

News of the Week - 20 | 2025

16 jun 2025 - Research & Innovation Pre-Award Advisory Unit (DPFC)

IN THIS ISSUE

Section	Content
1 - Institutional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pre-Award Network Meeting jun 6○ Work Programmes 2026-2027 - draft versions○ Urban Mobility Disruptor○ IPCEI on Advanced Materials for Clean Tech○ EUIndTECH2025○ HLG ETP Manufuture○ Guidelines from the Legal NCP group and ECeu○ HE survey on Financial, legal & administrative rules in practice
2 - Policy News	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Research Priorities for HE in 2026-27○ Widening 2026 - 2027 calls○ FP10 updates○ Draft Annual Budget 2026○ Research and Innovation Summit
3 - Funding Opportunities & Upcoming Calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 2025 OCEANLOVE INNOVATION AWARD
4 - Networking & Partnership Opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Marketplace: Calls Cluster 4 DIGITAL and INDUSTRY, Cluster 2, Cluster 6, Missions○ Crowdhelix opportunities in Virtual Reality, Citizen Science, Earth Data, Materials, Trustworthy AI, Digital, Manufacturing
5 - Upcoming Events & Save the Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ European Research & Innovation Days 2025○ Europa Media Free Webinars (23-27 jun)

Section	Content
6 - Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Success stories from the research management community ○ ReviewIQ Crowdhelix Tool ○ Cluster 6 & Missions Info Days 2025 Presentations & Recordings ○ Megatendências 2050 (PT) #report ○ Sustainable Development Goals: EU performance #report ○ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development #worthrevisit
7 - Access to Research Infrastructures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Integrated Research Infrastructure Services for Climate Change Risks Call
8 - Research Management Capacity Building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ERA Policy Agenda (Action 17) ○ RM COMP and RM FRAMEWORK (INORMS Congress Madrid 2025)
9 - Looking for Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Become a Cost external expert ○ HE experts info day 19 jun

1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» Pre-Award Network Meeting | 04-2025

Last friday june 6th the network had its monthly meeting, hosted by CERENA. Thank you Mariana Santa-Marta!

The main topic was **Skills and Ideas Mapping**, presented by Eveline Rodrigues (CERIS).

The presentation provided an overview of the survey conducted among CERIS researchers, its key findings, and the strategy developed based on these results. The team highlighted key insights gathered from the researchers' responses and discussed the approach implemented to address the identified needs. Additionally, best practices adopted throughout the process were shared, aiming to enhance research support and promote collaboration within the unit. The audience was particularly curious about the process, reinforcing the relevance and potential of the approach taken. The minutes will be available soon.

The next meeting will be held july 4th. Would you like to host it? Let us know!

» Work Programmes 2026-2027 - draft versions (11jun2025)

The discussions on the specifics of the Work Programme for 2026-2027 have started; We compiled the draft versions available so far (this WP will be adopted and published by the end of 2025 / early 2026)

[\[drafts 11jun2025\] WP2026-2027](#)

» Urban Mobility Disruptor

Do you have research teams working in the area of urban mobility? Check out the [program](#) of this initiative and the [kick-off event](#) on **30th June**, at **Técnico Innovation Center (TIC)**, from **14:00 – 16:30**. This is being organized by Técnico's TT and BGI. Participation is free of charge, but seats are limited. Please disseminate it to the relevant research teams. Registration:

<https://shorturl.at/xLqTy>

» **IPCEI on Circular Advanced Materials for Clean Tech (source: ANI)**

REMINDER: If the researchers of your research units foresee projects in the area of **Circular Advanced Materials for Clean Tech** (in case of previous work, or projects in Agendas Mobilizadoras, for eg.), please **send us an expression of interest** so we can consider the possibility to respond to the public consultation.

Additional information [HERE](#).

