

RECTORS' FORUM NEWSLETTER

10 February 2025

HORIZON CALLS	
Scaling Startups Programme call	
	Call website
Deadline:	28. 2. 2025
Description:	The Scaling Startups Programme aims to fund a support programme with customised tailored support based on expert mentoring responding to each startup's unique needs, concluding with a Demo Day for investor engagement. Over two months, selected startups will receive hands-on support, networking, and a niche exposure opportunity to investors with the programme closing in the form of a Demo Day. The Scaling Startup Programme call is addressed to consortiums composed by the most relevant European early-stage investors focused on mobility, smart cities, sustainability, and impact. Proposals must support EIT Urban Mobility's vision and mission and directly contribute to tackling EIT strategic objectives (SOs): • SO1 - Create liveable urban spaces • SO2 - Close the knowledge gap • SO3 - Deploy and scale green, safe, and inclusive mobility solutions for people and goods • SO4 - Accelerate market opportunities • SO5 - Promote effective policies and behavioural change
Budget:	MAX: 345.000 EUR
Amazon sustainability accelerator programme	
	Call website
Deadline:	7. 3. 2025
Description:	The Amazon Sustainability Accelerator is an equity-free programme supporting start-ups who are driving sustainable innovation. Two programmes are available: • The ClimateTech Pilot Challenge. The Amazon Pilot Challenge is looking for innovative European climate-tech start-ups that can pilot their technology with Amazon, as it works to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2040; enhancing waste management, circularity, efficiency in buildings. • Consumer Product Programme, supporting early-stage start-ups developing sustainable and innovative physical consumer products that have recently launched or are on the cusp of go-to-market.
Budget:	--
HE-NEO-02 - INCREASE NETWORKING OF MS ASSETS LUNAR IMPACT OBSERVATIONS	
	Call website
Deadline:	10. 3. 2025
Description:	The aim of this action is to keep the observation capabilities of European observing facilities capable of performing lunar impact monitoring observations. This will be done in terms of observation time. These are crucial observations to enable more in-depth research on both individual asteroids as well as the overall asteroid population in the solar system. Output from this process shall be provided in compliance with the information exchange standards for lunar impacts. Further to that, the researchers within this activity shall actively contribute to shaping and improving those standards. The addition of related data in a public portal shall recognise EU as the funding source for that information.
Budget:	--
Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge	
	Call website
Deadline:	12. 3. 2025
Description:	EIT Climate-KIC is running a Sustainable Cities Mobility Challenge for European cities to identify bold and impactful projects which seek to decarbonise transport, improve local air quality and accelerate the take-up of active, shared and collective mobility. The call aims to support the transition to cleaner, greener, and more inclusive transport, in line with the objectives of the European Green Deal, Urban Mobility Framework, New European Bauhaus and the EU Cities Mission. This year, we are particularly keen to support projects that create street space that enables healthy, active mobility and that also incorporate greening (e.g. planters, trees, parklets, shrubs, pocket gardens), as these can simultaneously deliver benefits for the climate, quality of life, biodiversity and sustainable transport.
Budget:	MAX: 90.000 EUR

InnoStars SPICE – Call for implementing partners	
	Call website
Deadline:	21. 3. 2025
Description:	EIT Health InnoStars launches the Strategic Partnership Initiatives for Competitive Edge (SPICE) programme, designed to support innovative healthcare solutions in RIS countries. EIT is seeking implementing partners to provide tailored services that will accelerate the development and commercialisation of selected SPICE subgrantees. Selected subgrantees and partners will work together to deliver impactful healthcare innovations that benefit European citizens.
Budget:	MAX: 250.000 EUR

EIT Food's Impact Funding Framework	
	Call website
Deadline:	13. 3. 2025
Description:	This supports proposals that aim to create lasting and sustainable change in the food system. Funding is focused on two separate areas: larger-scale collaborative programmes: to co-fund and co-resource alliances and collaborative programmes designed to: 1. Improve the impact of diet on obesity and non-communicable disease; 2. Reduce food-system-related environmental harms; 3. Deal with the threats posed by food integrity and complex supply chains. innovative single projects: for innovative solutions to some of the most urgent challenges in skills, innovation, business creation and public engagement. These projects should be fast-paced in terms of getting the solutions where they're needed most and address the following priority areas: 1. Protein Diversification: Bringing protein diversification to the mainstream; 2. Regenerative Agriculture: Enabling farmers to lead the transition to Net Zero; 3. Labelling, Packaging & Transparency: Empowering people in their food choices.
Budget:	MIN: 250.000 EUR; MAX: 1.000.000 EUR

