



EU Newsletter 2025 – IV

Winter

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EU research and development news



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

EU policy updates

Commission launches AI in Science Strategy

Across the globe, countries are competing to unlock and capitalise on the potential of Artificial Intelligence (AI). On 8 October 2025, the European Commission launched the [AI in Science Strategy](#). At its core is RAISE (Resource for AI Science in Europe), a virtual institute intended to coordinate AI resources for scientific development. Key actions include:

- Attracting AI talent, for example through [Networks of Excellence](#) and Doctoral Networks on AI (RAISE pilot using the MSCA Doctoral Networks model).
- Boosting computational power and ensuring access to AI Gigafactories.
- Increasing Horizon Europe's investment in AI.
- Identifying data gaps and building high-quality datasets.

In addition to the AI in Science Strategy, the Commission has introduced the [Apply AI Strategy](#), which aims to promote the adoption of AI across strategic and public sectors to harness its potential.

New EU Bioeconomy Strategy

On 27 November 2025, the European Commission presented a new bioeconomy strategy to scale up innovation and investment, establish new lead markets for bio-based materials and technologies, ensure sustainable biomass supply along value chains, and position the EU as a global player in the bioeconomy. Among other measures, funding for the bioeconomy shall be increased in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF 2028–2034) through the European Competitiveness Fund (ECF) and the policy window on health, biotechnology, agriculture, and bioeconomy in the Horizon Europe Framework Programme. Click here for more information on the [Strategic Framework for a Competitive and Sustainable EU Bioeconomy](#).

ERC news

New ERC funding instrument announced: ERC Plus Grants

For the 2026 Work Programme, the European Research Council (ERC) has announced a new funding instrument: the "super grants" **ERC Plus**. This new funding scheme will be introduced to support outstanding principal investigators with bold ideas and a vision for **transformative research that goes beyond the scope of existing ERC programmes**. This means that the ability to demonstrate a project's transformative potential will be considered to be just as important as the underlying scientific excellence.

The competition will be open to researchers of any nationality and career stage who apply with a host institution in an EU Member State or a Horizon Europe associated country. With **funding of €7 million** (lump sum) **for the duration of 4–7 years**, around 30 grants will be available. The opening of the call is planned for June 2026, with the application deadline set for the beginning of September 2026. Evaluation results are expected in early 2027.

The ERC is currently finalising the details of this new scheme, which are expected to be published by the end of 2025 in the form of an amendment to the 2026 Work Programme.

MSCA news

Discover the new MSCA Public Dashboard

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) have launched the [MSCA Public Dashboard](#). This interactive platform offers access to detailed data on MSCA-funded projects. It includes interactive maps, statistics and visualizations that present different aspects of the MSCA, offering an overview of funded projects and insight into the programme's evolution over time.

Preliminary MSCA Work Programme for 2026–2027 published

The European Commission has published the preliminary Work Programme for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions for the 2026 and 2027 calls. In addition to budgetary changes compared to the previous work programme, various content-related adjustments have also been made. For example, **new rules for secondments** now apply to Postdoctoral Fellowships, Doctoral Networks, and Cofund. Secondments are now possible for half of the total fellowship duration (for global fellowships, this applies to the outgoing phase). **Resubmission of Doctoral Networks and Postdoctoral Fellowships applications will require a threshold score of 80% in future**. Furthermore, the living and top-up allowances as well as the country correction coefficients will be aligned with current inflation.

You can find the draft [here](#). The final version of the Work Programme is expected later this year.

EIC news

New EIC Work Programme adopted



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The European Commission has adopted the [2026 EIC Work Programme](#), providing €1.4 billion to support breakthrough and deep-tech innovation. The updated programme introduces Advanced Innovation Challenges to speed up the commercialisation of high-risk research in strategic areas. Preparations also continue for the Scaleup Europe Fund, aimed at improving access to late-stage growth capital for deep-tech scale-ups.

The EIC Accelerator will see a simplified application process, with full proposals reduced to 20 pages and evaluations held every two months. A clearer assessment of technology readiness will further support faster and more efficient funding decisions.

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Association of Third Countries to Horizon Europe

On 22 October 2025, **Egypt** officially joined Horizon Europe, becoming the second African country, after Tunisia, to be associated with the Research and Innovation Framework Programme. The association enables Egyptian researchers and organizations to **participate in all areas of the programme under the same conditions as EU Member States**. You can read the press release [here](#).

Switzerland has also **officially joined Horizon Europe**, along with the Digital Europe and Euroatom funding programmes. The agreement between the EU and Switzerland was signed on 10 November 2025, **taking effect retroactively from 1 January 2025**. Furthermore, Switzerland's association to Erasmus+ is planned for 2027. You can find more detailed information [here](#).

The EU and **Japan** are committed to conclude negotiations on [Japan's association to Horizon Europe](#). This would allow organizations based in Japan to participate as beneficiaries and receive EU funding from the 2026–2027 Work Programme onwards. The association will be limited to Pillar II of Horizon Europe ("Global Challenges & European Industrial Competitiveness").

Furthermore, the European Commission and the **Australian Government** have started [exploratory talks on a possible association of Australia to Horizon Europe](#).

