

News of the Week - 15 | 2025

5 may 2025 - Research & Innovation Pre-Award Advisory Unit (DPFC)

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1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» **Next pre award network meeting is confirmed:**

 June 6th | 10:00

 CERENA (host)

Main Topic - Skills & Ideas Mapping

Speaker - Evelina Rodrigues

2. POLICY NEWS

» **Horizon Europe Intermediate Assessment** published (source: European Commission)

The European Commission has published the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe, revealing conclusions that confirm the positive impact of the European Union's research and innovation program. Among the highlights, it is estimated that **every euro invested generates up to 11 euros in economic return**, underlining the effectiveness of EU support for science and innovation projects.

As of January 2025, the program has **funded more than 15,000 projects, with an overall budget of more than 43 billion euros**. The results are already visible in areas such as **sustainable mobility, public health and technology**, with examples such as **fuel cell buses, new antibiotics and artificial intelligence solutions** at the service of science.

The evaluation also highlights the **scientific excellence supported by the European Research Council**, which is responsible for projects that have led to significant discoveries in 80% of cases.

Another positive result concerns the **participation of Member States with lower performance in research and innovation**: the so-called widening countries **now make up 58% of collaborative projects**, a significant increase from 47% in the previous program, Horizon 2020.

The Commission also highlights the **successful adoption of lump sum projects**, a fixed amount that simplifies the financial management of beneficiaries. This method has reduced administrative costs by between 14% and 30%, which translates into estimated savings of 63 million euros.

More information [HERE](#).

» New European Commission initiative " **Choose Europe for Science**" (source: EC)

Europe as a Union that fosters and protects knowledge where global talent can thrive. From AI to biotechnology, to continue to be at the forefront of fundamental research, leading on the technologies that will shape tomorrow a new ambitious action to support researchers, scientists and high skilled workers who Choose Europe.

Four key priorities:

- Ensuring **science in Europe remains open and free** with a new EU Research Area Act.
- Putting forward a **new 500 EUR package for 2025-2027** to make Europe a magnet for researchers through **MSCA and the ERC Research**. It aims to create new 7-year “super grant” under the ERC to help offer a longer-term perspective to the very best.
- Launching a first ever European Innovation Act and a Startup and Scaleup Strategy, to remove regulatory and other barriers, and to facilitate access to venture capital innovative European startups and scaleups.
- Making it easier & more attractive to do research in Europe by **better linking up researchers with research institutions**.

To every European researcher, at home or abroad, the message is clear: choose science, choose Europe!

Read more [HERE](#)

» Find the [speech](#) by European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen at the ‘[Choose Europe for Science](#)’ event in Paris. Key elements:

- €500 Million Investment (2025–2027)
 - New 7-year 'Super Grants' under the European Research Council (ERC).
 - Enhanced Support for early-career scientists via Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions
 - Commitment to Scientific Freedom & Collaboration
 - Enshrining Academic Freedom into EU law.
 - Facilitating Researcher Mobility and simplifying entry processes.
- Accelerating Innovation to Market
 - European Innovation Act and Startup & Scaleup Strategy to remove barriers.
 - Target: Achieve 3% of GDP investment in R&D by 2030.
 - Europe as a Global Science Hub
 - World-Class Infrastructure and leadership in frontier fields.

Invitation to Global Talent: Choose Science. Choose Europe

ERC already welcomed the new budget [Choose Europe for Science: ERC welcomes new budget for 'super grants' | ERC](#)

» **"Ambassadors for the ERC"** (source: Association of ERC Grantees)

The Association of ERC Grantees (AERG) and the European Research Council (ERC) launched the new "Ambassadors for the ERC" network during an event just after the ERC Scientific Council plenary meeting.

This exciting initiative brings together members of the Association of ERC Grantees to advocate for fundamental research in Europe, support the ERC's mission, and strengthen outreach to grantees and applicants across Europe and associated countries.

- ◇ 32 ERC grant recipients appointed as Ambassadors
- ◇ 17 women and 15 men
- ◇ Representing 21 EU Member States and five Associated Countries (Israel, Norway, Switzerland, Turkey, and the United Kingdom); from Portugal is [Henrique Veiga-Fernandes](#)
- ◇ Covering disciplines across life sciences, social sciences and humanities, and physical sciences and engineering

The ERC Ambassadors will promote curiosity-driven, PI-led research by engaging with policymakers, media, and local research communities, while also working closely with ERC National Contact Points.

More info [HERE](#)

» **UK and CZ gain access to Horizon quantum, space, AI and more strategic calls in 2025**
(source: Science Business)

The UK and Switzerland are set to gain access to strategic Horizon Europe calls in 2025, including funding for sensitive quantum and space research—marking a major shift in EU policy.

Previously excluded from these areas, both countries will now be eligible for key calls seen as critical to the EU's technological independence. Switzerland will also gain access to strategic calls in AI, quantum, network technologies, and more, though some space-related calls remain under discussion.