Call for proposals to establish a Global MBA in Materials Management	
	Call website
Deadline:	24. 3. 2025
Description:	EIT RawMaterials has launched a call for proposals to establish a Global MBA in Materials Management. This call invites consortia from academia, research, and industry to collaborate on designing and delivering this unique program, contributing to global leadership and innovation within the raw materials value chain. The MBA program should be designed for professionals with at least four years of industry experience, especially those looking to transition into senior leadership roles. The program will emphasize hands-on, practical learning through an industry practicum component, which will allow participants to apply theoretical knowledge in real-world contexts, and have two pathways for study: a 12-month full-time program, or a 24-month part-time program, allowing working professionals to continue employment while pursuing their studies. The proposed MBA curriculum is built around six key pillars: 1. Responsible Practices and Stakeholder Management: Focusing on ESG criteria, the Critical Raw Materials Act, and Social License to Operate (SLO). 2. The Role of Raw Materials in the Global Economy: Understanding global sourcing, supply chains, and the macro/micro-economic impacts of raw materials. 3. Practical Application and Hands-on Experience: Partnering with leading companies for real-world challenges and networking opportunities. 4. Business Skills and Wealth Creation in Raw Materials: Covering topics such as entrepreneurship, financing, valuation, and sales. 5. Business Strategies for the Modern Technological Age: Embracing innovation, digital skills, circular supply chains, and sustainability. 6. Leadership Management and Organizational Success: Addressing C-level leadership, employee management, and risk assessment.
Budget:	MAX: 2.000.000 EUR

HORIZON-JU-IHI-2025-10 — Innovative Health Initiative JU Call 10	
	Call website
Deadline:	23. 4. 2025
Description:	IHI call 10 is a two-stage call with topics on digital labelling of medical technologies; the European Health Data Space; and PFAS in the healthcare sector. Topics • Topic 1: Digital label: one source of comprehensive information for medical technology products • Topic 2: Enabling and safeguarding innovation in secondary use of health data in the European Health Data Space (EHDS) • Topic 3: Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) exposure, emissions, and end of life management in the healthcare sector
Budget:	MAX: 33.900.000 EUR

HORIZON-JU-CLEANH2 — Research and Innovation Actions	
	Call website
Deadline:	23. 4. 2025
Description:	The Call addresses key priorities identified by the Strategic Research Agenda within different areas of research and innovation. The overall goal of the Clean Hydrogen JU is to support research and innovation (R&I) activities in the EU, in the field of clean hydrogen solutions and technologies, under EU's new funding programme for research and innovation, Horizon Europe and in synergy with other EU initiatives and programmes. 19 topics available • 7 topics – 40M€ funding - Renewable Hydrogen Production • 3 topics – 16M€ funding - Hydrogen Storage and Distribution • 3 topics – 17M€ funding - Transport • 1 topic – 5M€ funding - Heat and Power • 3 topics – 6.5M€ funding - Cross-cutting • 2 topics – 80M€ funding - Hydrogen Valleys
Budget:	--

HORIZON-JU-IHI-2025-09 — Innovative Health Initiative JU Call 9	
	Call website
Deadline:	28. 4. 2025
Description:	This call supports initiatives focused on cross-sectoral approaches, methods and tools to facilitate the creation of new products and services to prevent, intercept, diagnose, treat and manage diseases, and foster recovery more efficiently in various disease areas, focusing on unmet public health needs. The call contains five topics, each focusing on one of the five IHI JU Specific Objectives (SOs): • Topic 1 (SO1): contribute towards a better understanding of the determinants of health and priority disease areas; • Topic 2 (SO2): integrate fragmented health research and innovation efforts bringing together health industry sectors and other stakeholders, focussing on unmet public health needs, to enable the development of tools, data, platforms, technologies and processes for improved prediction, prevention, interception, diagnosis, treatment and management of diseases, meeting the needs of end-users; • Topic 3 (SO3): demonstrate the feasibility of people-centred, integrated healthcare solutions; • Topic 4 (SO4): exploit the full potential of digitalisation and data exchange in healthcare; • Topic 5 (SO5): enable the development of new and improved evaluation methodologies and models for a comprehensive assessment of the added value of innovative and integrated healthcare solutions. The scope of each of the topics is broad in order to harness new science and technologies that will foster the development of health innovations to prevent, intercept, diagnose, treat and manage diseases and enable recovery more efficiently, and that could ultimately be integrated/implemented into the healthcare ecosystem for the benefit of patients and society.
Budget:	MAX: 2.000.000 EUR

