consult the Recognition & Rewards Culture Barometer here:** <https://rview.nl/thoughts/6680>

5.7 million euros for research on data sharing for the energy transition (2 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [5.7 million euros for research on data sharing for the energy transition | NWO](#)



Four research projects are set to begin thanks to KIC funding from the call ‘Data sharing for the energy transition: sociotechnical challenges.’ This call invited research proposals that could offer solutions to challenges surrounding data use in the energy transition, such as privacy concerns and differences in data standards. Including co-funding, the projects will receive over eight million euros.

The energy transition can proceed more effectively and efficiently with new knowledge about data sharing. Existing systems and tools require high-quality data to be effective and reliable. This research programme aims to stimulate research into various sociotechnical data challenges. Collaboration with diverse partners is essential in this regard. The consortia therefore consist of researchers, municipalities, provinces, companies, and other organizations. Within these partnerships, the projects will focus on things such as facilitating data sharing for the heat transition and developing synthetic data that functions as real energy datasets.

One of the funded projects is led by WUR

Sharing the Warmth: Data Sharing for Urban Heat Transition Planning - dr. ir. T.A. Alskaf (Wageningen University & Research)

For more information about the awarded projects: [5.7 million euros for research on data sharing for the energy transition | NWO](#)

NWO-KIC: innovation programmes in the knowledge and innovation covenant

NWO develops innovation programmes that focus on societal challenges in the Netherlands. These programmes aim to have an impact on the economy, people and society. The focus is on cooperation between knowledge institutions, private parties and the government. The results thus contribute to the realisation of economic opportunities. It is therefore essential that companies invest in every research project.

Two research projects launched to develop safe plastics (2 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Two research projects launched to develop safe plastics | NWO](#)



A total of two million euros in funding has been awarded under the KIC mission call ‘Future plastics: development of safe plastics for a sustainable future’. One of the projects will contribute to the development of recyclable thermoset resins made from humins and the other project will research how new plastics degrade, their potential health effects, and how society accepts them.

Aim of the call

This call has been developed in collaboration with the Knowledge and Innovation Agenda for the Circular Economy 2024–2027 (KIA CE) and focuses on the transition from fossil-based plastics chains to sustainable plastics. This involves bio-based plastics that no longer result in harmful leakage streams. The aim is to solve both the technical and business challenges of new plastics. For this reason, the call encourages interdisciplinary collaboration. To ensure a good connection with practice, it is necessary to involve companies in the plastics chain.

In this context, 'plastics' is not limited to plastic, but also includes coatings, composites, paints and rubbers.

For more information about the awarded projects: [Two research projects launched to develop safe plastics | NWO](#)

Six new projects awarded within the Open Technology Programme (1 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Six new projects awarded within the Open Technology Programme | NWO](#)



Six new promising research projects have 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.

Once again, the research covers a wide range of topics: from CO₂ removal to CO₂-neutral power generation, and from new assessment methodologies for historic quay walls to a durable multi-pronged approach to sustain healthy chrysanthemum cultivation. The funded projects combine scientific excellence with tangible impact. Thanks to OTP funding, top scientists are given the opportunity to turn their ideas into solutions that contribute to addressing various societal challenges.

A sustainable and multi-pronged approach to healthy chrysanthemum cultivation

The chrysanthemum ranks among the most important ornamental crops worldwide, whereas Dutch breeders play a leading role globally. Within the sector, there is a strong drive to reduce the use of pesticides. As chrysanthemums are grown in soil, effective measures are required to control root-knot nematodes, a widespread plant-pathogen. Dr A. Goverse's project will investigate a durable, multi-pronged approach to sustain healthy chrysanthemum cultivation based on two plant-based and two soil-based control strategies.

New assessment methodology for historic quay walls

Historic quay walls in Dutch cities are vital, but aging. Current assessment methods often underestimate their strength, leading to costly and unnecessary repairs. Dr Esposito's CANALS project aims to change this by studying how these masonry walls really respond to real-world loads, like traffic and soil settlement. Using lab tests and computer models, researchers will develop a new assessment methodology. This will help municipalities make smarter, less invasive repairs, saving money and preserving heritage.

Two projects with WUR as lead-applicant are awarded

- 1. Single Protein Sequencing with Nanopores - dr. ing. H.B. Albada, Wageningen University & Research**
Co-applicant(s): Delft University of Technology - prof. dr. C. Dekker
- 2. FLORISH: development of a sustainable & integrated approach for the control of emerging root-knot nematode problems in Chrysanthemum - dr. ir. A. Goverse, Wageningen University & Research:**
Co-applicant(s): Wageningen University & Research - dr. ir. J. Helder

An overview of all granted projects can be found here: [Six new projects awarded within the Open Technology Programme | NWO](#)

Changes to the next round of the Open Competition Domain Science-M (1 June 2026)

Source: Website NWO News [Changes to the next round of the Open Competition Domain Science-M | NWO](#)



NWO is amending the submission criteria and increasing the number of proposals that can be taken into consideration in the next round of the Open Competition Domain Science-M (2026–2027), which is expected to open in August 2026. In doing so, NWO aims to limit the high volume of proposals within this grant instrument and keep the assessment process manageable for all parties involved.

Science Open Competition

Within the Open Competition Domain Science-M, researchers can submit research proposals addressing questions at the interface of earth sciences, astronomy, chemistry, computer science, life sciences, physics and mathematics. Open Competition Domain Science-M funding is intended for the conduct of curiosity-driven fundamental scientific research with impact, and provides researchers with the opportunity and freedom to initiate or strengthen excellent, challenging and innovative (monodisciplinary, multidisciplinary or interdisciplinary) lines of research.

Rising application pressure

For each annual round of the Open Competition Domain Science-M, NWO publishes a new Call for proposals. The Call for proposals opens in August and closes as soon as the maximum number of proposals has been taken into consideration, or no later than 31 July of the following year. NWO has observed an increasing pressure in terms of submitted proposals. Consequently, an increasing number of proposals are being received within a short period of time, and the maximum number of admissible proposals is being reached earlier and earlier.

In the previous round (2025–2026), this was anticipated by making more budget available during the course of the round and increasing the number of proposals taken into consideration. Nevertheless, the maximum number of proposals had already been reached by March. To limit the high volume of proposals and keep the assessment process manageable for all parties involved, NWO has decided to amend the submission conditions.

