



EU Newsletter 2025 - II

Summer

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EU research and development news



Discover recent updates from Brussels in this part of the EU Newsletter.

EU policy updates

Interim evaluation of Horizon Europe

End of April 2025 the European Commission finished the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe, the EU's flagship research and innovation programme for 2021-2027. The programme was **positively assessed** with regard to impact, innovation, scientific excellence, simplification and the inclusion of “widening countries” (those with lower research and innovation performance). The evaluators estimate that **every euro of Horizon Europe expenditure will generate up to six euros of benefits for EU citizens by 2045.**

The Commission will use the interim evaluation's insights to enhance its policies and programmes. Upcoming Work Programmes will include measures to **simplify the application process and project implementation**. Targeted investments will further support **researchers and entrepreneurs**, ensuring that the EU continues to attract, nurture, and retain talent, and that collaboration brings stakeholders closer together, helping to translate knowledge and results into the market. In pursuit of these goals, the Commission will work to **expand the ERC and the EIC. MSCA and the Choose Europe Programme** will be supported too. You can download the whole evaluation report from the [EC website](#).

Ursula von der Leyen confirms self-standing FP10

In her [speech at the Annual EU Budget Conference 2025](#), EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen emphasized the importance of a European Competitiveness Fund with simpler rules and transparent procedures. Nevertheless, she made it clear that the “framework programme Horizon Europe will stay as a self-standing programme. It is an outstanding brand – the most renowned research programme worldwide. But it will be tightly connected to our Competitiveness Fund. We need a seamless flow from fundamental research to applied research to start-ups to scale-up”. Although much remains uncertain, such as the future of the

“clusters” in Pillar 2 or whether there will be a ring-fenced budget for the next framework programme, this is a meaningful step towards clarifying the structure of the Competitiveness Fund and acknowledging the central role of FP10.

EU strategy for AI in science approved



Image: Wonder AI

On 23 May 2025, the EU Council has approved a set of conclusions titled “Towards the EU strategy on AI in science”. The document calls for a comprehensive strategy to increase the **use of AI in science, taking an ethical, sustainable, inclusive and human-centric approach**. AI is widely used for data analysis, simulations, and large language models, driving new discoveries and enhancing research efficiency. The conclusions emphasize the importance of AI in supporting both basic and applied research, and highlight its critical role in addressing global challenges, meeting societal needs, improving competitiveness, and facilitating Europe’s digital transformation. A detailed press release is published on the [website of the EU Council](#).

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ERC news

ERC welcomes new budget for 'super grants'

The Scientific Council of the European Research Council (ERC) will provide a substantial additional budget for the development of a new funding instrument offering larger, longer-term grants. These grants will follow the same principles as other ERC grants, i.e. projects will be selected on the basis of scientific excellence only (more information on the [ERC website](#)). Operational details of the new funding instrument are being developed by the Scientific Council and will be announced in due course.

Increased ERC funding for top global researchers moving to Europe



Image: Wonder AI

Researchers based in the USA or elsewhere in the world who wish to relocate to Europe can apply for up to € 2 million on top of the usual grant amount. This change to the current [ERC Work Programme](#) (see p. 18) means that the additional funding available to non-EU researchers is twice as high as in previous years. Since May, applicants for the 2025 Advanced Grants call can benefit from

this new regulation if they move from a Third Country to Europe. Additional funding may be used by PIs for establishing their laboratories as well as for personnel costs. As before, applicants are requested to define and justify the need for additional funding. You can find more information [here](#).

Changes to the 2026 and 2027 Work Programmes

The 2026 Work Programme is expected to be published in July 2025. In addition to the above-mentioned changes, which have already been incorporated into the 2025 Work Programme, further novelties are planned for 2026 and 2027, as announced in a [press release on the ERC website](#):

- From 2026 on, Part B2 of the **Scientific Proposal** will now be limited to seven pages for Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant applications and ten pages for Synergy Grant applications. Part B1 should no longer include details on the feasibility of the scientific approach, but rather present a convincing overall research strategy.
- There will be **new resubmission restrictions for Synergy Grants** – e.g. applicants who obtained a score of 'B' in Step 1 of the 2025 Synergy Grant call may not be eligible to apply for the 2026 Synergy Grant call.
- From 2027 onwards, **eligibility windows** for Starting and Consolidator Grant applications shall be extended. Researchers will be able to apply for a Starting Grant immediately after successfully defending their PhD, and at any time within the following ten years. Consolidator Grant applicants will be eligible to apply between five and fifteen years after successfully defending their PhD.

