
News of the Week - 14 | 2025

29 apr 2025 - Research & Innovation Pre-Award Advisory Unit (DPFC)

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1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» HORIZON EUROPE 2025 | Compilation of 2025 pre-publication WPs | Updated 2025 calls Calendar

We have updated the compilation of Horizon Europe 2025 calls in the [word](#) and excel document.

We have also updated the 2025 calls' [calendar](#).

Please disseminate this resources to your researchers so they can prepare for networking activities under the next busy month of events and matchmakings.

Furthermore, we also ask you to collect Expression of Interest on the calls so we can promote partner search and offer.

2. POLICY NEWS

» **Horizon work programmes for 2025 show clear shift to competitiveness** (source: [Science business](#))

Starting in 2025, Horizon Europe will sharpen its focus on EU competitiveness and **simplify its administrative procedures**, with more significant changes planned for 2026–2027. As for **2025**, key priorities include the **green and digital transitions**, driven by initiatives like the **Clean Industrial Deal**. A new "**STEP Seal**" will recognize high-scoring but unfunded projects, **encouraging alternative funding**. The New European Bauhaus has a dedicated work programme and there are plans for eight new public-private partnerships in areas like raw materials, solar energy, and innovative materials.

Simplification measures include **shorter, less prescriptive work programmes, more two-stage application processes, increased lump-sum funding, and reduced administrative burdens**. Some rules, like those for gender action plans, remain unchanged due to member state resistance. The **pilot of blind evaluations to reduce bias will also continue**.

Summary of the **Horizon Europe 2025 work programme**, highlighting **key priorities and budget changes** across clusters (source: [Science Business](#))

Key Priorities and Updates

Stronger EU-India collaboration: New or adapted calls on **marine plastic litter, renewable hydrogen from waste, and marine pollution** focus on international cooperation.

Focus on health, under-researched diseases, smart energy, and climate-related innovation: Calls span topics such as **mental health, autism, maritime pollution, and circular automotive industry transformation**.

New topics introduced:

Under-researched diseases

Humanitarian demining, robotics for disaster response

Smart energy systems and carbon capture

EU-wide circular economy measures in mobility

Cluster	Budget (2025)	Change from Previous Drafts	Key Priorities / Topics
1. Health	€843.79M	↑ from €803.19M	Mental/brain disorders, micro- & nanoplastics health impact, under-researched diseases (e.g., autism, back pain)
2. Culture, Creativity & Inclusive Society	€362.80M	No change	Autocratic movements, AI in creative sectors
3. Civil Security for Society	€247.83M	↑ from €244.08M	Humanitarian demining, robotics in high-risk disaster response; cybersecurity funding not included
4. Digital, Industry & Space	€1.57B	↓ from €1.62B	Maritime litter detection (moved from Cluster 5), less funding for robotics, raw materials, standardisation
5. Climate, Energy & Mobility	€1.23B	New official figure	Smart energy systems, carbon capture, circular transformation of automotive industry, renewable hydrogen (joint call with India)
6. Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources & Environment	€967.70M	↓ from Oct 2024 draft	Marine pollution call now limited to India collaboration
Widening Participation & ERA	€214.50M	↑ from €194.00M	European Excellence Initiative (+€20M); strengthening research visibility

» **Universities of science and technology advancing the Clean Industrial Deal** (source: CESEAR)

Building on CESEAR's 2023 [declaration on sustainability](#) and key [positions on deep tech](#), [disruptive innovation](#), and [competitiveness](#), CESEAR provides in this paper recommendations to ensure that universities of science and technology can fully contribute across all dimensions to advancing the Clean Industrial Deal (CID). It focuses on strengthening scientific and technological leadership, developing talent, and driving sustainable industrial innovation.

Key recommendations are detailed around six points:

1. Support the Clean Industrial Deal through leadership in science and technology
2. Invest in people, talent, and skills for a sustainable industrial future
3. Support green innovation startups, spinouts and scale-outs
4. Strengthen circularity as a core principle
5. Integrate “Do No Significant Harm” (DNSH) principles
6. Strengthen global collaboration

“The Clean Industrial Deal arrives at a pivotal time for Europe’s industrial and technological future. But its success will depend on how it is implemented. Universities of science and technology must be systematically involved in shaping and delivering this agenda — as providers of talent and innovation, and as strategic partners in ensuring Europe remains competitive, sustainable, and resilient in the long term.”

Read the full position paper (5 pages) [here](#).

» **European Defense Industry Program’s** adoption by the European Parliament (source: Christian Ehler, MEP & EPP ITRE Coordinator)

European Defense Industry Program’s adoption by the European Parliament shows once again that Europe takes its defense seriously. For decades, Europe has paid itself the “peace dividend” and completely neglected its defense industrial base.

EDIP is an important first step towards rapidly strengthening Europe’s **defense** capability. In the opinion of Christian Ehler, in the new Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034), further funds

must be made available to ensure that the European defense industry is also structurally secure and to create the planning security necessary for investments.