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 Consolidator Grants 2026 Open	25/09/2025	13/01/2026
ERC Advanced Grants 2026 Forthcoming	28/05/2026	27/08/2026
ERC Proof of Concept 2026 Forthcoming	13/11/2025 (publication delayed by three weeks)	17/03/2026 17/09/2026

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
MSCA Cofund 2026 Forthcoming	16/12/2025	08/04/2026
MSCA Staff Exchanges 2026 Forthcoming	16/12/2025	16/04/2026
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 Forthcoming	09/04/2026	09/09/2026
MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 Forthcoming	28/05/2026	24/11/2026

European Innovation Council (EIC)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
EIC Accelerator 2025 – Short Proposal Open	29/10/2024	18/12/2025
EIC Pathfinder Open 2026 Forthcoming	TBA	12/05/2026
EIC Pathfinder Challenge 2026 – 1: Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems Forthcoming	TBA	28/10/2026

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
EIC Pathfinder Challenge 2026 – 2: Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing Forthcoming	TBA	28/10/2026
EIC Pathfinder Challenge 2026 – 3: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems Forthcoming	TBA	28/10/2026
EIC Transition 2026 Forthcoming	TBA	16/09/2026
EIC Advanced Innovation Challenge 2026 – 1: Accelerating Physical AI Forthcoming	TBA	26/02/2026 18/06/2027
EIC Advanced Innovation Challenge 2026 – 2: Translating Disruptive New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) into Practice Forthcoming	TBA	26/02/2026 18/06/2027

Erasmus+: New Programme Guide and calls

On 12 November 2025, the Education, Audiovisual and Culture Executive Agency (EACEA) of the European Commission published the new [Erasmus+ Programme Guide](#) and the 2026 call for proposals. The call text can be consulted in the [Official Journal of the European Union](#). Below you find a list of the actions covered by the 2026 Erasmus+ call that are relevant for higher education institutions. The deadline for applications varies from one action to another.

Actions included in the ERASMUS+ 2026 call

Key Action 2	Deadline for proposals
Capacity building in the field of higher education	10/02/2026
Erasmus Mundus Joint Masters	12/02/2026
Erasmus Mundus Design Measures	12/02/2026
European Universities	04/03/2026
Cooperation partnerships in the field of education	05/03/2026
Cooperation partnerships in the field of sport	05/03/2026
Capacity building in the field of sport	05/03/2026
Alliances for Innovation	10/03/2026

Jean Monnet Actions	Call closes
Jean Monnet Actions and Networks	03/02/2026

The EACEA will open separate calls in the [Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal \(F&TP\)](#) for each action. Until the calls open, they will appear as “forthcoming call” in the F&TP. Applicants can already find application forms and relevant information in each of the forthcoming calls. Applications must be submitted electronically through the F&TP.

Cooperation Partnerships in the field of education are managed by the national agencies of the countries associated to the Erasmus+ programme. Applications must be submitted electronically through the [Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps website](#). Further information can be found on the websites of the [National Agency of the German Academic Exchange Service](#) (higher education) and of the [National Agency of the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst](#) (school education).

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](#).

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European Partnerships and other EU co-funded programmes

Joint Call Title	Network	Opening Date	Deadline Pre-proposal	Deadline Full-proposal
QuantERA Call 2025 Two topics: - Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR) - Applied Quantum Science (AQS) Open	QuantERA network	04/09/2025	N/A	05/12/2025
EUP OHAMR joint transnational call 2026 Treatments and adherence to treatment protocols Open	European Partnership on One Health Antimicrobial Resistance (EUP OHAMR)	18/11/2025	02/02/2026	17/06/2026

European Structural Funds for universities in the state of Brandenburg

We advise you to the funding opportunities in the Federal State of Brandenburg and support you in project and cost planning as well as the completion of the necessary cooperation agreements. Information on funding schemes is available [here](#) in German. If you need information in English, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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EU publications

Starter kit for EU-funded research and innovation projects

The European Commission has published a starter kit for EU-funded research and innovation projects, with a focus on disseminating and exploiting results. This five-page document provides EU projects with advice on how to meet the requirements relating to the use and sharing of their outcomes. You can find the starter kit [here](#).

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Upcoming events

Horizon Europe

Date/Time	Event	Place	Organisation
08/12/2025 10:30–12:00	NCP ERC online event for the ERC Proof of Concept 2026 → Link to the event page/registration	Online	NKS ERC
08/01/2026 10:00–11:30	MSCA COFUND: KoWi online info event → Link to the event page/registration	Online	KoWi
15/01/2026	Horizon Europe info days – Cluster 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility → Link to the event page/registration	Online	CINEA
20–21/01/2026	Horizon Europe info days – EU Missions → Link to the event page/registration	Online	DG Research & Innovation
22/01/2026	Horizon Europe info days – WIDERA Work Programme Widening Calls → Link to the event page/registration	Online	DG Research & Innovation

Date/Time	Event	Place	Organisation
22–23/01/2026	Horizon Europe info days – Cluster 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment → Link to the event page/registration	Hybrid	REA
26–30/01/2026	Horizon Europe Cluster 1 Health Brokerage Event → Link to the event page/registration	Online	Health-NCP-Net
03–04/02/2026	EU Kompakt II: Akteure und Kommunikationswege in Brüssel (in German) → Link to the event page/registration	Brussels	KoWi
10/02/2026	Horizon Europe info days – Cluster 1 Health → Link to the event page/registration	Online	DG Research & Innovation

Erasmus+

Date/Time	Event	Place	Organisation
11/12/2025 10:00–11:30	Online Q&A Session: Erasmus Mundus Action 2026 → Link to the event page	Online	EACEA

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+ • Organization of workshops and information events • Support through local, regional, national and international networks • Other information (e.g., success rates)	• 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	• Preparation and signature of the Grant Agreement • Elaboration and signature of the Consortium Agreement • Coordination and support for the administrative and financial management of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects

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We wish you a Merry Christmas, joyful holidays and a happy New Year!



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