Patient innovation bootcamp	
	Call website
Deadline:	17. 6. 2025
Description:	This offers a combination of mentoring, and onsite and online training, to support the development and launch of innovative solutions created by people directly affected by health conditions.
Budget:	--

Call for EIT Water: Transforming Europe's Water, Marine, and Maritime Sectors and Ecosystems	
	Call website
Deadline:	17. 6. 2025
Description:	The European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) opens its call to build a new sustainable innovation partnership to strengthen Europe's water, marine and maritime sectors and ecosystems. EIT Water supports entrepreneurial education and skills development, innovation projects as well as the business creation and commercialisation of new technologies, products and services.
Budget:	--

HORIZON-SESAR-2025-DES-IR-02 — Digital European Sky Industrial Research 02	
	Call website
Deadline:	16. 9. 2025
Description:	This call is focused on significantly advancing the six development priorities defined in the ATM Master Plan for Industrial Research in relation to Phase D and reflect the need to focus on developing the next generation platforms. These six development priorities for industrial research are: • Transformation to trajectory-based operations; • Transition towards high performance of air-ground connectivity (multilink); • Future en-route and TMA ground platforms; • Future airport platform; • Autonomy and digital assistants for the flight deck; • U3 U-space advanced services, innovative air mobility (IAM) and vertiports.
Budget:	MIN: 500.000 EUR; MAX: 31.000.000 EUR

HORIZON-SESAR-2025-DES-ER-03 — Digital European Sky Exploratory Research	
	Call website
Deadline:	16. 9. 2025
Description:	The third SESAR 3 JU Exploratory research call (HORIZON-SESAR-2023-DES-ER-03) under the DES will focus on disruptive technologies and innovative concepts that are in the early stages of development. The primary aim is to explore new ideas, concepts, methods and technologies that will help define future development activities in ATM aligned with the long-term vision of the Digital European Sky. The ER3 call specifications are structured in two working areas (WA): 1) WA1 Fundamental research: comprises the exploratory research activities necessary to develop emerging concepts, technologies, and methods from TRL0 to the level of maturity required to feed the applied research (i.e., TRL1) conducted by the SESAR 3 JU. This WA includes three topics, one per development priority identified in the ATM Master Plan for fundamental research: • WA1-1 covering development priority FR-01 ATM impact on climate change; • WA1-2 covering development priority FR-02 Digital flight rules; • WA1-3 covering development priority FR-03 Investigate quantum sensing and computing applied to ATM. • A fourth topic covers any ATM/U-space fundamental research area not covered by the development priorities FR-1, FR-2 or FR-3. 2) WA2 Applied research: comprises the exploratory research activities aiming to bridge the results of fundamental research (i.e., TRL1) and the higher maturity ATM research performed as part of SESAR 3 JU industrial research activities (i.e., TRL2). This WA includes two topics, covering two of the development priorities identified in the ATM Master Plan for applied research: • WA2-1 covering development priority AR-01 Research to help shape the future regulatory framework for a Digital European Sky; • WA2-2 covering development priority AR-03 Integration of the next generation aircraft for zero/low emission aviation.
Budget:	MIN: 500.000 EUR; MAX: 2.000.000 EUR

OTHER CALLS

Cross-Re-Tour: Cross-Domain Open Innovation Programme for the tourism sector

	Call website
Deadline:	5. 2. 2025
Description:	The Cross-Re-Tour project encourages tourism SMEs and their partners to submit innovative projects that promote the green and digital transition in the tourism sector. This call for proposals aims to support the most promising projects that demonstrate sustainability and innovation, offering direct financial support and the chance to participate in the Cross-domain Open Innovation Programme taking place across eight countries. Projects must showcase innovation in operations, processes, products, or business models, with a clear sustainability impact, and align with at least one of the following business areas: 1. Water 2. Energy 3. Plastic 4. Transport 5. Food 6. Equipment and Furniture 7. Client Nudging 8. Staff Nudging
Budget:	MAX: 30.000 EUR

New European Bauhaus prizes

	Call website
Deadline:	14. 2. 2025
Description:	These recognise and celebrate beautiful, sustainable, and inclusive achievements with the aim of connecting the European Green Deal to living spaces and experiences. Prizes are available in the following categories: reconnecting with nature; regaining a sense of belonging; prioritising the places and people that need it the most; shaping a circular industrial ecosystem and supporting life cycle thinking. In each of the four categories, two parallel competition strands are established: • strand A - New European Bauhaus Champions, devoted to existing and completed projects with clear and positive results; • strand B - New European Bauhaus Rising Stars, dedicated to concepts submitted by young individuals aged 30 or less, with concepts at different stages of development being eligible.
Budget:	MAX: 30.000 EUR