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MSCA news

MSCA Choose Europe for Science pilot initiative

The MSCA Choose Europe for Science pilot action will support projects recruiting postdoctoral researchers with the aim of offering them longer-term employment beyond the project period. Projects should recruit at least 3 researchers for up to 5 years. The first 2 to 3 years are MSCA-funded. Institutions must then provide funding (internal or external funds) for 2 more years. A beneficiary may receive up to €3,5 million for this call. The deadline for submissions is 3 December 2025. Further information can be found on the [MSCA website of the European Commission](#).

REA study on the career impact of Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

On 16 May 2025, the Research Executive Agency (REA) published the [results of a recent survey of researchers](#), which focused mainly on the career paths taken by MSCA grantees. In general, **around 87% of fellows were employed or self-employed two years after the fellowship**, and

a majority (57%) considered that the fellowship had contributed to a large or very large extent to obtaining their current position. Overall, 86% rated the quality of their MSCA fellowship training as good or very good. Of those surveyed, 69% were still working in an EU country, 13% in the UK, 8% in an associated country, and 10% in a non-associated country. **The majority of employed participants (90%) still worked in research and innovation.**

Association of Third Countries to Horizon Europe

Egypt

Negotiations on Egypt's association to Horizon Europe have concluded successfully. The **agreement is expected to be signed by November 2025**. A transitional agreement already allows Egyptian entities to apply for funding under calls implementing budget from 2025 and onwards. Read the full article [here](#).

Using CONNECT by YERUN for international research collaboration

The University of Potsdam is part of the YERUN network of young European research universities. This network offers researchers various funding and networking opportunities.



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[CONNECT by YERUN](#) is a data-driven web application to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among researchers from YERUN member institutions. The platform will be presented in webinars over the coming months. The next webinar in the series "How to Navigate CONNECT by YERUN" will take place on 20 June 2025 (12:00 - 13:00 CET). To register, please go to this [website](#). If you have any questions or need further assistance, don't hesitate to contact our YERUN colleagues at contact@connect-by-yerun.eu. Within UP, Marita Böhning (marita.boehning@uni-potsdam.de) is the coordinator responsible for YERUN activities.

Calls for proposals

This section contains a selection of open and forthcoming calls from various EU funding programmes. The European Commission publishes the calls in the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal \(FTOP\)](#). Do not hesitate to contact us at euresearch@uni-potsdam.de if you need further information about these or other international calls for proposals.

Horizon Europe

European Research Council (ERC)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
ERC Proof of Concept Open	13/11/2024	18/09/2025
ERC Advanced Grant 2025 Open	22/05/2025	28/08/2025

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
MSCA COFUND 2025 Open	23/01/2025	24/06/2025
MSCA Staff Exchanges 2025 Open	27/03/2025	08/10/2025
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 Open	08/05/2025	10/09/2025
MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 Open	28/05/2025	25/11/2025
European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2026-2027 Forthcoming	17/06/2025	22/10/2025
MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2025 Forthcoming	01/10/2025	03/12/2025

Pillar II (Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
<u>Cluster 1: Health</u>		
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01 Open	22/05/2025	16/09/2025
HORIZON-HLTH-2025-03-two-stage Open	22/05/2025	16/09/2025 16/04/2026 (two-stage)

<u>Cluster 2: Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society</u>		
HORIZON-CL2-2025-01 Open	15/05/2025	16/09/2025
HORIZON-CL2-2025-02-TWO-STAGE Open	15/05/2025	16/09/2025 17/03/2026 (two-stage)
HORIZON-CL2-2025-03 Open	15/05/2025	16/09/2025
<u>Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society</u>		
HORIZON-CL3-2025-01 Forthcoming	12/06/2025	12/11/2025
<u>Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space</u>		
HORIZON-CL4-2025-01 Open	22/05/2025	23/09/2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-02 Open	22/05/2025	25/09/2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-03 Open	10/06/2025	02/10/2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-04 Open	10/06/2025	02/10/2025
HORIZON-CL4-2025-05-two-stage Open	22/05/2025	23/09/2025 14/04/2026 (two-stage)
<u>Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility</u>		
HORIZON-CL5-2025-01-Two-Stage Open	06/05/2025	02/09/2025 31/03/2026 (two-stage)
HORIZON-CL5-2025-02 Open	06/05/2025	02/09/2025
HORIZON-CL5-2025-03-Two-Stage Open	06/05/2025	04/09/2025 14/04/2026 (two-stage)
HORIZON-CL5-2025-04 Open	06/05/2025	04/09/2025
HORIZON-CL5-2025-05-Two-Stage Open	06/05/2025	04/09/2025 31/03/2026 (two-stage)
HORIZON-CL5-2025-06 Open	06/05/2025	24/09/2025
HORIZON-CL5-2026-01 Forthcoming	16/09/2025	20/01/2026
HORIZON-CL5-2026-02 Forthcoming	16/09/2025	17/02/2026
<u>Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment</u>		
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01 Open	06/05/2025	17/09/2025

