

News of the Week - 18 | 2025

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

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1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» Teams Channel between Pre-Award Network and Technology Transfer Area created!

We have been working, informally, in articulation with TT. To increase the impact of the joint activities we created this channel to improve communication, exchange of ideas and align activities. All the Research Units research managers have been added to this Teams Channel.

A first meeting focused on brainstorming of joint activities and sharing needs, from both Pre-Award activities and TT, will be held online, on the **16th June**, at 10:00:

[Participar na reunião](#)

ID da Reunião: 381 804 553 435

Código de acesso: wG3gW7nz

» ERC-CoG 2025 invitation for interviews are already known!

To the best of our knowledge, five ERC-CoG applicants were invited to the interview.

Like last year's activities we can help you organizing an ERC mock interview with experienced ERC experts. You can also use the guiding documents that were based on the experience of panel members, ERC grantees and ERC applicants. (updated with last year's interviews feedback)

- [Guidance for a successful interview](#)
- [Guidance for interviewees](#)

The ERC Club is also addressing the subject of the interview.

» CL5 energy supply and energy use calls are out!

Unfortunately, from the eleven proposals submitted by Research Units, including three as coordinators, none were invited for funding.

Since CL5 is a Cluster where Research Units submit many proposals without success, we will be organizing a workshop for the applicants, to discuss the ESRs and strategies to improve the success rate in this specific Cluster. More information will follow soon.

» **Miss-CIT 2024 results are out!**

Unfortunately, from the six proposals submitted by the Research Units, including, one coordination, none was invited for funding.

» **EIC Pathfinder-Open-2025 closed on the 21st of May 2025!**

Research Units have submitted 13 proposals to the call, 6 of which are coordinated by IST-ID. Good luck to all!

» **Clean H2 call 2025**

One project, coordinated by IPFN was submitted to the Clean H2 call. Good Luck!

» **Research Units' statistics** on central managed funding programs have been uploaded to its respective channel on TEAMS. Please confirm that the info is correct and add any missing information so we can make an overview of the participation of Research Units on the 2024 calls.

» **IST International Affairs**

 May 30th | 10h30 – 15h00

 Alameda Campus – Main Building Atrium

Mobility opportunities that Técnico offers and connect directly with representatives from its partner universities!

For more information: <https://iday.tecnico.ulisboa.pt/en/>

2. POLICY NEWS

» **Confirmation of FP10 as a stand alone program** (source: Science Europe)

Ursula von der Leyen confirmed, at the Annual EU Budget Conference, an independent Framework Programme for Research and Innovation. Maintaining the autonomy of this world-renowned research programme greatly contributes to Europe's strategic, cultural, and competitive leadership. President Von der Leyen also highlighted that the Framework Programme will be "tightly connected" to the proposed Competitiveness Fund.

» **Competitiveness Council (research and space)** (source: European Commission)

The Competitiveness Council met last week to discuss key priorities for strengthening Europe's position in research, innovation, and space policy.

- discussion of the mid-term evaluation of Horizon Europe
- reached a political agreement on a recommendation about the ERA Policy Agenda 2025-2027
- approved Council conclusions on the use of artificial intelligence in science that calls for a comprehensive strategy to boost the uptake of AI in science, with an ethical, sustainable, inclusive and human-centric approach.
- approved Council conclusions on the use of satellite data, in particular from Earth observation constellations, for civil protection and crisis management
- exchange of views on the use of space-based data for the security and defence
- European Space Agency - ESA informed ministers about the subject: space for resilience, security and crisis management.

More information [HERE](#)

» **Energy Efficiency at the core of Europe's economy and energy strategies** (source: EC)

A new coordinated effort to put Energy Efficiency at the core of Europe's economic and energy strategies was launched last week. As a first step, Commissioner Dan Jørgensen hosted 2 major events in Brussels on 20 May, marking the start of a sustained series of engagements and processes.