» [EUIndTech2025 – Industrial Technologies and Materials for Sustainable Europe](#)

The EU conference on industrial technologies took place in Kraków (Poland) between 2-4 June 2025 under the Polish Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

DPFC was there representing Técnico Lisboa and its Research Units. It was an opportunity to follow European initiatives and partnerships (eg. Made in Europe, IAM4EU, AI, Data and Robotics, Process4Planet), reconnect with industry and innovation leaders, scientists, researchers and public decision-makers, explore key EU initiatives such as the Clean Industrial Deal, engage in discussions on sustainable technologies in sectors like electronics, energy, construction, and mobility, discover digital innovations and contribute to shaping the future of the circular economy and learn about upcoming Horizon Europe projects, calls, and funding opportunities.

If you want to know more, please contact us at pre-award@ist-id.pt

» **HLG ETP Manufuture**

Marta Candeias participated in this high-level meeting on the 5th June, in Tampere, Finland.

It was an opportunity to follow important European debates regarding manufacturing, reconnect with old contacts and establish new ones.

» **Guidelines from the Legal NCP group and ECeu (12-13jun2025)**

🔗 **Cascading funding (FSTP):** the guide for FSTP will be published soon; EC highlighted that beneficiaries have to guarantee in their contracts with the final recipients of EU funding that EC can audit and check them (as it is written in the Grant Agreement)

🔗 **GEP:** EC started pilot checks if organizations, which should have a Gender Equality Plan, really have one and follow therefore the Grant Agreement (eligibility criteria)

👉 **Personnel cost calculation:** clarification how to do the calculation if organizations chose the option to calculate per year for those years covered by the reporting period

👉 **Audits:** most common errors so far:

- using last closed financial year rule (H2020 rule) still in Horizon Europe projects
- not rounding the day-equivalents over the reporting period
- incorrect calculation of maximum declarable day-equivalents (not based on 215 days)
- incorrect conversion of number of hour to day-equivalents

» **HE survey on Financial, legal & administrative rules in practice (full report will be available in early 2026)**

A few early insights:

- ✓ 63 % of respondents are satisfied with the Annotated Model Grant Agreement
- ✓ 40 % think that the common set of rules for all EU directly managed programmes is helpful
- ✓ Only 31 % find the proposal preparation and submission process simple
- ✓ 29 % use assistance from specialised paid consultancies
- ✓ Only 6 % successfully found partners via the F&T Portal Partner Search tool
- ✓ 55 % find the submission of proposal through the F&T Portal clear and easy
- ✓ 50 % perceive a risk of subjectivity in the proposal evaluation process
- ✓ 47 % find the Grant Agreement Preparation process straightforward and easy
- ✓ 43 % say there is sufficient information on lump sum audits — 43 % disagree
- ✓ 63 % consider the estimation of person-months and personnel costs in proposals unproblematic
- ✓ Only 37 % find the calculation of daily rates during project implementation easy to apply
- ✓ Use of EC exploitation tools (e.g. Horizon Results Booster) remains very low

The survey was conducted by the Legal & Financial NCPs under Horizon Academy project.

2. POLICY NEWS

» **Research Priorities for HE in 2026-27** (source: Science Business)

The European Commission has proposed a **€12.97 billion budget for Horizon Europe in 2026**, representing a **€211 million increase from 2025**. This boost includes €147.7 million in redeployed unused Horizon funds, with €73.3 million earmarked for the European Research Council's Advanced Grants under the Choose Europe initiative. The remainder will support small **increases in ERC activities and Pillar II collaborative research**. However, the proposed budget still requires approval from the EU Council and Parliament, which often make slight reductions. Other key programme budgets include **€1 billion each for Digital Europe and the European Defence Fund**, and **€4.3 billion for Erasmus+**.