HORIZON-CL6-2025-02 Open	06/05/2025	16/09/2025
HORIZON-CL6-2025-03 Open	06/05/2025	24/09/2025
HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-two-stage Open	06/05/2025	04/09/2025 17/02/2026 (two-stage)
HORIZON-CL6-2025-02-two-stage Open	06/05/2025	04/09/2025 18/02/2026 (two-stage)

Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (WIDERA)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01: European Excellence Initiative (EEI) Open	05/05/2025	20/11/2025
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-02: EIC pre-accelerator – Widening Forthcoming	12/06/2025	18/11/2025
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-03: Hop-on facility Open	06/05/2025	04/09/2025
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-04: Support for R&I policy making in the EU enlargement countries Open	06/05/2025	16/09/2025
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-05: Implementing co-funded action plans for connected regional innovation valleys in widening countries Open	14/05/2025	15/10/2025
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06: Enhancing the European R&I system Open	15/05/2025	18/09/2025

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European Innovation Council (EIC)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
EIC Transition Open Open	22/04/2025	17/09/2025
EIC Accelerator 2025 – Short application Open	29/10/2024	18/12/2025

Next Erasmus+ calls

The next round of Erasmus+ calls (Cooperation Partnerships, Capacity Building Projects, Erasmus Mundus Action, Jean Monnet Actions, etc.) is expected to be launched in autumn

2025. The calls will be published in the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal \(FTOP\)](#). The [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) provides the details of each action (aims, eligible organisations, budget, duration, etc.).

Funding of travel costs for the preparation of Erasmus+ projects through the NA DAAD

The National Agency of the German Academic Exchange Service (NA DAAD) provides funding to cover travel expenses related to the preparation of Erasmus+ cooperation projects. Detailed information about the application process is available on [the website of the NA DAAD](#).

European Partnerships and other EU co-funded programmes

Joint Call Title	Network	Opening Date	Deadline Pre-proposal	Deadline Full-proposal
Prima Calls 2025 Key focus areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Management • Farming Systems • Agri-food Value Chain Open	Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area (PRIMA)	07/04/2025	N/A	Section 1 (EU-funded): 15/07/2025 Section 2 (Participating States-funded): 08/07/2025

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EU Cohesion and Structural Policy - European Structural Funds for universities in the state of Brandenburg

We advise you to the funding opportunities in the state of Brandenburg and support you in project and cost planning as well as the completion of the necessary cooperation agreements.

For more internal information please follow the link:

<https://z-wiki.uni-potsdam.de/x/XQToBQ>

Information available in German. If you need information in English, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Contact:

Kerstin Schweigel

kerstin.schweigel@uni-potsdam.de

Phone: +49 (0)331 977-1529

EU publications

New documents

Horizon Europe Work Programmes

The European Commission has published the main Work Programmes 2025 for Horizon Europe, including the following funding lines:

- Research infrastructures
- the six thematic Clusters
- EU Missions
- European Innovation Ecosystems
- Widening participation and strengthening the ERA
- New European Bauhaus Facility
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

You can download the new Work Programmes for Horizon Europe [here](#). The publication of the Work Programmes is accompanied by a series of information days, which can be viewed [here](#).

In parallel, preparation of the 2026-2027 Work Programmes is ongoing. Draft versions have been published on the [KOWI website](#). The finalization of the documents is planned for the end of 2025.