Changes

For the next round of the Open Competition Domain Science-M (2026–2027), the submission conditions will change for principal and co-applicants of ongoing Open Competition Domain Science-M projects and project leaders of ongoing projects within the Open Technology Programme (OTP), the SSH Open Competition (M and L), the ZonMw Open Competition or the NWO and ZonMw Talent Programme (Veni, Vidi and Vici). In the next round, they may only submit a proposal for the Open Competition Domain Science-M 2026–2027 from two years prior to the planned end date (ISAAC) of their project.

In order to give as many researchers as possible the opportunity to submit a proposal, NWO has also decided to increase the maximum number of proposals compared to the previous round (2025–2026). In total, 420 proposals can be taken into consideration in the next round, which will be assessed across five packages.

More information

For more information about the Open Competition Domain Science-M, please visit the [programme page](#) and the [grant page](#). NWO will announce further details about the next round this summer via the usual NWO channels.

Tenth National SDG Report (29 May 2026)

Source: Website NWO news [Tenth National SDG Report](#) | NWO

Tiende Nationale SDG Rapportage
Nederland op weg naar brede welvaart

20 mei 2026



Ten years after the introduction of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Netherlands is showing clear progress in the areas of sustainability and social development. At the same time, new figures and analyses make it clear that major challenges remain – particularly in the areas of climate, biodiversity, and the position of young people. This is evident from the tenth National SDG Report, to which NWO has served as lead partner on behalf of the knowledge sector in recent years.

The report <https://www.tweedekamer.nl/kamerstukken/detail?id=2026D23256&did=2026D23256> shows that cooperation between government, businesses, knowledge institutions, and civil society organisations is yielding concrete results. For instance, citizens, businesses, and governments jointly developed proposals through the National Citizens' Climate Assembly to reduce food waste and CO₂ emissions and in the healthcare sector, more than six hundred parties committed to the Green Deal Sustainable Healthcare 3.0. Nevertheless, the report also makes it clear that the Netherlands is lagging behind in key areas. The pressure on nature and biodiversity remains high and in terms of water quality, the Netherlands ranks among the lowest-scoring countries within the EU. Additionally, the Dutch economy remains heavily dependent on fossil fuels and biomass, while international production chains cause significant emissions and pollution beyond national borders. Young people, in particular, are experiencing the consequences of these structural problems, the researchers state.

Austerity measures and geopolitical tensions

“The SDG agenda is under pressure, but within the knowledge sector, work on sustainable change continues with great energy and resilience,” the authors write. Nevertheless, the sector demonstrates how the agenda can continue to be implemented in a variety of ways. Collaboration is essential in this regard; it helps to bring together fragmented initiatives and embed sustainability. The researchers emphasise that education, research and innovation must remain explicitly linked to the SDGs, particularly now that social and geopolitical tensions are on the rise.

Dutch knowledge sector

Representatives from primary, secondary and higher education and the science sector contributed to the report. As the knowledge sector's lead organisation, NWO has coordinated the process surrounding the report over the past few years. Last year, NWO did this together with the **Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)** <https://www.unsdsn.org/our-networks/netherlands/>. After this edition, they will take over the baton. NWO has enjoyed its role as penholder and has seen significant development; it has been valuable to share knowledge across sectors and to work together to share progress and challenges around the SDGs.

Regional funding

Internal Wageningen University and Research calls

Call for action: NEW Subsidy Available for Shared Research Equipment Investments (1 June 2026)

Source: [Website Shared Facilities External knowledge - Shared Research Facilities Investment subsidy for Advanced Research Equipment](#)

We would like to draw your attention to the new Shared Research Facilities (SRF) Investment Subsidy for Advanced Research Equipment. This initiative offers up to 50% co-funding for shared research equipment investments and is available until (the end of) 2029.

Given the current lead times for advanced equipment and rising costs, we strongly advise you to prioritize possible plans for purchasing new research equipment that may be needed in the coming years.

The subsidy supports joint investments by companies and research institutions, helping to make advanced research equipment more accessible and accelerating innovation through shared use.

More information on subsidy criteria and application details can be found on [this website](#) https://support.wur.nl/esc?id=kb_article&sys_kb_id=1a2e90802bc18f10163afd33fe91bfc5 or **contact the Shared Research Facilities team** sharedresearchfacilities@wur.nl

Latest developments within R&I Policies

European Policy

Dutch investors play major role in financing European deep tech (11 June 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 11 June 2026

Dutch investors are among the largest European co-investors in deep tech companies supported by the European Innovation Council. This is evident from the EIC Impact Report 2026. The EIC reports that Europe is becoming increasingly strong as a place where deep tech companies can expand. Since 2021, Dutch investors have accounted for 450 million euros in co-investments, placing them third in Europe in the report, behind France and Germany. The EIC concludes in the report that Europe is developing into a stronger location for scaling up deep tech companies.

EIC Press Release: [EIC Impact Report 2026: Europe strengthens its position as a global deep tech scaling hub - European Innovation Council](#)

EARTO-EPO Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (10 June 2026)

Source: EARTP Press Release [EARTO-Press-Release-on-EARTO-EPO-MoU.pdf](#)

The European Patent Office (EPO) and EARTO have agreed on a new framework for co-operation through the signature of a new Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), signed in Brussels on the margins of the EARTO Annual Conference.

This new MoU demonstrates the **EPO** <https://www.epo.org/en> and **EARTO's** [EARTO | European Association of Research and Technology Organisations](#) shared commitment to:

- Considering the value and importance of intellectual property rights (IPRs) in general, and patents in particular (industrial property), for the development of the economy and the promotion of innovation,
- Recognising the essential role played by knowledge and technology transfer and IP commercialisation in supporting innovation,
- Noting the importance of co-operation and the exchange of information related to outreach, awareness and educational programmes in the areas of patents and IPRs, knowledge and technology transfer, as well as IP commercialisation.

This MoU establishes a structured EPO–EARTO dialogue to strengthen cooperation between the two organisations. RTOs have a vital role to play in boosting Europe's competitiveness: this new collaboration aims at supporting them in unlocking their full potential using data, analysis, and training capabilities available at the EPO.