STARHAUS Open call on open innovation and creativity — Business for community

	Call website
Deadline:	17. 2. 2025
Description:	This invites participants to work closely with STARHAUS partners experienced in commercialization and product development to brainstorm strategies that effectively present STARHAUS technologies and results to local communities of consumers. Participants will be tasked with defining viable business models that translate STARHAUS technology into market-ready solutions, preparing a comprehensive roadmap for commercialization and market adoption. This includes outlining how the technology could be implemented in the market, distributed, priced, and promoted using a marketing mix strategy. The business model should emphasize and effectively communicate the environmental and societal benefits of customized, locally manufactured products. It should also demonstrate how the technology can be adapted to diverse environmental and social contexts, highlighting its scalability and replicability. Activities to be funded within the 3rd Open Call include: 1. Business Model and Market Integration; 2. Engagement and Communication Tools; 3. Market and Community Analysis.
Budget:	MAX: 50.000 EUR

Open call for software integration

	Call website
Deadline:	18. 2. 2025
Description:	XR2Industry intends to create a European XR reference platform by developing the first European XR headset. The project's priorities are data privacy, empowerment, industrial relevance, human-centric, and openness. Applicants must address one of these specific challenges: • tracking environment — development of a tracking system for VR headset; • avatar customization — development of avatar customization solutions in VR;

	- industrial digital twins — development of the industrial digital twin; - eye tracking — development of an eye-tracking service for android-based standalone headsets.
Budget:	MAX: 275.000 EUR

RESIST Networking and Marketing activities Open Call

	Call website
Deadline:	19. 2. 2025
Description:	This call provides financial support to European SMEs, startups, and micro-businesses in the Mobility, Transport, and Automotive (MTA) sector to participate in international networking and marketing activities within the EU. With this support, the RESIST initiative aims to foster the creation of long-term business and innovation partnerships between SMEs, VSBs and start-ups and other European entities working in the MTA ecosystem or in related manufacturing industries, so we can strengthen European value chains and increase their resilience to future challenges.
Budget:	MAX: 500 EUR

Robotics workshop

	Call website
Deadline:	24. 2. 2025
Description:	This enables students to participate in two Robotics Workshops, to be held from 20 to 23 May, and from 22 to 25 July 2025, at the European Space Research and Technology Centre (ESTEC) in Noordwijk, The Netherlands.
Budget:	--

DeremCo - Second open call

	Call website
Deadline:	28. 2. 2025
Description:	The DeremCo 2st Open Call seeks to back projects that offer innovative solutions aligned with DeremCo's overarching goals and demonstrate a high Technology Readiness Level (TRL>7). In particular the project are expected to focus on one of the 3 main areas: - advancement of materials treatment (input); - process improvement (process); - the development of novel solutions for diverse applications (output).
Budget:	MAX: 180.000 EUR

Marine biodiversity (monitoring) data

	Call website
Deadline:	28. 2. 2025
Description:	The DTO-BioFlow project is launching its second open call, inviting international networks, citizen science initiatives, research institutes, universities, and NGOs to contribute marine biodiversity data to the European Digital Twin of the Ocean. This call enables marine biodiversity data holders who can contribute to the DTO-BioFlow project to establish ingestion pipelines to the EU DTO and increase the flow of relevant biodiversity data. This initiative is aligned with the EU's mission to restore oceans and waters by 2030, enhancing oceanographic knowledge and supporting evidence-based policy development.
Budget:	MAX: 60.000 EUR

ESPON Territorial Research Conference

	Call website
Deadline:	28. 2. 2025
Description:	ESPON EGTC is organising a territorial research conference, which will take place on Wednesday, 4 June 2025. For the afternoon we are looking for researchers, consultants and experts with new ideas, evidence and research avenues to support policymakers at all levels across Europe with territorial development and cohesion. Ideas that are innovative and have not yet been addressed within the ESPON 2030 Programme. Ideas that could be used to develop new research projects within the ESPON 2030 programme. Do you have an interesting idea on mega-trends and research challenges and gaps in territorial research, data or policy, or science communication and visualisation? Are you willing and available on 4 June 2024 to present and discuss it? Then submit your abstract and CV following the instructions on the call for abstracts webpage.
Budget:	--

