

RECTORS' FORUM NEWSLETTER, 17 March 2025

HORIZON CALLS	
INDUSAC open call for students and researchers	
	Call website
Deadline:	15. 04. 2025
Description:	The call is managed by EU project INDUSAC under Horizon Europe programme. The Horizon Europe project INDUSAC, aims to financially support short-term (four-to-eight (4-8)-week) research collaborations between academia (students and researchers) and industry (companies), in solving company Challenges. Financial support to third parties (FSTP) is given solely to student members of the co-creation team.
Budget:	--
OTHER CALLS	
COROB 2nd Open Call	
	Call website
Deadline:	21. 03. 2025
Description:	Based on the results of the first Open Call, COROB will launch this additional Open Call, aiming to distribute a total maximum amount of EUR 135,000 and to select up to 2 external solutions that will be tested, validated, and demonstrated through the COROB use cases. In this Open Call COROB will be focused on the following Funding Instrument: "Solutions to challenges" to fund up to 2 technology providers aimed to develop technical solutions covering up to 2 use-case challenges, to be further integrated and validated in the COROB project use cases.
Budget:	MAX: 135.000 EUR
dAIEDGE 2nd Open Call	
	Call website
Deadline:	21. 03. 2025
Description:	We are looking for entities developing solutions for AI at the Edge. The Collaborative Projects will finance up to 10 Proposals to address specific Industrial Challenges defined by the dAIEDGE Consortium, with the possibility of using resources from the dAIEDGE Virtual Lab or adding new resources to it or to re-use developments of the dAIEDGE project or dAIEDGE use-cases.
Budget:	MAX: 60.000 EUR
NGI Zero Commons Fund: Reclaim the public nature of the internet	
	Call website
Deadline:	01. 04. 2025
Description:	It is clear that the <i>commons</i> model works, and continues to gain ground. Free and open source software and hardware , open standards , open data & AI , open science , creative commons and open educational resources are democratising innovation and learning, and are together driving society and industry forward at an unprecedented pace. But it is also obvious that there are major gaps that need to be fixed still. The answer to market failure and dystopian runaway technology lies in collective action and public investment . This is where NGI Zero Commons Fund comes into play. The goal of this new fund is to help deliver, mature and scale new internet commons across the whole technology spectrum, from libre silicon to middleware, from P2P infrastructure to convenient end user applications. We have a holistic, full-stack approach , simply because there is no other way. If we want to reclaim the public nature of the internet and yield the full benefits from technology as a society, we need to have full coverage — period.
Budget:	MAX: 21.600.000 EUR

NGI TALER: Privacy-preserving digital payments	
	Call website
Deadline:	01. 04. 2025
Description:	NGI TALER is a pilot funded by the European Commission and the Swiss State with the very concrete objective to roll out a new, best-in-class electronic payment system that benefits everyone: people, merchants, banks, financial authorities, auditors and anti-corruption researchers. The project doesn't have to start from scratch either, but builds on the strong foundations of GNU Taler — the privacy-preserving digital payment system developed by the GNU community and Taler Systems SA with support from the NGI initiative. This offers privacy for those that make payments, while enforcing transparency on those that sell. By providing micro payments at very low overhead , GNU Taler permits internet business models to shift away from advertising revenue or subscription models, especially for online publishers. No-risk transactions can lower transaction fees and open online payments for the underbanked population and citizens marginalized from digitalisation.
Budget:	MIN: 676.000 EUR

NGI Mobifree: More ethical and human mobile software	
	Call website
Deadline:	01. 04. 2025
Description:	Mobifree is a pilot programme designed to push beyond the status quo of mobile software and create a virtuous cycle of innovation through <i>free and open source software</i> , <i>libre hardware</i> and <i>open standards</i> . It has brought together a number of the "movers and shakers" of the open mobile ecosystem, in order to deliver a comprehensive development effort and advance a number of important free and open-source technologies. Together we work towards better technologies to restore and maintain European sovereignty and to secure democratic ownership of the digital society. Our goal is to help mobile technology evolve to a healthier state, provide people with concrete new tools and more reliable infrastructure , in order to provide better security and allow users more agency and choice.
Budget:	MIN: 676.000 EUR