Speaking at the EARTO Annual Conference today, EPO Chief Patent Research and Policy Officer Gilles Requena highlighted how patent intelligence can help Europe's research and technology organisations turn scientific and technological strengths into market-ready innovation. He emphasised the important role of RTOs and technology transfer in bringing research results closer to industry and society and underlined how the EPO Observatory on Patents and Technology is working to make this role more visible. Through the Observatory, the EPO provides insights and tools that help researchers, policymakers, start-ups and innovation intermediaries better understand technology trends and the role of patents in innovation.

➤ **Learn more about the EPO Observatory on Patents and Technology here** [Observatory on Patents and Technology | epo.org](#).

- **See the latest work of the EPO on public research organisations here [Universities and public research organisations as key innovation actors | epo.org](#)**: the latest study from the European Patent Office (EPO) Observatory on Patents and Technology shows that patent applications from public research organisations almost doubled over the last two decades.

GFI analysis: State of the European alternative protein R&I ecosystem 2020-2025 (8 June 2026)

Source: Website GFI [State of the European alternative protein research ecosystem: funding and publications - GFI Europe](#)

GFI reached out to share with you our newest State of the European R&I Ecosystem Analysis.

In 2025, our **analysis reports** <https://gfieurope.org/resource/state-of-the-european-alternative-protein-research-ecosystem-funding-and-publications/> the funding landscape for alternative protein research and innovation in Europe, and looks at the outputs of the growing R&I community in the form of research publications and patenting activity.

The key findings are:

- Between 2020 and 2025, European funders invested **€1.3 billion in alternative protein research**, including €236 million in 2025.
- The **top three countries for overall investment in alternative protein research** (2020-2025) were Denmark at €176 million, the UK at €147 million and the Netherlands at €88 million.
- Between 2020 and 2025, European researchers contributed to **3,783 unique publications** on topics related to alternative proteins, with output growing at an average of **31% per year**.
- **Germany leads Europe**, with a contribution to 13.5% of publications, followed by the Netherlands (13.1%) and the UK (12.8%).
- Between 2015 and 2025, European alternative protein innovators published **7,452 patents**. Patent publications surged by 1,124% between 2015 and 2025, with an average year-on-year growth rate of 31%.
- **Switzerland led with 21.7% of all patent families**, followed by the Netherlands (15%) and Germany (14.8%).

We have also published deep dives into the R&I ecosystem of Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, the Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, the UK, and the EU, which show the impact that funding is having in those regions.

Commission calls on member states to reform and invest more in national R&D systems (4 June 2026)

Source: Website EC https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/document/download/3d82055c-c275-478d-a139-ef39d2dee571_en?filename=COM_2026_200_1_EN_ACT_part1_v5.pdf

The European Commission's 2026 European Semester spring package recommends EU member states to foster public and private R&D investment and improve business-academia cooperation as "shortfalls persist" in closing the innovation gap with global rivals.

The Commission advises Czechia, Spain, France and Poland "to deepen knowledge transfer, support innovation uptake, and provide an innovation-friendly environment for start-ups and scale-ups," while Denmark, one of Europe's innovation frontrunners, "is encouraged to further strengthen SME innovation, technology diffusion, and access to growth financing."

Recommendations also include incentivising women to enroll in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and information and communications technology fields.

More details here: https://reforms-investments.ec.europa.eu/document/download/3d82055c-c275-478d-a139-ef39d2dee571_en?filename=COM_2026_200_1_EN_ACT_part1_v5.pdf

LERU presents framework for universities regarding choices on defense research (4 June 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026

University umbrella organization LERU presents a conceptual framework intended to help universities determine when they will or will not participate in defense and security research. The organization states that existing rules fall short because the distinction between civilian and military research is becoming increasingly blurred.

According to LERU, geopolitical tensions and European initiatives regarding strategic autonomy and the European Defence Fund are increasing the pressure on universities to take a position. The umbrella organization wants universities to explain on a case-by-case basis why they do or do not participate in defense research. In 2024, the AWTI already advised knowledge institutions to develop such a framework and to reach clear agreements on the preconditions under which they can conduct defense-related research.

LERU Publication: [Defence Research in European Universities: A Conceptual Framework | LERU](#)

AWTI Advice: [Advies: Kennisoffensief voor defensie – Onderzoek en innovatie voor een veilig Nederland | Adviesraad voor wetenschap, technologie en innovatie \(in Dutch\)](#)

Western Balkan Innovation Power Unevenly Distributed (4 June 2026)

Source: [AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026](#)

Innovation power in the Western Balkans is unevenly distributed, according to a report by the American think tank ITIF. The think tank compares 48 regions in Albania, Serbia, Bosnia, and North Macedonia. Serbia scores particularly strongly, with 5 regions in the top 10. According to ITIF, rural regions in particular lag behind, partly due to low R&D investments, limited availability of venture capital, and weak connections between companies and knowledge institutions. The think tank therefore advises countries to supplement national innovation policies with targeted regional measures.

ITIF Report: [Balkan Subnational Innovation Competitiveness Index | Reports & Briefings | May 26, 2026 | ITIF](#)

European Commission presents package to strengthen technological sovereignty (4 June 2026)

Source: [AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026](#)

The European Commission has presented a package of measures to strengthen the EU's capacity in the fields of semiconductors, AI, cloud, and open source. The package consists of two major legislative proposals. The Chips Act 2.0 aims to strengthen the European ecosystem by enhancing cooperation between producers and consumers. The Cloud and AI Development Act aims to triple the capacity of European data centers over the next five to seven years and to stimulate the adoption of AI. Furthermore, the Commission is presenting a strategic roadmap for digitization and AI in the energy sector, and the Open Source Strategy aims to encourage the use of European alternatives to Big Tech.

European Commission Press Release: [Commission proposes tech sovereignty package to strengthen Europe's digital autonomy and resilience](#)

European Commission News Item: [Strengthening Europe's tech sovereignty - European Commission](#)

Council adopts first ever EU framework for science diplomacy (29 May 2026)

Source: [Website EC Council adopts first ever EU framework for science diplomacy - Research and innovation](#)

Today, the Council adopted a recommendation on a European Union framework for science diplomacy, following a proposal by the European Commission. The framework underlines our ambition to strengthen Europe's role as a global leader in science diplomacy. It enables the EU and its Member States to take a more strategic and coherent approach to science diplomacy.