Summer school scholarship	
	Call website
Deadline:	6. 3. 2025
Description:	The European Consortium for Ocean Research Drilling (ECORD) will sponsor Scholarships to allow outstanding young scientists to attend one of the three 2025 ECORD Summer Schools in Urbino (Italy), Bremen (Germany) or Leicester (UK). Each scholarship contributes to costs of registration, travel, subsistence and/or accommodation at the summer school.
Budget:	MAX: --

The Joint Research Centre launches a new call for higher education institutions to participate in the Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Programme (CDP).	
	Call website
Deadline:	18. 3. 2025
Description:	The Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Programme (CDP) is a JRC initiative to establish strategic collaborations with HEIs/universities. The programme facilitates dual PhD projects, where HEIs/universities partner up with the JRC to jointly design, host, and supervise doctoral research. The CDP provides a unique opportunity for HEIs/universities to tap into the JRC's robust research capacity and expertise while gaining a deeper understanding of research needs throughout the European policy cycle. The CDP promotes mutual enhancement of related skills and competences, combines existing knowledge and capacities, and enhances networking in key scientific areas.
Budget:	--

Gravity-related research summer school grants	
	Call website
Deadline:	31. 3. 2025
Description:	These enable university students to attend a gravity-related research summer school, to be held from 16 to 27 June 2025 at the ESA Academy's Training and Learning Facility located at ESEC-Galaxia in Transinne, Belgium.
Budget:	MAX: 350 EUR

CyberCertification Boost: Supporting the development of certification capacity in cybersecurity	
	Call website
Deadline:	31. 3. 2025
Description:	The main objective of this call is to support through projects the development of testing and certification capacities in the field of cyber security and to strengthen the capabilities of Czech and European entities to perform certifications according to the EUCC IA and the EUCC certification scheme. The call focuses on the following activities: • Building and accrediting Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs), i.e. CB certification bodies and ITSEF testing laboratories); • Building and accreditation of Certification Bodies (CBs): the objective is to support the establishment and accreditation of CBs that will be able to certify ICT products and services according to European cybersecurity standards - in line with the EUCC/EUCC IA. This will contribute to the development of the necessary certification infrastructure at national and European level. • Building and Accreditation of Testing Laboratories (ITSEF): The aim is to build and accredit testing laboratories that will provide independent testing of the security functions of ICT products in line with the IA EUCC/EUCC. These labs will become a key tool to support certification processes and increase trust in cyber products and services. The projects must clearly describe how they contribute to achieving the objectives of the Challenge and strengthening certification capabilities in the Czech Republic and in the EU (in the context of the IA EUCC/EUCC).
Budget:	MAX: 100.000 EUR

SMP-COSME-2024-WORTH — Boosting Competitiveness and Innovation Capacity of SMEs through creative partnerships and the use of new technologies - WORTH partnership project	
	Call website
Deadline:	3. 4. 2025
Description:	This is a call for proposals for EU action grants in the field of improving the competitiveness of enterprises, particularly SMEs, and supporting their access to markets under the Competitiveness of Enterprises and SMEs strand of the Single Market Programme (SMP COSME). There are two calls under this topic: • SMP-COSME-2024-WORTH-01 Fashion — project proposals must cover support to partnerships in the fashion sector, including textiles and clothing, footwear, leather goods, jewellery, and fashion accessories.

	SMP-COSME-2024-WORTH-02 Home decoration — project proposals must cover support to partnerships in the home decoration sector, including furniture, home accessories, interior design and architecture.
Budget:	MAX: 2.250.000 EUR

UCPM-2025-KAPP-PVPP – Knowledge for action in prevention and preparedness: Prevention and Preparedness

	Call website
Deadline:	29. 4. 2025
Description:	The general objective of the projects within the Prevention and Preparedness topic is to enhance collaboration and cooperation on these phases of the disaster risk management (DRM) cycle among Member States and between the UCPM and third countries. These projects should seek to strengthen efforts in preventing disasters while improving the overall preparedness of the UCPM, its stakeholders, and the wider population. Through initiatives that address both ongoing challenges and emerging systemic issues, these projects should aim to build resilience and foster a more coordinated response framework. Applicants are invited to select one or several of the following topic priorities: - Priority 1: Improving risk assessment, anticipation, and disaster risk management planning; - Priority 2: Increasing risk awareness and preparedness of the population; - Priority 3: Enhancing early warning; - Priority 4: Ensuring a robust civil protection system by strengthening institutional preparedness and individual capacity.
Budget:	MAX: 1.000.000 EUR