- The **European Energy Efficiency Financing Coalition** adopted its 2025 mandate and work programme, focused on scaling up private investment in energy efficiency, and launched 2 calls for membership, inviting financial institutions and industry to apply.
- The **High-Level Stakeholder Dialogue** with EU industrial leaders identified financial, technical, and regulatory obstacles that hold back more ambitious actions on energy efficiency and the Commission will now look into how best to operationalise these recommendations

More details and next steps [HERE](#)

» **EFFRA Working Meeting on "Manufacturing Needs of the Energy Sector"** (source: EFFRA)

In this meeting challenges and opportunities for shaping the future of manufacturing for energy technologies in Europe were explored. Among the critical issues raised:

- Skill shortages
- Lack of automation
- High manufacturing costs
- Energy inefficiency in production
- Immature technologies - not ready for large-scale manufacturing
- Design-for-manufacturing limitations
- Lack of standardisation for integration across the energy ecosystem

To address these targeted Research and Innovation actions are needed that:

- Take a holistic approach – considering lifecycle, emissions, cost, and communities
- Identify and promote the most promising energy technologies in the EU
- Develop standardised, scalable, and efficient manufacturing solutions
- Support skills development and new workforce training

» **National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation website** (source: Carlos Oliveira)

The website of the National Council for Science, Technology and Innovation is now online - just visit cncti.pt to access more information about their work.

It's another step towards sharing the knowledge that underpins public science, technology and innovation policies in Portugal.

You can now consult six recommendations issued at the request of the Government and the Portuguese Parliament, including:

- Shaping Portugal's Vision - strategic position for the next FP10;
- Partnerships with American Universities;
- Two analyses of the Legal Framework for Higher Education Institutions (RJIES);
- A first recommendation on the National Artificial Intelligence Agenda;
- Opinion on Draft Law 49/XVI/1.^a (amendments to the RJIES).

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

» Transnational Eureka lightweighting call | Deadline 23 October 2025

Scope: R&D projects that develop solutions for weight reduction, material savings and functional performance improvement in strategic industrial sectors. Proposals should present innovative approaches in areas such as smart design, lightweight materials, advanced manufacturing, digital simulations, AI-powered process control and material recycling. Projects must be located between TRL levels 4 to 6 and have commercialization potential.

Funding will only be provided to projects that are positively evaluated by all relevant participating national funding bodies - Portugal (ANI).

ANI covers up to a maximum of 80% of project costs for SMEs and small mid-cap companies and 85% of project costs for research institutions and other non-entrepreneurial entities from the research and innovation system (ENESII). For investments located at NUT II Lisboa, the maximum co-funding rate is 40% of eligible costs. The exact funding percentage depends on the company size, consortium collaboration, dissemination of project results and whether your project activities fall into the category of industrial research or experimental development.

[How to Apply](#)

» Hop-on facility 2025 Call (deadline 04 sept 2025)

Updated list of projects eligible for the Hop-ON call has been made available!

This call for proposals allows entities established in **widening** countries to participate in projects that have already been approved. In addition to participating directly in the activities of the projects, participants will also be able to benefit from sharing experiences and knowledge, which is essential for taking on new challenges.

Consult the updated list of eligible projects [HERE](#).

You can also gain access to projects that are still in the Grant Agreement preparation phase (and therefore are not yet available on the European Commission's website) on this list we've made available [HERE](#) *

- Non public documents, such as this list, are available only via Microsoft Teams (designated pre-award' working channel). If you don't have access, and wish to, contact us at pre-award@ist.pt.

» The CETPartnership Joint Call 2025

Já está disponível o aviso de abertura da edição de 2025 do Concurso da Parceria Europeia cofinanciada *Clean Energy Transition* (CETP). A submissão de pré-propostas decorre até ao dia **9 de outubro de 2025**, às 13h00 (hora de Lisboa).

O concurso apoiará projetos de investigação e/ou inovação, promovidos por consórcios transnacionais, em torno das sete Iniciativas de Transição (TRIs) da CETP: TRI1 – Integrated Net-zero-emissions Energy System; TRI2 – Enhanced zero emission Power Technologies; TRI 3 – Enabling Climate Neutrality with Storage Technologies, Renewable Fuels and CCU/CCS; TRI4 – Efficient zero emission Heating and Cooling Solutions; TRI5 – Integrated Regional Energy Systems; TRI6 – Integrated Industrial Energy Systems; e TRI7 – Integration in the Built Environment.

More details in the FCT web dedicated [PAGE](#) or directly on the [CETPartnership](#) website.