The proposed EU framework provides guidance and coordination for Member States and relevant stakeholders through a set of strategic, operational and enabling actions, complemented by supporting actions at the European Union level. A central element of the new framework is the promotion of values which are under pressure in many parts of the world, starting with scientific and academic freedom. These values are not only part of a shared European identity, but they are also assets that help the EU attract and retain talent in an increasingly competitive global environment.

[Horizon Europe](#) plays a key role in this context, being the most powerful tool of global science diplomacy for the European Union. Leading research and innovation powers such as Canada, South Korea and Japan decided to join the programme, demonstrating their trust and aligned interests in supporting freedom, democracy and a rules-based international order.

Background

Responding to a call by Member States to develop a European Science Diplomacy Agenda, the European Commission had adopted on 27 February 2026 the proposal for a Council recommendation on a European Union framework for science diplomacy. Its main objective is to provide a shared vision, common narrative and pragmatic code of conduct in the field of science diplomacy, in particular in support of:

1. safeguarding and promoting the Union's democratic values, strategic interests and technological and data sovereignty
2. strengthening the Union's position as one of the leading global science and technology actors through open and secure international scientific cooperation
3. enhancing trust in science, fostering the uptake of foresight and scientific advice in decision-making processes, and promoting public engagement
4. maximising the impact of the Union's research and innovation potential for the pursuit of peace, protection of human rights, multilateralism and a rule-based international order
5. reinforcing the Union's commitment to managing global public goods and commons sustainably, fighting the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, and contributing to the achievement of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals

Another objective is to foster coherence and optimise resources, both at Union and Member State level.

For more information: [Council adopts first ever EU framework for science diplomacy - Research and innovation](#)

Continuous progress across European Research Area priorities, but structural challenges remain (1 June 2026)

Source: Website EC Continuous progress across European Research Area priorities, but structural challenges remain - Research and innovation

The EU, its Member States and countries associated to [Horizon Europe](#) have continued to make substantial progress from 2010 to 2023 in key research and innovation areas across the EU, according to the latest **European Research Area (ERA) Scoreboard 2025**.

This third edition integrates both the former ERA Scoreboard and Dashboard into a single, streamlined monitoring tool under the **ERA Monitoring Mechanism**. The report provides insights and data on the progress made at EU- and national levels in the four ERA priorities: deepening a truly functional internal market for knowledge; taking up the green and digital transition and increasing society's participation in ERA; enhancing access to research and innovation excellence across the EU; advancing concerted research and innovation investments and reforms.

Key insights: Advancements alongside persistent disparities

The findings highlight **substantial progress** in several ERA sub-priorities. Notable improvements are observed in areas such as **R&D investment, open science, gender equality, researchers' careers and mobility, and global engagement**. Positive developments are also evident in synergies with sectoral and industrial policies, as well as in citizen and societal engagement in research and innovation. At EU-level:

- the share of **publications available in open access** (in % of total) is at 66.5% in 2024, while it stood at 41.4% in 2010;
- the **number of researchers** per million inhabitants has steadily increased from 3.055 in 2010 to 4.913 in 2024;
- the **proportion of women of Grade A** among academic staff/researchers has increased to 29.2% in 2023, from 19.7% in 2010.

At the same time, **moderate progress** has been recorded in knowledge valorisation and in efforts to strengthen R&I systems in lower-performing countries and regions. For example, the **share of innovating firms collaborating with Higher Education Institutions** is staggering at around 13.6% since 2020, and the **number of participations of Widening countries in Horizon Europe** has only slightly been increased since 2015.

The report identifies **limited or stagnating progress** in several key areas, including **scientific leadership, challenge-based R&I actions, coordination of R&I investments, and synergies with education and skills policies**. In addition, disparities between countries remain significant, particularly in collaboration capacity and excellence-based integration. For example, at the EU-level the **percentage of scientific publications among the top-10% most cited publications worldwide** has dropped from 10.5% in 2010 to 9.4% in 2023, and the **environmentally related government R&D budget**, as a percentage of total government R&D, is frozen at around 2.5% since 2010.

Overall, the ERA Scoreboard 2025 confirms that the European Research Area continues to advance in fostering coordination and shared policy frameworks. However, **structural imbalances and insufficient convergence** risk undermining Europe's long-term competitiveness.

The findings emphasise the importance of **stronger and sustained investment, tighter policy alignment, and enhanced collaboration** across countries and sectors to fully realise the ERA's potential.

Next steps

The ERA Scoreboard 2025 will be complemented by further analytical outputs under the ERA Monitoring Mechanism, including country-specific assessments ('Country Snapshots').

The European Commission plans to adopt the proposal for an [ERA Act](#) in 2026, as announced in the [Competitiveness Compass for the EU](#).

Netherlands

The Netherlands performs well on R&D investments, open science, and scientific quality. In addition, its universities are among the best in Europe, and the Netherlands is an attractive destination for international researchers. However, the report shows that the growth in the total number of researchers is lagging behind and that the Netherlands scores lower on R&D budgets for societal challenges.

New scoreboard shows success of European startup policies (29 May 2026)

Source: [Website EC New scoreboard shows success of European startup policies](#)

Europe's startup and scaleup ecosystem has been growing steadily, according to the first-ever [European Startup and Scaleup Scoreboard \(ESSS\)](#) published today by the European Commission.

The scoreboard https://projects.research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/en/statistics/performance-indicators/european-startup-scaleup-scoreboard#/?compare_year=2024 reveals a clear trend: **pro-startup policies drive real results. Since 2020, the baseline year for the Scoreboard, 20 out of 27 EU Member States have improved their performance, proving that targeted support for founders fuels innovation, job creation, and economic growth.**

Where policy leads, founders follow

The Scoreboard highlights a direct link between innovation-friendly regulations, access to talent, and venture capital – and the success of startups and scaleups. Front-runner countries – Estonia, Sweden, Finland, the Netherlands and Denmark – perform well above the EU average (from 40 to 60 percentage points) in 36 measuring indicators, showing how bold policies translate into thriving ecosystems:

- Estonia leads in digital infrastructure and early-stage funding, with 615 venture capital-backed companies per million inhabitants – the highest in the EU.
- Sweden excels in talent and later-stage financing, producing 409 unicorns per million inhabitants – more than any other EU nation.
- Finland combines strong R&D investment with high patenting activity, proving that innovation and commercialisation go hand-in-hand.

