

News of the Week - 13 | 2025

21 apy2025 - Research & Innovation Pre-Award Advisory Unit (DPFC)

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1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» [Workshop on Networking](#) | DPFC Webinar April 17th

A very interesting session took place last week on Networking with many exchanges of ideas and suggestions. The session documents are available at the Pre-Award webpage on the IST-ID website.

A follow-up workshop is foreseen to prepare for the 2026 calls in oct 2025.

» Due to May having many relevant partnership and information' events, the monthly network meeting will not take place, and the next one is planned for June 6th. More information soon.

2. POLICY NEWS

» **EU and Egypt successfully conclude negotiations on Horizon Europe** (source: EC DGRI)

Egypt will be the second African country fully associated to Horizon Europe after Tunisia.

The association will grant Egyptian entities access to all parts of the Horizon Europe programme, the ability to coordinate projects and support national research reforms and institutional capacity-building.

Read the [ARTICLE](#)

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

» [Call](#) for **DIGITAL SKILLS ACADEMIES: Quantum, Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Worlds**

[New digital skills academies to support the EU's technological sovereignty, competitiveness and preparedness](#)

Delivering on the objectives set out in the Competitiveness Compass, Union of Skills, and AI Continent Action Plan, the European Commission is setting up three new digital skills academies, targeting critical talent shortages across key digital areas. The new academies in Quantum Technologies, Artificial Intelligence and Virtual Worlds will foster a more coordinated approach to digital skills education and training in the EU.

Each academy will function as a cornerstone in its domain, identifying skill gaps, developing state-of-the-art education and training programmes, scaling up successful initiatives and creating strong ecosystems. Leveraging strategic partnerships with academia, training providers, industry, and public institutions, the academies will act as powerful catalysts for promoting digital careers, especially among women, and incentivising the return of European talent from abroad.

The new academies will be funded under the recently adopted [Digital Europe Work Programme 2025-2027](#)

(See Events section)

» **Open Call Opportunity for Innovators in Sustainable Materials & Nanotechnology | Deadline May 28th 2025**

- Check the details in the CROWDHELIX [announcement](#)
- Read more about the project [Exploit4InnoMat](#)
- Apply for this Cascade Funding [HERE](#)

» [Open Call 2025](#): **PRIMA Section 2 Multi Topics | April 8th - July 8th**

Thematic Areas:

- Enhancing Policy Development through Impact-Driven Water Footprint and Virtual Water Concepts in the Mediterranean Region
- Upscaling Agroecology Practices at the Farm Level in the Mediterranean
- Towards a Plant-Based Alternative Protein products Transition in the Mediterranean Region

Check the Call documents & Templates [HERE](#)

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

» Seeking international collaborators for new COST Action "iTHREAD"

In cooperation with the Consortium for iNKT Research and Therapy ([CiRT](#)) the [Charles University](#) would like to create a network to deepen the knowledge about invariant NKT cells (iNKTs). iTHREAD (iNKT Therapy, Research and Development) aims to establish a collaborative network to provide a solid ground for the transfer of iNKT research into clinical application.

More and how to contact [HERE](#)

» Cutting-edge Technologies to Discover Cryptic Pockets and Their Modulation

A global pharmaceutical company is seeking novel technologies that enable efficient and effective discovery of protein drug targets with cryptic pockets. Additionally, the team is also interested in ligand discovery strategies to target cryptic pockets.

Read more about this Industry Call for Opportunities [HERE](#)

» Seeking Coordinator HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-DRS-01

Read more about this announcement from [KTH Royal Institute of Technology](#) regarding the "open topic on citizen and regional and/or local authorities' engagement in enhanced disaster risk awareness, including education, and preparedness", and how to contact, [HERE](#)

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» Info Day - Call for Digital Skills Academies

 May 16th | 8:30

 Online

The Digital Skills and Jobs Platform is hosting an online Info Day dedicated to the DIGITAL Europe Programme - Call for Digital Skills Academies.

- [Agenda](#)
- [Register](#)

» i.Talks Técnico – NOS

 May 6th | 9:30

 [Room V1.04, Civil Engineering Building](#)

NOS, a member of Técnico Partner Network, has identified four key areas with strong potential for collaborative project development. More details about each topic can be found here [Temas i.talk NOS](#)

[Provisional Agenda](#)

Deadline for [registration](#) April 30, 2025

6. RESOURCES

» [Road Transport Research Conference 2025](#) | feb 11-13, Brussels

Going on its 8th edition, the RTR Conference is a unique entry point into the achievement of EU-funded projects in road transport.

- Read the #RTR2025 [Summary Report](#)
- Watch the Conference [Recordings](#)

» [PRIMA INFODAY 2025](#) | april 14th

Funding Programme contributing to sustainable use of natural resources, economic growth and stability in the Mediterranean.

- Check out the [Presentations](#)
- Watch the [Recording](#)

» **Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking Info Day 2025**

The event brought together close to 450 potential applicants eager to learn more about the CBE JU 2025 call for project proposals. Speakers gave details on:

- The submission & evaluation of proposals
- Call management rules & conditions
- How to write a good CBE JU proposal
 - Watch the event's [Recordings](#) and
 - Check the [Presentations](#) in the Agenda

» [Scientific Advice Mechanism | Outputs and impacts 2019-2024](#) #report

Overview of the Scientific Advice Mechanism’s work, highlighting how independent, evidence-based advice has helped shape EU policymaking over the past years. From improving cancer screening to exploring solar radiation modification, scientific opinions have informed decisions on some of the most pressing challenges.

This report highlights the impact of the SAM on European policies and decision-making at both the EU and national levels.

-  How has scientific advice shaped EU policies?
-  What are the key takeaways from the past five years?
-  What’s next for evidence-informed policymaking in Europe?

Read the full report and explore how science continues to shape the future of European policies.

» **Fourth EU Blue Parks Community Workshop (06 March 2025)** #report

The fourth EU Blue Parks Community workshop, held as part of the European Ocean Days in Brussels in March 2025, gathered marine conservation experts, researchers, policymakers, and other stakeholders to discuss and advance marine conservation efforts across Europe. The workshop focused on the transition to achieving 10% strict marine protection, emphasizing its ecological and socio-economic benefits, particularly for biodiversity, fisheries, and coastal communities.

Read the full [Report](#)

8. RM CAPACITY BUILDING

» The **Portuguese Data Stewards Network**, coordinated by the [Re.Data](#) Consortium, is conducting a survey on Data Stewards to characterise professionals supporting research data management in national research institutions.

The concept of a Data Steward takes different forms in different contexts, but always with the common goal of supporting research data management.

To better understand the different approaches in Portugal, we are collecting contributions from people whose roles involve supporting research data management.

We invite you to participate in this study by completing a short questionnaire, which takes approximately 10 minutes:

[Survey on Data Stewards in Portugal: Mapping of professionals supporting research data management](#)