More [HERE](#)

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

» **Calls 2025** | [Summary Deadlines](#)

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

» **Seeking international collaborators for upcoming call HORIZON-HLTH-2025-01-IND-01:**

Design an improved manufacturing process for ATMPs with expertise in (source: [Crowdhelix](#)) :

- Artificial intelligence
- Atpm manufacturing capabilities

Read more about this opportunity [HERE](#)

» **Seeking partners for HORIZON-CL6-2025-01-CIRCBIO-02 with expertise (source & contact [Crowdhelix](#))**

- Sustainability
- Food
- Circular industry
- Circbio
- Sustainable products
- Testing methods

Read more about this opportunity [HERE](#)

» **EU Commission opens applications for new EIC Board members | Deadline: 19th May**

More information [HERE](#)

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» Info Session Cluster 5 – Horizonte Europa: Destination 5 & 6 – Innovation and European Funding for Sustainable Mobility (ANI)

 May 15th | 14:00 (GMT)  Livestream

A sessão contará com apresentações sobre os resultados alcançados, orientações práticas sobre o processo de candidatura, uma visão geral das áreas de financiamento previstas no Programa de Trabalhos de 2025 e ainda uma introdução à iniciativa piloto Societal Readiness. O evento termina com uma mesa-redonda sobre os desafios e oportunidades na área da mobilidade sustentável, com especialistas nacionais do setor.

A participação é gratuita, mas requer [INSCRIÇÃO](#) | Consulte a [Agenda](#)

» EUIndTech2025 - Industrial technologies and materials for a sustainable Europe

 2-4 June | 8:30 (CEST)  in [Kraków, POLAND](#)

EUIndTech2025 is the EU flagship event, as part of the Polish presidency of the EU Council. It gathers cyclical events, **Conference on Industrial Technologies** and Euro Nano Forum. The event brings together stakeholders from research organizations, industry, NGOs and policymakers to discuss the state-of-the-art technologies, challenges and trends.

Agenda & Registration at the event site [#indtech2025](#)

» Bridging the Horizon - Smart & Safe Mobility (virtual round table)

 27 May | 09:00  Online

Bridging the Horizon is a virtual round table programme that brings together innovation leaders from Europe and Israel to create a working group and win a grant. As part of the round table series, influential researchers, corporates and government executives from Europe, Luxembourg, and Israel engage in intimate round table discussions surrounding Horizon Europe Smart Mobility calls, aiming to increase consortium creation and submissions.

[Application Form](#)

6. RESOURCES

» If you're interested in applying to **LIFE Calls for proposals 2025** and want to get ahead of this year's info day, check out the [#EULIFE24 recordings](#)

» **Hub for turning your research into real-world impact** - www.wideradvance.eu

Explore:

-  Detailed overviews of our services
-  A roadmap of trainings, events & open calls
-  Insights on connecting with peers and experts
-  Inspiration on how we'll amplify your results

This is just the beginning! Dive in and be part of the journey toward sustainable innovation and widening excellence.

» **Clean Aviation Call 3 - Info Day (04mar2025)**

- [Recording](#)
- [Presentation Slides](#)

» **EU-Japan Digital Partnership Stakeholder Consultation Roundtable**

The summary report of the EU JP **EU-Japan Digital Partnership Stakeholder Consultation Roundtable** which took place on 5 March 2025 in Brussels and online is now available [HERE](#).

The event, hosted by the European Commission's DG CNECT and organised with support by the Digital Partnerships in Action (DPA) project, **brought together over 110 participants** and was held in the context of the broader EU-Japan digital collaboration ahead of the 30th EU-Japan ICT Policy Dialogue. The Roundtable offered a key opportunity for stakeholders to

engage with policymakers from the European Commission and share their insights on the EU-Japan Digital Partnership, around three main topics:

- **Cybersecurity**
- **Connectivity (Arctic submarine cables and 6G), and**
- **Human-Centric Artificial Intelligence**

» "[JRC Essentials: Tools and Practices for Countries and Regions](#)"

The Joint Research Centre offers free tools, platforms, and training programmes designed to support people working at the intersection of science and policy. To help you navigate its resources, JRC have released a comprehensive guide: "JRC Essentials: Tools and Practices for Countries and Regions".

This booklet includes examples of how our tools are being used for **data analysis, modelling, and knowledge management in government, academia, and research organizations across the EU**. Inside, you'll discover:

- An overview of the Joint Research Centre's mission and work.
- 21 in-depth chapters exploring our expertise in areas like **biodiversity, climate action, digital transformation, energy, and economics**.
- A list of resources available to support scientific development, including open access to our research facilities, sustainable territorial development tools, and standardized reference materials.

[Download](#) the guide and discover how the Joint Research Centre can help you achieve your goals.

8. RM CAPACITY BUILDING

» Project Management in Practice | Training opportunity for Research Managers

 4 - 6 June 2025

 in Rotterdam School of Management, Erasmus University, Netherlands

You will explore every component of the project management landscape, including planning, controlling, reporting, team building, leadership, communications, and motivation. This includes finding effective solutions for your own real challenges by interacting with leading experts and your peers. And you will learn how to use effective management techniques to transform complex ideas into a structured and successful plan, and how to manage multi-disciplinary teams through good leadership, motivation and team building to accomplish large projects. You can put the concepts you learn during Project Management in Practice into action at work immediately.

Programme & Application [HERE](#)

» ARMA UK Annual Conference | Networking opportunity for Research Managers

 17 - 19 June 2025

 in Edinburgh International Conference Centre, Edinburgh, UK

The ARMA annual conference is designed to promote excellence in research management. Colleagues from across the UK and around the globe will connect, learn and share knowledge through a mix of workshops, plenary sessions, exhibitions and networking opportunities.

The conference is a great opportunity to celebrate good practice in the sector and participate in a range of activities designed along themes that reflect the needs and priorities of the research management community.

Programme & Registration [HERE](#)