Policy gaps hold back innovation

While the ESSS 2026 celebrates progress, it also reveals untapped potential in rising countries (Greece, Latvia, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Romania), which score 30 percentage points below the EU average in the same 36 measuring indicators. Three key challenges stand out:

- Weak venture capital access: Later-stage funding is scarce, forcing high-growth companies to look abroad for capital.
- Scaling bottlenecks: Fragmented regulations and slow administrative processes delay expansion, costing time and momentum
- Brain drain: Talent leaves for more dynamic ecosystems, draining local innovation.

From results to action

The Scoreboard's results and analysis will help shape a series of strategic actions aimed at further strengthening Europe's startup and scaleup ecosystems - particularly the upcoming European Innovation Act.

The Commission has put forward a number of initiatives to attract and retain talent and respond to the needs of innovative companies. This includes [EU Inc.](#), a proposal for a new single set of corporate rules for companies to operate across the EU; the [European Business Wallet](#) to simplify cross border business operations; and the [EU Visa Strategy](#), with measures to support the EU's global competitiveness, attract and retain talent, and make legitimate travel easier, faster and more predictable for tourists and business travellers.

Note PJ: The Netherlands ranks fourth in the European Commission's first European Startup and Scaleup Scoreboard, which compares the development of start-up and scale-up ecosystems in Europe. The Netherlands scores particularly strongly on talent and participation in European research projects. At the same time, the scoreboard shows that the Netherlands has declined in the area of innovation-friendly regulation compared to 2024.]

Background

The European Startup and Scaleup Scoreboard is one key deliverable of the [EU Startup and Scaleup Strategy](#), 'Choose Europe to Start and Scale', which was published exactly a year ago to make Europe the best place to launch and grow global technology-driven companies.

The Strategy sets out 26 concrete measures that are designed to accelerate the journey from innovation to commercial success and empower entrepreneurs across the EU. To track this progress, the new Scoreboard evaluates national ecosystems across six key pillars:

- Innovation-friendly regulation
- Better financing for startups and scaleups
- Fast market uptake and expansion
- Support for the best talent in Europe
- Access to infrastructure, network and services
- Impact

For more (background) information and all the data: [New scoreboard shows success of European startup policies](#)

New publication: Erasmus+ Building skills worldwide (29 May 2026)

Source: Website EC [Erasmus+ - Publications Office of the EU](#)

In a context marked by rapid technological change, climate-related risks, demographic pressures, and ongoing geopolitical uncertainty, skills development is increasingly recognised as an important contributor to economic participation, institutional resilience, and social stability. This publication examines the role of the Erasmus+ Programme (2021–2027) as one of the European Union's main instruments for supporting skills development and institutional co-operation in third countries not associated to the Erasmus+ Programme, with particular attention to Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Pacific, and the Middle East. Based on evidence from post-2020 implementation, the analysis suggests that Erasmus+ engagement in these regions extends beyond individual mobility opportunities. Through a combination of capacity-building actions, co-operation projects, and targeted mobility schemes, the programme contributes to gradual improvements in human capital development, institutional practices, and the alignment of education systems with labour-market and societal needs. Rather than producing uniform outcomes, Erasmus+ interventions tend to operate incrementally, reflecting diverse regional contexts and institutional starting points.

You can download the publication: [Erasmus+ - Publications Office of the EU](#)

EU biodiversity policy watch: consultations and evidence updates (29 May 2026)

Source: Website Biodiversa+ [EU biodiversity policy watch: consultations and evidence updates – Biodiversa +](#)

Several EU policy processes relevant to biodiversity are currently open for input, while others have recently reached an important evidence stage. Together, they touch on forests, oceans, fisheries, nature protection and the practical conditions needed to make environmental policy work.



Good biodiversity policy needs both ambition and strong evidence. Biodiversa+ encourages partners, funded projects and relevant experts to review the opportunities and resources below, and to contribute where their work can provide evidence or practical insights.

Open consultations and feedback opportunities

European Ocean Act

The European Commission has opened a public consultation on the future European Ocean Act. The consultation covers future EU ocean governance, maritime spatial planning, ocean observation and the coordination of marine-

related policies. It is particularly relevant for experts working on marine biodiversity, ocean monitoring, sea-basin governance, spatial planning, climate-biodiversity links, restoration and the sustainable use of marine space.

Open for feedback until: 16 July 2026

Consultation page: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/16238-European-Ocean-Act_en

Birds and Habitats Directives stress test

The European Commission is also carrying out a stress test of the Birds and Habitats Directives, including a public consultation on their implementation, proportionality, administrative burden and fitness for purpose. This is an important opportunity for the research and conservation community to contribute evidence on how the Directives work in practice, including implementation challenges, monitoring and reporting needs, policy coherence, funding, stakeholder participation, species protection and site management.

Open for feedback until: 4 August 2026

Consultation page: https://ec.europa.eu/info/law/better-regulation/have-your-say/initiatives/18072-Birds-and-Habitats-Directives-stress-test/public-consultation_en

Global policy

Experts warn: high risk of catastrophic consequences due to AI (11 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 11 June 2026*

A group of international AI experts warns that the risks of advanced AI models are unacceptably high, potentially resulting in one million deaths and 100 billion in financial losses. In the study by MIT FutureTech and the University of Queensland, 24 risks were identified, 18 of which carry a risk of more than 10 percent of catastrophic consequences. "With other technologies, such as nuclear energy, we would consider such a level of threat unacceptable," says Neil Thompson of MIT FutureTech. According to him, governments currently have insufficient regulatory instruments to address the risks and invest in their own cybersecurity. "Therefore, laws, treaties, and other joint actions may become necessary," he states.

News item MIT: [International AI experts warn of potentially catastrophic risks from AI | MIT Sloan](#)

Report MIT: [Prioritization of Risks from Artificial Intelligence](#)

Excitement and concerns surrounding new gene editing technique (11 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 11 June 2026*

A potentially groundbreaking technique that allows human embryos to be modified has been received with concern by researchers and ethicists. Nature reports on this. The technique, called base editing, allows the embryo's genome to be altered to, for example, prevent the development of diseases. However, skeptics fear that the technique will be further developed for other reasons, such as creating humans with superintelligence. According to experts, base editing is a further development of the CRISPR technique, but with a lower risk of damage.