NGI Fediversity: Creating the hosting stack of the future	
	Call website
Deadline:	01. 04. 2025
Description:	Fediversity is a comprehensive effort to bring easy-to-use, hosted cloud services with service portability and personal freedom at their core to everyone. It wants to provide everyone with high-quality, secure IT systems for everyday use. Without tracking, without exploitation, in a way that runs everywhere and scales effortlessly. Fediversity is based on NixOS , a disruptive Linux distribution with a unique approach to package and configuration management. Built on top of the Nix package manager, NixOS is completely declarative, makes upgrading systems reliable, and has many other advantages. Because it is reproducible , it is ideally suited for complex deployment scenario's where consistent behaviour, stability and configurability matter.
Budget:	MIN: 450.000 EUR

Open Call for Tech Solutions	
	Call website
Deadline:	24. 04. 2025
Description:	AUTOASSESS invites Startups and SMEs to present their innovative technology solutions to the use-case challenges identified by the AUTOASSESS technical team together with the use-case owners.
Budget:	MIN: 100.000 EUR

ViroiDoc Open Call	
	Call website
Deadline:	25. 4. 2025
Description:	The Doctoral Network ViroiDoc offers exciting projects on viroids , the smallest plant pathogens, and viroid-like RNAs that have only recently been discovered outside the plant kingdom. The programme includes secondments to partner laboratories or companies involved in plant breeding and plant protection located in Argentina, the Czech Republic, Germany, Poland and Spain. Career development and international mobility of researchers is a key concept within the MSCA-DN framework. The ViroiDoc training program is international, multidisciplinary and cross-sectoral. The training program consists of individual research projects (IRP), training by local doctoral schools and specific ViroiDoc network-wide training in scientific, technical, digital, entrepreneurial and transferable skills. By exposure to an international environment and different industries you will build a valuable network of contacts, providing a solid foundation for future research collaborations and direct employment opportunities in both the academic and the non-academic sectors working in molecular biology, bioinformatics, or in product and service development in European agriculture and innovation development.
Budget:	--

EVENTS

Q&A Session: Call for proposals Networks of Towns (CERV-2025-CITIZENS-TOWN-NT)

Online, March 18, 2025

More information [here](#)

Living Labs: Driving change in Rural Areas

Online, March 18, 2025

More information [here](#)

Digital call brokerage event

Online, March 19, 2025

More information [here](#)

10th anniversary of the Policy Learning Platform!

Online, March 19, 2025

More information [here](#)

The information session on European Research Council Synergy grants - Estonian Research Council

Online, March 27, 2025

More information [here](#)

Chips JU Information Day Italy 2025

Rome, April 1, 2025

More information [here](#)

EIC Summit 2025 and pathfinder Challenges,

Brussels, April 2 – 4, 2025

More information [here](#) and [here](#)

European Defence Fund Info Days

Brussels/Online, April 02 – 03, 2025

More information [here](#)

Basics of ERC Synergy Grant Preparation

Online, April 3, 2025

More information [here](#)

ICTürkiye2025 International Brokerage Event

Istanbul, April 10, 2025

More information [here](#)

EU-Ukraine Business Summit 2025

Brussels, April 10 – 11, 2025

More information [here](#)

EU AI Office hosts in-person workshop towards defining best practices for systemic risk evaluations

Brussels, April 28, 2025

More information [here](#)

EU CAP Network brokerage event 'Partnering for innovation with impact in agriculture and rural areas'

Prague, April 29 – 30, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Europe Info Days – Cluster 5

Brussels/Online, May 6, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Europe info days - Cluster 1

Online, May 22, 2025

More information [here](#)

ESA Living Planet, Living Planet Symposium

Vienna, June 23 – 27, 2025

More information [here](#)

NEWS

1. The publication of the following calls for proposals under the EU4Health and HERA programs is in preparation: Advancing influenza and mpox vaccines, and antimicrobial susceptibility testing.

- More information [here](#)

2. The public online consultation of the European Commission related to the publication [The Road to the next Multiannual Financial Framework](#) is now open. The consultation is open and accessible to the general public at the link [EU funding for competitiveness](#) until May 6, 2025.

3. Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture, and Environment (Horizon Europe, Pillar II)

Science Business has released the draft work program for Cluster 6: *CL6 - initial draft WP 26-27_040325.pdf*. Based on this draft, it is expected that at least 25% of Horizon Europe's funding for 2026–2027 will be allocated to climate action, while 10% will go toward biodiversity research.