Vibeke Sørensen grants

	Call website
Deadline:	30. 4. 2025
Description:	The grant scheme aims at encouraging research on the history of European integration based on primary sources held at the Historical Archives of the European Union.
Budget:	MAX: 1.505 EUR

Integrated Digital Solutions for the Energy Sector

	Call website
Deadline:	2. 5. 2025
Description:	This call invites proposals for feasibility studies and demonstration projects for services that leverage space-based technologies to advance resilience and sustainability in the energy sector. With a focus on digital transformation, the call encourages innovative solutions that integrate digital tools such as IoT, AI, blockchain, AR/VR, and digital twins. These solutions aim to optimise electricity grid management, enable predictive maintenance, support energy storage, improve construction logistics, and streamline renewable energy management.
Budget:	--

UCPM-2025-KAPP-EX — Knowledge for action in prevention and preparedness: Full Scale Exercises

	Call website
Deadline:	15. 5. 2025
Description:	The general objective of this topic is to improve civil protection preparedness and response to all kinds of natural or human-induced disasters inside the Member States by providing a testing environment and a learning opportunity for all actors involved in civil protection assistance interventions through a full-scale field exercise at several levels. The scenario for the exercises should build on risk assessments. Examples can be, but not exclusively, extreme weather, wildfires, floods, earthquakes, tsunamis, industrial risk, critical infrastructure disruption, marine pollution, epidemic/health risk, CBRN and multi-sectorial emergencies.
Budget:	MIN: 500.000 EUR; MAX: 1.000.000 EUR

European Space Agency Post-graduate Research Grant Programme

	Call website
Deadline:	31. 7. 2025
Description:	The European Space Agency (ESA) Grant Programme aims to encourage original research on the history of the ESA and its predecessor organisations, ELDO AND ESRO. The ESA grant is meant to increase knowledge about the origins of the European Space Agency, the development of European space research, and the evolution of Europe's activities in space. In 2024, the funders are especially keen to support projects that examine how the ESA came into being, from historical and/or organizational points of view. The research should form the basis for an academic publication (thesis, dissertation, book or scholarly article) that provides an analysis of some dimension of the ESA, European space research and/or Europe in space. Research projects presented by postgraduate students or postdoctoral researchers should preferably relate directly to their master's or doctoral field of research.
Budget:	MAX/MIN: 5000 EUR

European People's Party Postgraduate Research Grant(s) Programme	
	Call website
Deadline:	31. 7. 2025
Description:	These aim to stimulate research on the history, role and impact of Christian Democracy by enabling researchers to access the primary sources held at the Historical Archives of the EU in Florence, at the EPP group's archives in Brussels or at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung in Bonn. The aim of the grant is to stimulate and support research in the field, leading to the publication of a scholarly article in an international peer-reviewed academic journal. This grant programme is designed to enable researchers to broaden their research by studying the primary sources held at the Historical Archives of the European Union in Florence, at the EPP Group's archives in Brussels and/or at the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) in Sankt Augustin - Bonn.
Budget:	MAX/MIN: 5000 EUR

TENDER CALLS

TENDER - Call for Experts: Destination Earth Strategic Advisory Board	
	Call website
Deadline:	14. 2. 2025
Description:	The European Commission has published a call for independent experts for the Strategic Advisory Board of Destination Earth. The Board will be composed of approximately 15 European high-level technical and scientific experts that will advise the Commission on strategic matters related to both the technological and scientific areas of development for the next two years, and draft appropriate studies and reports through dedicated sub-groups. These studies will support the development of Destination Earth in its strategic direction where supplementary actions and expertise are needed: 1. Quantifying and communication uncertainty in decision-making; 2. International partnerships; 3. Science needs; 4. Ethical AI; 5. Science and knowledge brokering.
Budget:	MIN: 6.750 EUR

TENDER - Study on EU instruments	
	Call website
Deadline:	24. 2. 2025
Description:	The overall aim of this study is to support the Commission in its evaluation under Article 91(1) of the Digital Services Act (DSA) and to promote a consistent, clear and effective interpretation and application of the DSA by identifying and analyzing its interaction with other relevant EU legislation. Specifically, the study will provide the Commission with a comprehensive overview of the existing and upcoming EU instruments, the personal and material scope of application of which overlaps or otherwise interacts with that of the DSA. The mapping of the selected legislation will be complemented by an analysis of how these different sets of rules interact with the DSA, with a particular focus on the areas and provisions which might be applied in ways that are not consistent with the DSA and its goals, and on proposals for simplification.
Budget:	MAX: 250.000 EUR