Nature article: [Precise genome editing of human embryos triggers praise and alarm](#)

UK gives regions more say over innovation funding (4 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026*

The British government wants to give mayors more say over regional R&D investments. Following the next budget round, they will gain more control over the Local Innovation Partnerships Fund. With this, the government aims to align innovation policy more closely with regional economic opportunities and strengthen cooperation between governments, businesses, and universities. £500 million has been made available for 17 regions for the period from 2026 to 2031.

British Government Press Release: [Regional leaders to get more power over innovation funding to drive local jobs and growth - GOV.UK](#)

Science: Scientific renewal requires both young and experienced researchers (4 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026*

Older scientists excel at connecting known concepts but are less likely to drive disruptive innovation than young scientists, Science writes based on new research. Since countries with a relatively young research population, such as China and India, produce a larger share of disruptive breakthroughs as a result, the authors advocate for a revision of research policy. By focusing more strongly on intergenerational collaboration, scientific continuity and innovation can go hand in hand.

Science Research Report: [Aging and the narrowing of scientific innovation | Science](#)

Science Article: [ScienceAdviser: Can old scientists learn new tricks? | Science | AAAS](#)

National policy

FD: Cabinet invests an additional 360 million in deep tech fund (11 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 11 June 2026*

The Cabinet intends to invest 360 million euros in the Deep Tech Fund, reports the FD. According to the newspaper, Minister Herbert will announce the investment today at the Hello Tomorrow technology conference in Amsterdam. The fund is an initiative of the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Invest-NL. With the additional investment, the size of the fund would grow to 610 million euros.

FD Article: [Overheid steekt €360 mln extra in fonds voor deeptech \(in Dutch\)](#)

BNR Article: [Overheid investeert extra 360 miljoen in deeptech-fonds | BNR Nieuwsradio \(in Dutch\)](#)

Universities of Applied Sciences present strategic research agenda (11 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 11 June 2026*

The Association of Universities of Applied Sciences has presented the Strategic Research Agenda for the period 2026-2030. The universities of applied sciences argue that they are ready for a leap in scale in practice-oriented research, with more attention to societal challenges and European policy agendas, as well as priority themes of government ministries. "This requires a robust research organization and sufficient resources, with a long-term goal of an education-research ratio of 75-25 percent, where the strong connection between education-research and practice remains the core," the statement reads.

News item Association of Universities of Applied Sciences: [Vereniging Hogescholen | Onderzoeksagenda hogescholen zet in op innovatie, productiviteit en talent \(in Dutch\)](#)

HOP: number of female professors increasing, but advance stagnates (11 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 11 June 2026*

The proportion of female professors has increased significantly since 2000, but the advance appears to be stagnating. This is stated by HOP in an analysis, based on figures from UNL. Currently, on average, one in three professors is a woman, with the exception of technical universities. However, the growth in the number of female university (senior) lecturers seems to be leveling off. The stagnation could be related to budget cuts and a decline in the number of students.

Article HOP/U-Today: [Steeds meer vrouwelijke hoogleraren, maar de opmars lijkt te stikken - U-Today \(in Dutch\)](#)

ESB: The Netherlands is inventive, but not commercial enough (4 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026*

The Netherlands produces relatively few unicorns in proportion to the size of the economy and the amount of new knowledge developed at universities and other knowledge institutions. This is stated by Killian McCarthy in an analysis in the economics journal ESB. Unicorns are privately held companies with a valuation of at least one billion dollars. This type of company has the potential to grow into globally significant enterprises. McCarthy outlines three bottlenecks that are said to be hindering the Dutch innovation system.

ESB Publication: [Nederland is inventief maar te weinig commercieel - ESB \(in Dutch\)](#)

TNO investigates how governments can responsibly scale up AI (4 June 2026)

Source: *AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026*

There is no single, linear process for scaling up AI applications within government organizations. This is stated by TNO in the report *Responsible Scaling Up of AI by the Government*. The report explores which strategies,

choices, and points of attention play a role in scaling up AI applications. The report distinguishes seven possible scaling strategies. In addition, a number of steps are identified that play a role in virtually every process.

Article TNO Vector: [Hoe kan de overheid AI verantwoord opschalen? - TNO Vector](#)

Publication TNO: <https://publications.tno.nl/publication/34646031/FaGxFalt/TNO-2026-16460.pdf>

UNL renews strategy to remain a leader in open access (4 June 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026

UNL has renewed its open access strategy. In 2024, 95 percent of articles from the Netherlands were published open access, making the Netherlands one of the global leaders in this field. With the renewed strategy, the universities aim to respond to new challenges, for example in the areas of artificial intelligence and unwanted publication incentives.

UNL News Item: [Met vernieuwde strategie zet Nederland volgende stap als koploper in open access publiceren | Universiteiten van Nederland \(in Dutch\)](#)

OECD: The Netherlands can benefit relatively much from AI (4 June 2026)

Source: AWTI e-mail alert 4 June 2026

According to the OECD, the Netherlands is among the economies where AI can contribute relatively much, because knowledge-intensive services have a large share in the economy. The OECD states this in a report.

According to the organization, AI can increase the annual growth of real income per capita in OECD countries by 0.1 to 0.95 percentage points. Countries benefit most if they apply AI widely themselves. The report warns that countries that lag behind in the application of AI themselves will lose competitiveness in international markets.

