# EU Research Funding



# EU Newsletter 2025 - III

## Fall

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# EU research and development news



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

## EU policy updates

### European Commission proposal on FP10 published

On 16 July 2025, the **European Commission presented its [proposal for the new EU financial framework (2028–2034)](#), including the next EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation**, which will once again be named "Horizon Europe" and will be closely linked to the new European Competitiveness Fund. With a total budget of around €175 billion, Horizon Europe will receive a significant financial boost from 2028 onwards.

The new framework programme is expected to be based on four pillars:

➢ Pillar I – Excellent Science (approx. €44.1 billion): European Research Council (ERC); Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA); Joint Research Center (JRC).

➢ Pillar II – Competitiveness and Society (approx. €75.9 billion) for collaborative projects in the following thematic areas: Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation; Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy; Digital Leadership; Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space; Global Societal Challenges; EU Missions; New European Bauhaus Facility

➢ Pillar III – Innovation (approx. €38.8 billion): European Innovation Council (EIC); Innovation Ecosystems and the Knowledge Triangle

➢ Pillar IV – European Research Area (approx. €16.3 billion): ERA Policies; Research and Technology Infrastructures; Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

The proposal is subject to negotiations and approval by the European Parliament and the Member States in the European Council, with a final agreement expected in 2027.

### ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027



On 23 May 2025, the European Council endorsed the European Commission's proposal for the second European Research Area (ERA) Policy Agenda 2025–2027.

The ERA Policy Agenda is a comprehensive roadmap for enhancing Europe's research and innovation ecosystem. It addresses key challenges like knowledge mobility, sustainability, and international competitiveness, while ensuring measurable outcomes and the broad voluntary participation of Member States and stakeholders. Compared to the first ERA Policy Agenda (2022–2024), which comprised 20 actions, the updated agenda distinguishes between 11 long-term oriented ERA structural policies and 8 specific, goal-oriented ERA actions. These initiatives will be carried out by Member States on a voluntary basis.

## ERC news

### ERC Work Programme 2026 published

On 8 July 2025, the European Research Council (ERC) published its annual work programme for 2026. The programme defines the funding modalities, budget, call periods, and eligibility criteria for the upcoming calls. As previously announced, applicants will be required to divide their scientific proposals into two parts: a concise, five-page Part I outlining the scientific idea and objectives, and a more detailed Part II of up to seven pages (up to ten pages for Synergy Grants) focusing on implementation and methodology. Only if the proposal passes Step 1 of the evaluation procedure will Part II be assessed. The programme also confirms an increase in funding for researchers from outside the EU who wish to relocate their work to Europe. In addition, the eligibility rules for Starting and Consolidator Grants as well as the resubmission restrictions for Synergy Grants have been updated.

To support applicants, the EU Research Funding team at the University of Potsdam has prepared **a set of factsheets with concise overviews of all ERC funding schemes**. These can be found in the "Resources" section of the EU Research Funding pages on the UP website.

**Planning to apply for an ERC grant? Don't miss these videos!**

The European Research Council has published a series of videos to support applicants who plan to submit an ERC proposal. In the videos, ERC project officers explain step by step how to write Parts B1 and B2, understand the evaluation process, address the administrative requirements or prepare for the interview in Step 2. You can find the videos here.

## EIC news



**Draft EIC 2026 Work Programme available**

The draft EIC Work Programme for 2026 is now available and includes several new features.

One of these is the **"EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges"** pilot funding programme, which will support "high-risk, deep technological innovations with transformative potential" – particularly in areas with "extensive research but a lack of commercial exploitation." The application process will be in two stages, with the first call for proposals (solution development) under the EIC Work Programme 2026 funding projects for up to nine months with a maximum of EUR 300,000 for initial feasibility studies. Calls for proposals for the second stage are planned for the EIC Work Programme 2027. Projects selected in the first stage could then receive funding of up to €2.5 million for activities such as prototype development and testing in real-world environments with users.

The programme also introduces changes to the **EIC Accelerator** evaluation procedure, as well as higher project budgets for **EIC Pathfinder Open** projects (up to €4.5 million). Furthermore, from 2026 onwards, results from research infrastructure projects funded under the EU Framework Programme will also be eligible for **EIC Transition** calls.

Please note that the final version of the EIC Work Programme 2026 is expected to be published in early fall 2025. Until then, changes are still possible in all areas of the Work Programme.

**Annotated Proposal Template for EIC Transition 2025**

The National Contact Points from the European Access2EIC network have compiled their experiences with EIC Transition in a new annotated template, which can be downloaded here.

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## Association of Third Countries to Horizon Europe

### Republic of Korea

On 17 July 2025, the Republic of Korea and the European Union signed the **agreement on Korea's association with Horizon Europe. The association applies exclusively to Pillar II, "Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness"**, i.e., collaborative research in the thematic clusters. As announced in a press release of the European Commission, Korean organisations now have unrestricted access to Pillar II funding and can also coordinate projects.