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Digital Europe Programme: Work Programme 2025-2027

The Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL) focuses specifically on developing digital capacities and infrastructure in Europe. It covers areas such as high-performance computing (supercomputing), artificial intelligence, cybersecurity, and digital skills. Through a series of calls for proposals, DIGITAL provides funding for research and innovation projects in these areas. The [DIGITAL Work Programme 2025-2027](#), which was published at the end of March 2025, addresses contemporary challenges identified in the current European Commission's political priorities relating to tech sovereignty, democracy and security. Furthermore, it is linked to the implementation of the Chips Act and the Artificial Intelligence Act, as well as to the need to develop, integrate and adopt AI in Europe.

New version of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement

An updated version of the Annotated Model Grant Agreement has been published on the [EC website](#). This guide to interpreting the model grant agreements is crucial not only for effective project implementation, but is also a valuable resource for proposal writing.

New EU projects at the University of Potsdam

The University of Potsdam has so far obtained funding for 26 projects in Horizon Europe, a complete list of EU projects can be consulted on the [website of the UP](#).

A new **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship** will begin its project work at the UP on 1 July 2025:

EUBrand: "Patronage and European perspective in Brandenburg Prussia: the painter Etcher Johann Friedrich Wentzel (1670-1729)"

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship

Fellow: Dr. Vittore Pizzone / Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Matthias Asche

Institution: Faculty of Arts – Historical Institute

Duration: 1 September 2024 – 30 June 2027 (take up project work at UP on 1 July 2025)

Funding UP: EUR 173.847,36

UP's first ERC Synergy Grant will start on 1 August 2025:

IRASTO: "Molecular quantum dynamics in low temperature condensed phase astrochemistry"
ERC Synergy Grant

PI: Prof. Dr. Peter Saalfrank

Institution: Faculty of Science – Institute of Chemistry

Duration: 1 August 2024 – 31 July 2031

Funding UP: EUR 1.982.813,00

Total Funding (consortium of 4 partners): EUR 12.085.363,00

Upcoming events

Horizon Europe

Date/Time	Event	Place	Organisation
03/06/2025– 02/07/2025	Webinarreihe - Horizont Europa entschlüsselt: Expertise für Ihren Antrag in Cluster 6 und den EU Missionen → Link to the event page	Online	NKS Bio
11–12/06/2025	Horizon Europe info day - Cluster 3 → Link to the event page	Online	EU
23/06/2025 09:30–11:00	Sonderveranstaltung des European IP Helpdesk und der NKS Recht und Finanzen: Road to Impact → Link to the event page and registration	Online	EU/ NKS RuF
24/06/2025 09:30–12:30	Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks 2025 - Call info day → Link to the event page	Online	EU
24/06/2025 09:30–12:30	What does “Gender Dimension in Research” actually mean? - An overview across disciplines → Link to the event page	Online	NKS FiF
15/07/2025	Online-Informationsveranstaltung zum ERC Synergy Grant Call → Link to the event page	Online	NKS ERC
09–10/10/2025	Pilot-Workshop "EU-Förderung und den Transfer gemeinsam denken: wo lohnt sich die Zusammenarbeit?" → Link to the event page	TU Darmstadt	KOWI

Erasmus+

Date/Time	Event	Place	Organisation
24–25/09/2025	Erasmus+ Jahrestagung 2025 → Link to the event page	Mannheim	NA DAAD

About us

EU Research Funding

In Dezernat 1 you find guidance on EU Research Funding in the following ways:

Consultancy (pre award support)	Application (pre award support)	Management (post award support)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of the right funding for your research in Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ • Organization of workshops and information events • Support through local, regional, national and international networks • Other information (i.e. success rates) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative issues • Formal assessment of the proposal • Funding & Tenders Portal • Detailed feedback on the structure and formal issues of the proposal • Elaboration and checking of the budget 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and signature of the Grant Agreement • Elaboration and signature of the Consortium Agreement • Coordination and support to the administrative and financial management of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects

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Contact:

Felix Lang

EU research funding, international research cooperation

felix.lang@uni-potsdam.de

Phone: +49 (0)331 977-1080

Dr. Xavier Palomares-Cano

EU research funding (MSCA), Erasmus + (Key Actions 2 and 3 and Jean Monnet Actions)

xavier.palomares@uni-potsdam.de

Phone: +49 (0)331 977-113191

Dr. Adriana Wipperling-Klepke

EU research funding (ERC), EU project management, EU Competence Network

adriana.wipperling@uni-potsdam.de

Phone: +49 (0)331 977-1190