TENDER - Human Capital Development Expertise Services	
	Call website
Deadline:	24. 2. 2025
Description:	The objective of this procurement procedure is to provide expertise consultancy services in the field of Human Capital Development to support the ETF work and activities. The main types of services requested are: • Managing experts' contributions and consultancy services related to specific assignments. This includes management of the experts' database and identification and pre-selection of experts; • Complementary add-on services; • Setting up of a community of experts supporting the development and implementation of the ETF activities in the field of Human Capital Development.
Budget:	--

TENDER - Study to assess the feasibility of a central registry of Text and Data Mining opt-out expressed by rightsholders	
	Call website
Deadline:	26. 2. 2025
Description:	The tenderer will assess both the opportunity and feasibility of developing a work-based registry of content identifiers and associated metadata that would support – whether centrally or within a federated network– the effective expression of Text and Data Mining (TDM) opt-outs for copyright-protected works and other subject matter and facilitate their identification by AI developers. The study should explore how a registry could support the expression of the TDM opt-out on individual copyright protected works, on the basis of work-based identifiers and associated metadata supporting right reservation, as well as rights licensing when relevant.
Budget:	MAX: 300.000 EUR

TENDER - Data collection of results from wastewater-based epidemiology	
	Call website
Deadline:	28. 2. 2025
Description:	The purpose of this contract is to contribute to the EUDA data collection of results from analyses on samples from wastewater treatment plants in European cities with the objective to strengthen its monitoring capacities on drugs use and to anticipate and alert on emerging drug-related risks.
Budget:	MAX: 300.000 EUR

TENDER - Data collection of results from analyses on drug samples from drug checking services in Europe	
	Call website
Deadline:	28. 2. 2025
Description:	The purpose of this contract is to contribute to the EUDA data collection of results from analyses on drug samples from drug checking services in Europe with the objective to strengthen its monitoring capacities to anticipate and alert on emerging drug-related risks.
Budget:	MAX: 300.000 EUR

TENDER - Study on Alternative Fuels Vehicles (AFVs) fire safety on-board of ships	
	Call website
Deadline:	3. 3. 2025
Description:	The main nature of this work is experimental, complemented with physical-mathematical modelling of fire behaviours respect to the carriage of Alternative Fuels Vehicles (AFVs).
Budget:	MAX: 500.000 EUR

Development of a Digital Platform for Ocean Observation	
	Call website
Deadline:	3. 3. 2025
Description:	The contractor must build, maintain, update and operate a digital platform that allows upload of ocean observation campaign plans and their subsequent visualisation, processing and extraction. Variants (alternatives to the model solution described in the tender specifications) are not allowed. The Contracting authority will disregard any variants described in a tender. Work Programme for 2024 and 2025 - 3.4.1.03 Support activities (e.g. secretariat, online platforms, organisation of meetings) to the implementation of EU legislation and policies, including the identification and the promotion of blue investments, the exchange of best practices and development of guidance for the sustainable development of blue economy sectors such as aquaculture.
Budget:	MAX: 1.500.000 EUR

TENDER - Assistance for statistical analyses and related data management, using conventional and Artificial Intelligence methodology, and for training and ad hoc advice upon request	
	Call website
Deadline:	12. 3. 2025
Description:	The objective of the call is to provide a different range of services in the area of statistics, including: • Statistical analysis; • Design and delivery of Statistical training courses/trainings; • Design and offer of Statistical training courses/trainings, in English, through e-learning; • Provide user support services linked to the execution of statistical analyses and presentation of the results; • Applications of AI/ML techniques in data management and statistical analysis; • Design of epidemiological studies and analysis of the results of epidemiological studies, in human, animal or plant populations.
Budget:	--

EVENTS

Open and Secure: How to Valorize Your Research Results in an Uncertain Global Environment

Online, February 25, 2025

More information [here](#)

Stakeholder Consultation - Towards a Water Resilience Strategy for the EU

Brussels, March 6, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Implementation Day: Finding Opportunities and Submitting a Proposal in Horizon Europe

Online, March 13, 2025

More information [here](#)

EU Open Data Days 2025

Luxembourg/Online, March 19–20, 2025

More information [here](#)

Networking Meeting – Key Challenges to Upscaling Nature Restoration in the EU – Learning from LIFE Experience

Online, March 20–21, 2025

More information [here](#)

Global Health EDCTP3 Info Day 2025

Online, February 2, 2025

More information [here](#)

Framework Programme 10; Preparing for EU Research and Innovation Funding beyond 2027

Online, March 6, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Implementation Day: Finding opportunities and submitting a proposal in Horizon Europe

Online, March 13, 2025,

More information [here](#)

Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Agreement Preparation in Horizon Europe

Online, March 20, 2025

More information [here](#)

Lump Sum Funding in Horizon Europe: How does it work? How to write a proposal?