- More information: [here](#)

4. European Research for a Secure Society: Complementarity in the Work Programmes of Clusters 2 (Society) and 3 (Civil Security) in Horizon Europe

The National Contact Point (NCP) for Civil Security and the NCP for Society are organising a webinar that will explore the complementarities and differences between Clusters 2 and 3 in Horizon Europe on 02 March between 10:30 and 12:30. The online event will provide insights into the specific aspects of each programme, including a view on the upcoming calls in the 2025 work programme. Registration is open until March 18. The event will be held in German.

- [Registration](#)

5. Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions – Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Faculty of Economics and Administration, Masaryk University (ECON MUNI), is seeking outstanding researchers interested in applying for the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Postdoctoral Fellowship with ECON MUNI as the host institution.

- More information [here](#)

6. European Commission's Clean Industrial Deal includes research to advance green technologies and sustainable industrial practices

The European Commission's recently communicated Clean Industrial Deal is an initiative aimed at accelerating the EU's transition to a sustainable, low-carbon economy. The communication stresses the role of research and innovation as a key enabler for promoting the next generation of clean tech, clean energy and decarbonised manufacturing in the EU. By fostering innovation and supporting clean technologies, the deal seeks to enhance industrial competitiveness while achieving climate neutrality.

As part of the Clean Industrial Deal the Commission will launch a flagship Horizon Europe call of ca. EUR 600 million under the 2026-2027 work programme focused on advancing green technologies and sustainable industrial practices. The aim of the call will be to prepare groundwork for innovation pathways that address pressing environmental challenges while driving Europe's green transition. In addition, to support fusion as an innovative, decarbonised energy source for the future, a fusion strategy will be proposed, including the creation of Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to accelerate commercialisation.

- More information [here](#)

7. Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda of the future co-programmed European Partnership 'Innovative Advanced Materials for Europe (IAM4EU)' published

With the official launch of the [Innovative Advanced Materials Initiative \(IAM-I\)](#) at the end of January 2025, the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA) for the future co-programmed European partnership Innovative Advanced Materials for Europe (IAM4EU) has now been published. The mission of IAM4EU is to establish and maintain a cross-sectorial, multidisciplinary, collaborative Europe-wide Research and Innovation ecosystem that will accelerate the time-to-market (development and uptake) of safe and sustainable IAMs designed for a digital and circular economy.

The formal launch of the IAM4EU partnership between IAM-I and the European Commission is expected for March 2025.

8. ESFRI report on funding landscape of research infrastructures

ESFRI, the European Strategy Forum on Research Infrastructures, has published a new report on the funding landscape of European infrastructures. The report is based on a survey of 54 research infrastructures in 19 Member States.

The report found significant disparities between the funding mechanisms of distributed and of single-site infrastructures as well as a lack of detailed knowledge of funding sources and calculation of access costs. As a result, the report not only summarises the findings from the survey but also provides some actionable recommendations for both research infrastructures and Member States.

- [Report](#)

PUBLISHED PLANS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

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

- [Foreign Subsidies Guidelines](#)
- [Energy efficiency - review of energy labeling for professional refrigerators](#)

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

- [Connecting Europe Facility 2021-2027 - interim evaluation](#)
- [Mother Vehicle Block Exemption Regulation - evaluation](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [The Trump card: What could US abandonment of Europe look like?](#)
- [Framework for the integration and evaluation of inclusive gender analysis in research and innovation content](#)
- [Consumption footprint and domestic footprint monitoring outlook 2025: Projections towards 2030 in the frame of the zero pollution action plan](#)
- [The heterogeneous effects of household debit relief](#)
- [Measuring economic distress using the contingent claims approach](#)
- [The use of crisis State aid measures in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine](#)
- [Ex post evaluation of the implementation and effectiveness of EU antitrust remedies](#)
- [Summary compliance report: Recommendations ESRB/2022/9 & ESRB/2016/14 on closing data gap](#)
- [Warning on crypto assets](#)
- [EuroHyPerCon: Connectivity requirements and network design for HPC systems in Europe](#)
- [The 2024 aquaculture economic report \(STECF 24-14\)](#)
- [Study supporting the preparation of the report on the application and effectiveness of the SEA Directive](#)
- [Perceptual hashing on images encrypted with a homomorphic scheme](#)