» **EU budget set for defence-related boost under new regulation** (source: [European Commission](#))

New targeted amendments to existing EU funding programmes will support faster, more flexible and coordinated investments in Europe's defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB). This package of proposed amendments will complement the Omnibus Defence Simplification Package, expected to be presented by the Commission in June 2025. It will further streamline EU regulations and processes to enable faster and more efficient defence investment and cooperation across Member States.

Under a new [Regulation to stimulate defence-related investments within the EU budget](#) proposed by the Commission, the EU will strengthen its [defence Readiness 2030 and to implement the ReArm Europe plan](#).

The proposed changes will **enhance the ability of the EU and Member States to develop, scale up and innovate in key defence capabilities, while streamlining access to EU funds for defence-related projects**. It will impact the **Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)**, the European Innovation Council (EIC) under [Horizon Europe](#), the [Digital Europe Programme \(DEP\)](#) and under the [Cohesion policy mid-term review](#), the Regulation introduces additional flexibility in using EU funding to bolster a robust and competitive European defence industry. In particular, the Regulation includes a 'landing clause' within both the [European Defence Fund \(EDF\)](#) and the [Act in Support of Ammunition Production \(ASAP\)](#). This provision allows Member States, on a fully voluntary basis, to transfer resources allocated to them under cohesion policy funds to these two programmes.

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

» **LIFE Calls for proposals 2025** ([LIFE Calls for proposals 2025 - European Commission](#))

The LIFE Calls for proposals 2025 are published. You can find the complete information on the [Funding & Tender](#) opportunities portal. **Deadlines vary between 4th and 23rd of September.**

If you need additional information on rules and submission of these calls, contact dp@tecnico.ulisboa.pt

The Calls will be presented at the [EU LIFE info days](#), planned from 13 to 15 May 2025.

See the [LIFE YouTube channel](#) for previous recordings.

No âmbito do **Hub for EU Defence Innovation (HEDI)**, a Agência Europeia de Defesa (EDA) vai lançar em breve uma call dividida em quatro lotes:

Lote 1: Technology watch, landscaping, foresight: Provision of a regular and structured assessment of worldwide technological developments across both defence and non-defence sectors, identifying emerging trends, weak signals, and dual-use innovations that could impact EU security and defence

Lote 2: Military Utility Assessment: Focuses on evaluating the potential military applications of emerging technologies, assessing their operational utility, and identifying pathways for adoption into defence capability development

Lote 3: Market Research and Market Consultation: Provision of expert consultancy support for conducting market research and facilitating structured market consultations to bridge gaps between innovation suppliers and defence users

Lote 4: Defence Innovation Training Courses: Development and delivery of a structured, high-quality Defence Innovation Course. The first specific contract will focus on an Intermediate Level while potential follow-up contracts will address Basic and Advanced levels. The course is aimed at fostering a harmonized understanding of defence innovation across EU Member States while equipping participants with practical skills for managing and implementing innovation projects within innovation ecosystems

A 27 de maio, decorrerá uma **sessão informativa em formato webinar, a partir das 11h (CET)**. O registo para a sessão é feito através do seguinte [link](#)

[Mais informações](#)

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» Online brokerage for Horizon Europe Cluster 4 Calls in 2025 now open!

The online brokerage events for Horizon Europe Cluster 4, organised each year by IDEAL-IST, [NCP4Industry Network](#) and [COSMOS4HE](#), will take place soon:

 14 May: Online brokerage by NCP4Industry for calls INDUSTRY and INDUSTRY-TWO-STAGE

 15 / 16 May: Online brokerage by IDEAL-IST for calls DIGITAL-CNECT and DIGITAL-HADEA

 19th May: Online brokerage by COSMOS4HE for call SPACE

Registration for all three events is now open, so set up your profiles now and get ready to network for the upcoming Horizon Europe calls 2025 in Cluster 4! Check the Events Calendar to access the links

» EU LIFE Info Days | 13 to 15 May 2025

The 2025 calls will be presented at the [EU LIFE info days](#).

[Agenda](#)

[Registration](#)

Networking and advising - Networking opportunities in the format of 1:1 bilateral virtual meetings among potential applicants are available during the period from 13 May to 30 September 2025. You can identify them on the [Networking tab](#) and select them based on their areas of expertise.

REMINDER | 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

» **The RADIANCE project – Network of MSCA NCPs, is live!**

Looking for guidance, tools, or best practices on the **Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)**?

The RADIANCE project is making its key documents, tools and templates publicly available to everyone – researchers, support staff, institutions and project managers alike.

Whether you're new to MSCA or looking to deepen your understanding, RADIANCE offers a growing collection of practical resources designed by NCPs from across Europe.

Explore the materials, share with your network, and bookmark the [site](#)

» O [POLEN](#), serviço digital da [Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia \(FCT\)](#), lançou o seu novo site oficial — um espaço dedicado à gestão e partilha de dados de investigação, promovendo a prática da Ciência Aberta.