Online, March 27, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Management in Horizon Europe

Online, April 3, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Europe info days - Cluster 4

Online, May 13 – 14, 2025

More information [here](#)

ESA CM25 Industry Event

Noordwijk, April 3-4, 2025

More information [here](#)

NEWS

1. Tehmatic Networks

Thematic networks are multi-actor projects that collect existing knowledge and best practices on a given theme to make this available in easily understandable formats for end users such as farmers, foresters, advisors and others.

- More information [here](#)

2. The newly approved thematic networks are as follows:

- [FarmBioNet](#)
- [DIGI-Rangeland](#)
- [AQUAGRI-KNOW](#)
- [OH-FINE](#)
- [ThERBN](#)

3. European Defence Fund: Over €1 Billion to Drive Next-Generation Defence Technologies and Innovation

The European Commission has adopted the fifth annual Work Programme under the [European Defence Fund \(EDF\)](#), allocating €1.065 billion to collaborative defence research and development (R&D) projects. This significant investment aims to strengthen Europe's defence capabilities, promote technological innovation, and enhance industrial competitiveness across the EU.

4. EIC: new portfolio update reports

Programme Managers at the European Innovation Council (EIC PMs) have published two new portfolio update reports, on advancement and activities in their EIC Pathfinder portfolios: on artificial intelligence, alternative quantum information processing and engineered living materials.

The portfolio approach is so far unique to EIC projects in Horizon Europe. EIC PMs are assigned different thematic project portfolios, for which they organise collaboration and dedicated support. Portfolios are grouped under three broader areas: Green, Health and Digital & Space.

The projects in each portfolio originate from EIC Challenge calls and have at least one overlapping techno-scientific component. EIC Programme Managers pro-actively manage and support the common goals and support technological and innovation breakthroughs, for example by identifying market opportunities, dedicated training or market analysis mappings with relevance to all projects in a given portfolio.

- [EIC Pathfinder: new portfolio reports](#)
- [EIC Pathfinder portfolio strategic plans](#)

5. A compass for increased competitiveness of the EU

On 29 January, the European Commission presented the 'Competitiveness Compass' to strengthen competitiveness and thus prosperity in the EU. With reference to the Draghi report, this communication represents a strategic framework for the EU Commission's political and legislative initiatives in the coming years. In particular, the Commission intends to present a European Research Area Act (in 2026) to strengthen R&D investment, focus research support more on strategic priorities, reinforce alignment between the EU and Member States' funding priorities, and foster the circulation of knowledge and talent across Europe.

- [EC press release](#)
- [EC communication: A Competitiveness Compass for the EU](#)

6. RM Comp – framework to assess competences in research management

In July 2023, the European Commission launched a set of measurements to enhance careers in research. It comprises, among other aspects, a European Competence Framework for Researchers (ResearchComp) which aims at making the possible skillset a researcher might have more tangible and complements the EU's very broad definition of researchers. This matrix allows the assessment of one's own competences and skills, to scale them and to pursue an individual path of further skill acquisition.

- [EC press release](#)
- [RM Comp](#)
- [ResearchComp](#)

PUBLISHED PLANS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

European Commission published plans (calls for evidence) areas of European policy:

- [The European Oceans Pact](#)
- [Single market strategy 2025](#)

The European Commission has opened public consultations in the following areas:

- [European Food Safety Authority - evaluation of performance 2017-2024](#)
- [Public procurement directives - evaluation](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [Predicting bank distress in Europe: Using machine learning and a novel definition of distress](#)
- [Ageing and demand for safe assets in the euro area](#)
- [External vulnerability index \(EXVI\)](#)
- [Assessment of the cost of providing mobile telecom services in the EU/EEA countries](#)
- [Study of the European Union SMEs internationalisation strategy](#)
- [The CEMS Meteorological Data Collection Centre: Annual Report 2023](#)
- [Growth and competitiveness in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe: The role in innovation](#)
- [Survey on the access to finance of enterprises in the euro area](#)
- [Unlocking competitiveness for shared prosperity](#)
- [Study mapping structures with relevant mandates, tasks, and functions to HERA within Member States and globally](#)
- [Assessment of lump sum funding in Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe](#)
- [Civil society organisations' bulletin 2025](#)
- [Global risks to the EU](#)
- [KEN Brief - Facing our Paradoxes](#)