There will be a Joint Call 2025 Launch Event 28th may (see Events Calendar)

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Browse the STACK and check these expertise' seeking announcements:

Keywords: Security, Materials, Excellent Science

Seeking expertise (Policy makers, Analytical chemistry, Forensic) for upcoming call **Open topic on modern information and forensic evidence analysis and on frontline policing** ([HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-FCT-01](#))

Keywords: Energy, Mission Climate, CO2 Removal

Seeking expertise (Batteries, Batteries and energy storage, Next-generation batteries for e-mobility) and consortium partners for upcoming call Development of sustainable and design-to-cost batteries with (energy-)efficient manufacturing processes and based on advanced and safer materials - **Batt4EU Partnership** ([HORIZON-CL5-2026-01-D2-01](#))

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» Matchmaking for the Lightweighting Technologies Call 2025

 June 4-5

 in [ELN-Conference](#) in Kraków/Poland  [online](#)

This is an hybrid International Pitching Event/Webinar.

[Register](#) to participate.

[Agenda](#)

» Basics of ERC Synergy Grant Preparation | Crowdhelix Training Event

 June 11  online

[Agenda](#)

[Register](#)

» UPDATE - Ciência 2025 | 9 a 11 de julho, Carcavelos

As sessões plenárias serão transmitidas no canal [Youtube do Encontro Ciência](#), não sendo necessário registo.

Apenas serão emitidos certificados de participação aos participantes presenciais, que podem desde já efetuar o registo [AQUI](#)

6. RESOURCES

» EIT RawMaterials - Developing raw materials into a major strength for Europe | Call for Innovation RIS Projects

Check out the Call's brief [EIT RM RIS KAVA 13 in a nutshell](#)

» The **Gender Equality Plan** eligibility criterion in Horizon Europe: Who is concerned? How to comply with it? (23 June 2022)

Webinar's Recording, Presentation and additional documents [HERE](#)

» **Cluster 2 Info Days | 15 may.**

- Destination 1: Democracy [Video](#) | [Presentation slides](#)
- Destination 2: Cultural Heritage [Video](#) | [Presentation slides](#)
- Destination 2: ECCCH [Video](#) | [Presentation slides](#)
- Destination 3: Transformations [Video](#) | [Presentation slides](#)
- Tips for Applicants and Novelties [Video](#) | [Presentation slides](#)
- International Cooperation [Video](#) | [Presentation slides](#)

» **Cluster 4 Info Days | 13-14 may.**

[The recordings are now available!](#)

On 13 and 14 May, HaDEA organised two days of info sessions on the new calls published under the Horizon Europe programme, encompassing various destinations and topics in Digital, Industry and Space. You can now watch the recorded session to get more info on the calls and on how to apply for EU funding.

» Results of **MSCA end of fellowship evaluation** questionnaires (Horizon 2020) | 2025 update (may 2025) #report

This year's report focuses particularly on careers after the MSCA fellowship. [Read & Download](#)

» [New European Bauhaus across the Nordics](#) #report

7. ACCESS TO RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

» **MICROBES-4-CLIMATE TRANSNATIONAL ACCESS (TNA) CALL** | Deadline June 30, 2025

This programme offers researchers across Europe and beyond the opportunity to access state-of-the-art research infrastructures (RIs), to promote novel collaborations and further drive for scientific breakthroughs in microbial and environmental sciences.

The consortium is comprised of five Research Infrastructures: MIRRI-ERIC (7 partners on behalf), ELIXIR (1 partner), AnaEE-ERIC (8 partners), LifeWatch-ERIC, and EMPHASIS (10 partners).

More details and How to Apply [HERE](#)

8. RM CAPACITY BUILDING

» **New Horizon Europe Opportunity for Research Managers!** (source: BestPrac)

The European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation hosted a workshop on the WIDERA Work Programme 2025. One of the major announcements was the launch of a new call aimed at strengthening research management capacity:

HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-06-ERA-01: Rolling out the ERA Policy Agenda results

Focus Area 6: Strengthening capacities and recognition for research management

Expected outcomes include:

- A collaborative network for research managers to share best practices across the ERA
- Improved professional recognition, career development, and mobility for research managers via training, mentorship, and outreach

9. LOOKING FOR EXPERTS

» Call for Experts with **raw materials, business and start-up background**

EIT RawMaterials is looking for professionals to evaluate start-ups, assess proposals, and contribute to projects and business intelligence.

[Call for Experts](#)