OECD Report: [AI meets trade | OECD](#)

CEPR Blog: [Global trade linkages and the cross-country distribution of the gains from AI | CEPR](#)

Call deadlines

HORIZON Europe calls

Call identifier	Deadline
Pillar I Excellent Science	
ERC	
ERC-2026-AdG	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>)
ERC-2027-StG	Foreseen Deadline 14 October 2026 17.00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Starting Grant</i>)
ERC-2027-CoG	Foreseen Deadline 12 January 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Consolidator Grant</i>)
ERC-2027-AdG	Foreseen Deadline 26 August 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Advanced Grant</i>)
ERC-2027-PLUS	Foreseen Deadline 1 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Plus Grant</i>)
ERC-2027-SyG	Foreseen Deadline 11 May 2027 17.00 Brussels time (<i>ERC Synergy Grant</i>)
Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions	
HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01	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	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-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

	<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	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-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-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-2027-01-DISEASE single stage	Foreseen opening: 10 February 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time

HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-DISEASE two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination</u> - Ensuring equal access to innovative, sustainable, and high-quality healthcare	
Destination - Developing and using new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society	
HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-TOOL single stage	16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-03-TOOL single stage	Foreseen opening: 3 June 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-TOOL-01-two-stage	Foreseen opening 13 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage), 22 September 2027 (Second Stage) 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Cluster 2 Culture Creativity and Inclusive Society</u>	
<u>Cluster 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 two-stage	17 March 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) (CLOSED), 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: Developing an agile and secure single market and infrastructure for data-services and trustworthy artificial intelligence services</u>	
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DATA single stage	Foreseen opening 17 November 2026 and foreseen deadline 18 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-CL4-2027-DATA-04)
<u>Destination: Achieving open strategic autonomy in digital and emerging enabling technologies</u>	
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING single stage	Foreseen opening 17 November 2026 and foreseen deadline 18 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING)

<u>Destination:</u> Digital and industrial technologies driving human-centric innovation	
HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-HUMAN single stage	Foreseen opening 17 November 2026 and foreseen deadline 18 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-HUMAN)
<u>CLUSTER 5 - Cluster 5: Climate - Energy - Mobility</u>	
<u>Destination</u> - Climate sciences and responses for the transformation towards climate neutrality	
HORIZON-CL5-2026-08-Two-Stage-D1-06:	15 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (first stage) (CLOSED) 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	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) (CLOSED) 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
Destination: Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes	
<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	17 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-BIODIV two-stage	16 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) (CLOSED) and 23 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-01-BIODIV single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 22 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
<u>Destination 2: Fair, healthy and environmentally-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption</u>	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK two-stage	14 April 2026 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) (CLOSED) and 15 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK single stage	Foreseen opening: 20 April 2027 and foreseen Deadline(s): 23 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time
HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK two-stage	Foreseen opening: 4 February 2027; Deadline(s): 8 April 2027 17.00 Brussels time (First Stage) and 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (Second Stage)
<u>Destination 3: Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors</u>	
HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-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) (CLOSED) 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) (CLOSED) 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-CL6-2027-01-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-CL6-2027-02-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-CL6-2026-04-GOVERNANCE-01: Additional activities for the European Partnership of Agriculture of Data	Foreseen opening: 25 August 2026 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) (CLOSED) 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	24 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-01 Call - Teaming Synergies)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03: Hop-on Facility	24 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-03 Call - Hop on Facility)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05-WIDENING-01: ERA Fellowships	9 September 2026 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2026-05 Call - ERA Fellowships)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-01: ERA Chairs	Foreseen opening Opening: 6 April 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-01: ERA Chairs)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-02: ERA Research Managers	Foreseen opening Opening: 7 April 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 14 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-02-WIDENING-02: ERA Research Managers)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03-WIDENING-01: ERA TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European	Foreseen opening Opening: 7 April 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 8 September 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-03-WIDENING-01: ERA TMA Postdoctoral Fellowships - European)

HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01: Excellence Hubs	Foreseen opening Opening: 2 September 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 4 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-04-WIDENING-01: Excellence Hubs)
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-01: Pillar I: Facilitating development of institutional open access policies through the retention of intellectual property rights	Foreseen opening Opening: 8 December 2026 and foreseen deadline(s): 11 March 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-05-ERA-01: Pillar I: Facilitating development of institutional open access policies through the retention of intellectual property rights)
Destination: Reforming and enhancing the European research and innovation system	
HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01-WIDENING-01: EIC Pre-accelerator - Widening	Foreseen opening Opening: 5 May 2027 and foreseen deadline(s): 18 November 2027 17.00 Brussels time (HORIZON-WIDERA-2027-01-WIDENING-01: EIC Pre-accelerator - Widening)

Other related EC calls (European Partnerships, ERA-Net COFUNDS etc.)

Overview of deadlines of most important public-public and public-private EC calls related to Horizon Europe based on information per 11 June 2026 for more details; go to EC Funding and Tenders opportunity Portal <https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

Call identifier	Deadline
European Partnerships	
European Partnerships European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare https://www.eupahw.eu/	2 nd co-funded call for proposals of the European Partnership on Animal Health and Welfare (EUPAHW) "Shaping the Future of Animal Health and Welfare" NEW: The 2 nd call for research projects is open since 26 th January, 2026. Pre-Proposals must be submitted electronically via this EUPAHW submission tool. Submission deadline for pre-proposals: March 30 th , 2026 (CLOSED), 12:00 h (CEST) Deadline for full-proposals 16th September 2026, 12:00 CEST EUPAHW: Call 2 PP
European Partnership Biodiversa+ https://www.biodiversa.eu/	
European Partnership Water4All https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/	
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 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/	
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.facejpi.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/

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More Years, Better Lives - The Potential and Challenges of Demographic Change (JPI MYBL): http://www.jp-demographic.eu/ • Neurodegenerative Disease/Alzheimer's (JPND): http://www.neurodegenerationresearch.eu/ • Urban Europe - Global Urban Challenges, Joint European Solutions (Urban Europe): http://jpi-urbaneurope.eu/ • Water challenges for a changing world (Water-JPI): http://www.waterjpi.eu/ • Cultural Heritage a Challenge for Europe (Cultural Heritage): http://www.jpi-culturalheritage.eu/
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Other international calls

This list is a SELECTION of other international calls. The list was compiled on **11 June 2026**. Calls marked with **NEW** are newly included in the list