# 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

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### European Research Council (ERC)

| Call | Opening Date | Deadline for proposals |
|---|---|---|
| ERC Starting Grants 2026<br>Open | 10/07/2025 | 14/10/2025 |
| ERC Synergy Grants 2026<br>Open | 10/07/2025 | 05/11/2025 |
| ERC Consolidator Grants 2026<br>Forthcoming | 25/09/2025 | 13/01/2026 |
| ERC Advanced Grants 2026<br>Forthcoming | 28/05/2026 | 27/08/2026 |
| ERC Proof of Concept 2026<br>Forthcoming | 13/11/2025 | 17/03/2026<br>17/09/2026 |

### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

| Call | Opening Date | Deadline for proposals |
|---|---|---|
| MSCA Staff Exchanges 2025<br>Open | 27/03/2025 | 08/10/2025 |
| European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2026-2027<br>Open | 17/06/2025 | 22/10/2025 |

| Call | Opening Date | Deadline for proposals |
|---|---|---|
| MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025<br>Open | 28/05/2025 | 25/11/2025 |
| MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2025<br>Forthcoming | 01/10/2025 | 03/12/2025 |

**Pillar II (Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness)**

| Call | Opening Date | Deadline for proposals |
|---|---|---|
| **Cluster 3: Civil Security for Society** | | |
| HORIZON-CL3-2025-01<br>Open | 12/06/2025 | 12/11/2025 |
| **Cluster 4: Digital, Industry and Space** | | |
| HORIZON-CL4-2025-03<br>Open | 10/06/2025 | 02/10/2025 |
| HORIZON-CL4-2025-04<br>Open | 10/06/2025 | 02/10/2025 |
| **Cluster 5: Climate, Energy and Mobility** | | |
| HORIZON-CL5-2026-01<br>Open | 16/09/2025 | 20/01/2026 |
| HORIZON-CL5-2026-02<br>Open | 16/09/2025 | 17/02/2026 |

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**BMFTR funding announcement on security research**

With its call "*Pathways to Innovation*," the BMFTR supports German applicants in preparing for EU projects under Cluster 3 – *Civil Security for Society*. Funding covers activities such as idea development, consortium building, and networking. Applications can be submitted at two successive deadlines: 24 October 2025 for proposals under the Cluster 3 Work Programme 2026; 13 May 2026 for proposals under the Cluster 3 Work Programme 2027. Further information (in German) is available [here](#).

**Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (WIDERA)**

| Call | Opening Date | Deadline for proposals |
|---|---|---|
| HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01: European Excellence Initiative (EEI)<br>Open | 05/05/2025 | 20/11/2025 |
| HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-02: EIC pre-accelerator<br>Open | 12/06/2025 | 18/11/2025 |

| Call | Opening Date | Deadline for proposals |
|---|---|---|
| HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-05: Implementing co-funded action plans for connected regional innovation valleys in widening countries<br>Open | 14/05/2025 | 15/10/2025 |

**European Innovation Council (EIC)**

| Call | Opening Date | Deadline for proposals |
|---|---|---|
| EIC Accelerator 2025 – Short application<br>Open | 29/10/2024 | 18/12/2025 |

**COST 2025 Call now open**

COST is a networking instrument funded by Horizon Europe, supporting international collaboration through workshops, training schools, publications, and short scientific visits. It does not fund research or personnel, focusing purely on networking activities. The call is bottom-up, open to all disciplines. **Deadline: 21 October 2025**. Further information can be found on the Cost website.

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# 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 |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| DUT Call 2025 Climate neutral and resilient cities Open | Driving Urban Transition Partnership (DUT) | 01/09/2025 | 17/11/2025 | 23/04/2026 |
| SBEP Third Joint Call 2025 Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy's Competitiveness Open | Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) | 15/09/2025 | 17/11/2025 | 17/06/2026 |
| QuantERA Call 2025 Two topics: <br> • Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR) <br> • Applied Quantum Science (AQS) Open | QuantERA network | 04/09/2025 | N/A | 05/12/2025 |

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## 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.

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# EU publications

## First report on the integration of social sciences and humanities in Horizon Europe

The European Commission has published a report on the status of the integration of social sciences and humanities (SSH) in Horizon Europe. SSH integration is defined in the Horizon Europe regulation as an overarching task of the framework programme. The report covers the first three years of the current framework programme, with a focus on the clusters in Pillar II that require the participation of SSH researchers – the so-called SSH-flagged topics.

The report states that 40% of the topics advertised in the clusters between 2021 and 2023 were SSH-flagged. Furthermore, at least one SSH partner – meaning an organisation responsible for the implementation of at least one SSH deliverable in the project – was involved in 88% of these projects.

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In addition to statistical analysis, the report contains best practice examples for SSH integration in projects and provides recommendations. It also briefly discusses SSH participation in other parts of the programme, such as the European Research Council.

## INSPIRING ERA presentations on EU copyright and data access for research in the age of AI

What impact do EU copyright and data access rules have on research and AI? What obstacles and solutions exist? In summer, INSPIRING ERA organized a Europe-wide exchange on this topic to explore how legally compliant data handling and open science can be achieved. Both topics are also currently anchored in the new ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027. The presentations are now available online.

## EU4Health Work Programme 2025

The EU4Health Work Programme 2025 was published by the European Commission on 23 July 2025. It sets out the European Commission's key priorities in the areas of health systems, digital transformation, and disease prevention. Although it is primarily aimed at public authorities and health actors, targeted opportunities are also available for research and innovation organisations to participate, e.g., in the areas of early cancer detection,

cardiovascular health, digital health infrastructure, and AI applications. With over €195 million in funding and strong links to Horizon Europe and the European Health Data Space, the program promotes collaboration, data-driven innovation, and evidence-based implementation. Dates for the publication of calls for proposals and application deadlines are yet to be announced, but a preliminary schedule is available, subject to change.

# EU projects at the University of Potsdam

The University of Potsdam has so far obtained funding for 29 projects in Horizon Europe, a complete list of EU projects can be consulted on the [website of the UP](#).

## New projects

**The University of Potsdam is partner in two new MSCA Doctoral Networks**:

**Natural Traces:** "Natural Traces in forensic investigations - how the analysis of non-human evidence can solve crime"
MSCA Doctoral Network
Project leader: Prof. Dr. Bertrand Fournier
Institution: Faculty of Science – Institute of Environmental Science and Geography
Duration: 1 March 2024 – 29 February 2028 (UP joined the project on 18 July 2025)
Funding UP: €260,539.20 / Total funding: €2,455,941.60

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**PRIMER:** "Enhancing Climate-Resilient Crops by Innovative Priming Strategies"
MSCA Doctoral Network
Project leader: Prof. Dr. Bernd Müller-Röber
Institution: Faculty of Science – Institute of Biochemistry and Biology
Duration: 1 October 2025 – 30 September 2029
Funding UP: €290,272.32 / Total funding: €3,599,188.92

## CAPITALISE project featured on EU Innovation Radar

The following **main innovations resulting from the Horizon 2020 project CAPITALISE, led by Prof. Dr. Zoran Nikoloski at the University of Potsdam**, have been published on the EU Innovation Radar website. The [University of Potsdam has been recognized as a 'key innovator'](#) in the development of these innovations:

- [Methods for mapping multiple traits](#)
- [Mechanistic models with genomic data](#)
- [Kinetic models for the Calvin Benson Cycle](#)

The Innovation Radar is a European Commission initiative to identify high potential innovations and innovators in EU-funded research and innovation projects. The goal is to allow every citizen, public official, professional and business person to discover the outputs of EU innovation funding and give them a chance to seek out innovators who could follow in the footsteps of companies such as Skype, TomTom or ARM Holdings, all of which received EU funding in their early days. The EU Innovation Radar platform is a first step to achieving such ambitions.

# Upcoming events

### Horizon Europe

| Date/Time | Event | Place | Organisation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 08/10/2025 10:00–11:30 | RP Aktiv Modul 2: Antragsteil B im Fokus (in German) → Link to the event page/registration | Online | DLR |
| 12-13/11/2025 | Online-Seminar für Einsteiger*innen: Grundlagen des Projektmanagements in Horizon Europe (in German) → Link to the event page/registration | Online | KOWI |
| 18-20/11/2025 | EU-Kompakt I (in German) → Link to the event page (Registration will open soon) | Bonn | KOWI |
| 04/12/2025 10:00–11:30 | RP Aktiv Modul 3: Der Antrag auf der Zielgeraden (in German) → Link to the event page/registration | Online | DLR |

### Erasmus+

| Date/Time | Event | Place | Organisation |
|---|---|---|---|
| 24–25/09/2025 | Erasmus+ Jahrestagung 2025 (in German) → 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) |
|---|---|---|
| • Identification of the right funding for your research in Horizon Europe and Erasmus+<br>• Organization of workshops and information events<br>• Support through local, regional, national and international networks<br>• Other information (i.e. success rates) | • Administrative issues<br>• Formal assessment of the proposal<br>• Funding & Tenders Portal<br>• Detailed feedback on the structure and formal issues of the proposal<br>• Elaboration and checking of the budget | • Preparation and signature of the Grant Agreement<br>• Elaboration and signature of the Consortium Agreement<br>• Coordination and support to the administrative and financial management of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects |

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