Deadline	Call
07-12-2025 until 31-07-2026	Foreseen deadline for submission proposals for Weave with NWO as partner agency 2025/2026; NWO acts as partner agency when a Weave-proposal with Dutch co-applicant is submitted to the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Fonds National de la Recherche (FNR) or the Research Foundation – Flanders (FWO). You can submit your proposal at any moment from 7 August 2025 up to and including 31 July 2026, 14:00:00 CEST, with the exception of ENW-M-1-Weave proposals with FWO as partner agency, which may be submitted from 1 December 2025 to 24 February 2026 14:00:00 CET. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/weave-with-nwo-as-partner-agency-2025/2026 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call%20for%20proposals%20OC%20ENW-M%20ronde%202025-26_EN%20%282%29.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
10-09-2026	Deadline for applications of OECD co-operative Research Programme for Funding for Research Fellow Grants 2027. The Co-operative Research Programme’s call for applications for funding research fellowship grants in 2027 is now OPEN. The deadline to apply is Thursday 10 September 2026, midnight, Paris time. https://www.oecd.org/en/about/programmes/co-operative-research-programme/crp-applications-for-fellowships.html
10-09-2026	Deadline of OECD Co-operative research Programme for funding international events (conference, workshop, symposium). The Co-operative Research Programme’s call for applications for funding international events (conference, workshop, symposium) in 2027 is now OPEN. The deadline to apply is Thursday 10 September 2026, midnight, Paris time. CRP Applications for Events (Conferences, Workshops and Symposiums) OECD
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
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National calls

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

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	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
08-07-2026	Deadline for submission letter of Intent for call Preparing for Tomorrow: Societies and Strategies in Times of Transition . The deadline for applicants to declare their Letter of Intent to Apply (LOI) is 8 July, 2026 23:59 CEST . Call open: Research on Future-Proof Strategies for Societies in Transition NWO and Preparing for Tomorrow: Societies and Strategies in Times of Transition NWO and Preparing-for-tomorrow-overview-of-the-call-application-form-and-instructions-and-assessment-procedure-30.03.2026-1.pdf
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
02-07-2026	NEW : Deadline submission Full applications Venture Challenge Fall 2026 . Closing date full application 2 July 2026 14:00 hrs Registration for the spring edition opens 5 May 2026 and closes on 2 July 2026 14:00:00 CET . Fall round Venture Challenge 2026 now open NWO and Venture Challenge Fall 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	Deadline for submission pre-registration Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions (TRI-POLAR) call Pre-registration: Thursday, 17 September 2026 at 14:00:00 CEST Call open: Triple planetary crisis in the polar regions (TRI-POLAR) NWO and Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions NWO and Call for Proposals - Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions
17-09-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission full proposals NWA Citizen Science 2026 call. Closing date full application 17 September 2026 14:00 hrs. Citizens and researchers now able to join forces through the NWA Citizen Science call NWO and NWA Citizen Science 2026 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	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	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
27-10-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission Full proposals call Holomicrobiome 2026 - Towards novel microbiome applications for the environment, food and health . Closing date full application 27 October 2026 14:00 hr, Deadline registration for matchmaking: 25 June 2026, 14:00:00 CEST. Matchmaking: 30 June 2026. https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/holomicrobiome-2026-towards-novel-microbiome-applications-for-the-environment-food-and-health and Call for Proposals - NGF Holomicrobiom
28-10-2026	Deadline for submission for Full applications for call Preparing for Tomorrow: Societies and Strategies in Times of Transition . The deadline for applicants to submit their full application is October 28, 2026, 23:59 CEST . Call open: Research on Future-Proof Strategies for Societies in Transition NWO and Preparing for Tomorrow: Societies and Strategies in Times of Transition

	NWO and Preparing-for-tomorrow-overview-of-the-call-application-form-and-instructions-and-assessment-procedure-30.03.2026-1.pdf
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
12-11-2026	NEW: Deadline submission full proposals Thematic Digital Competence Centers (TDCC) call . Applications can be submitted from 1 May 2026 until 12 November 2026, before 14:00:00 CET . https://www.nwo.nl/en/news/tdcc-2026-call-for-proposals-open and https://www.nwo.nl/en/calls/thematic-digital-competence-centres-2026 and https://www.nwo.nl/sites/nwo/files/media-files/Call-for-Proposals-TDCC-2026_UK.pdf and https://tdcc.nl/nwo-tdcc-call-for-proposals-2026/
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
Until 10-12-2026	Deadline for submission applications for Take-off phase 1 – Feasibility studies WO 2026 . Applications can be submitted continuously via ISAAC until December 10, 2026, at 14:00:00 CET at the latest . Changes to the 2026 call Take-off phase 1 NWO and Take-off phase 1 – Feasibility studies WO 2026 NWO and Call for Proposals - Take-off fase 1 - Haalbaarheidsstudies WO
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
09-09-2027	Deadline for submission Full application for Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions(TRI-POLAR) call The deadline for submitting full application Thursday 9 September 2027 at 14:00:00 CEST . Call open: Triple planetary crisis in the polar regions (TRI-POLAR) NWO and Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions NWO and Call for Proposals - Triple Planetary Crisis in the Polar Regions
18-09-2029	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	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
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Regional calls

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

Deadline	Call
2021-2027	EFRO 2021-2027 Eastern Netherlands: For for overview calls go to EFRO Oost https://www.efro-oost.eu/geplande-openstellingen
18-05-2026 until 20-09-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission proposals in EFRO East Test- and demonstration projects (prioriteit 1). Opening from 18 may 2026 until September 30, 2026, 5:00 PM (as long as budget is available) Test- en Demonstratieprojecten 2026
18-05-2026 until 20-09-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission proposals in EFRO East Innovation projects. Opening from 18 may 2026 until September 30, 2026, 5:00 PM (as long as budget is available) Innovatieprojecten 2026
18-05-2026 until 20-09-2026	NEW: Deadline for submission proposals in EFRO East Clean and resource-efficient technologies projects. Opening from 18 may 2026 until September 30, 2026, 5:00 PM (as long as budget is available) Schone en hulpbronnenefficiënte technologieën
2021-2027	EFRO 2021 – 2027 Western Netherlands: For calls Kansen voor West III https://kvw3.kansenvoorwest.nl/openstellingen/openstellingen-/
2021-2027	EFRO 2021-2027 Northern Netherlands: For calls Northern Netherlands go to Website SNN https://www.snn.nl/programmas/efro-2021-2027
2021-2027	EFRO 2021-2027 Southern Netherlands: For calls Southern Netherlands go to website Stimulus https://www.stimulus.nl/opzuid-2021-2027/openstellingen/

About the Wageningen Grant Office

Wageningen Grant Office

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

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

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

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

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