Summary of European Commission's draft Horizon Europe work programmes for 2026–2027 priorities:	
Cluster 1 (Health)	will emphasize climate-resilient healthcare, digital health solutions like AI, and equal access to quality care.
Cluster 2 (Culture, Creativity, Inclusive Society)	targets threats to democracy, gender-based violence, and media sustainability, while boosting AI's role in creative innovation. Additional Cluster 2 efforts will focus on child poverty, learning skills, and adapting to geopolitical shifts.
Cluster 3 (Civil Security)	calls for new tech to counter organized crime, terrorism, and cyber threats, including digital travel credentials and monitoring emerging technologies. Disaster preparedness and crisis management will be strengthened with funding for advanced tools and support systems under Cluster 3.
Cluster 4 (Digital, Industry, Space)	continues support for circular production and decarbonization, though Earth observation calls via Copernicus are notably absent. AI in manufacturing remains a strong focus, along with space competitiveness and access to critical raw materials.
Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy, Mobility)	prioritizes understanding climate-human-nature interactions, energy system resilience, and reducing dependency on non-EU raw materials.
Cluster 6 (Food, Bioeconomy, Environment)	will fund biodiversity research, eco-friendly agriculture, and AI-driven rural innovation.
Widening	aims to close the R&I gap between EU regions through new initiatives like Teaming Synergies.

» **Official channel opened to follow the latest discussions about the work programme 2026-2027** (source: NCPs)

The European Commission started last week to **publish** the latest drafts of the **HorizonEU** work programme parts. However, it's essential to note that **these drafts are not official pre-publications** and are still **under discussion in the committees**. The **official publication of the Work Programme 2026-2027 is still planned for the end of the year** once the discussions have been completed. However, this will **increase the competition for next years' calls** since they will be available beforehand for everyone. Thus, **it is crucial, more than ever, to prepare our participation in the future calls and your role on this will be decisive**. We have prepared the **compilation of the draft Work Programme 2026-2027** for your consultation and

information to your research teams (see Work Programmes 2026-2027 - draft versions (11jun2025) in institutional)

» **Widening 2026 - 2027 calls** (source: Science Business)

The Horizon Europe budget for Widening countries will slightly decrease from €506 million in 2025 to €452.55 million in 2026, before rising modestly to €457.70 million in 2027. **Twinning will dominate the 2026 budget with €207.5 million, while 2027 will focus on ERA Chairs (€170M), ERA Research Managers (€60M), and Excellence Hubs (€100M).** A pilot facility for research management support and new calls promoting open access, public engagement, and scientific literacy are also planned. The research community cautiously welcomed the programme's stronger emphasis on research ecosystems, though concerns about fragmentation remain.

More information [HERE](#).

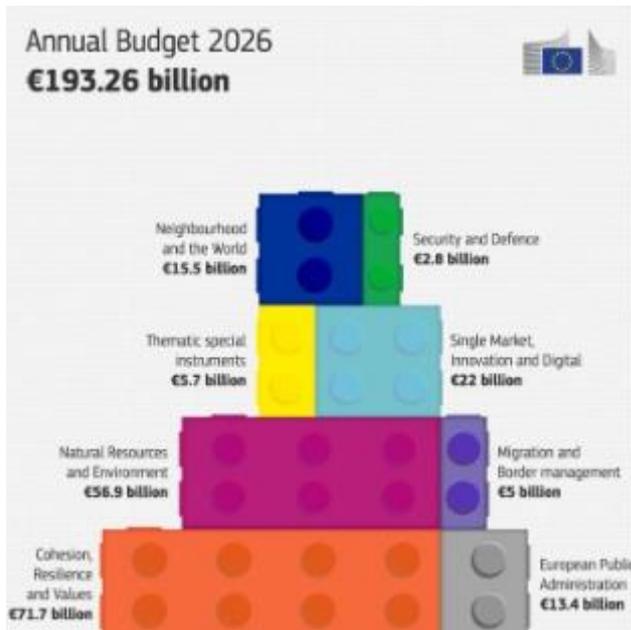
» **FP10 updates!** (source: Science Business)

The structure of FP10, the next EU research and innovation Framework Programme, is expected to be **unveiled on July 16 as part of the Multiannual Financial Framework (MFF) announcement.** This coincides with plans to **establish a European Competitiveness Fund,** raising concerns in the research community about FP10's potential absorption. While the Commission has confirmed the date, political consultations are still ongoing. **Ursula von der Leyen has reassured that FP10 will remain a standalone programme, retaining the independence of Horizon Europe. However, MEP Christian Ehler warned that a vague proposal could increase the risk of future budget cuts.**

» **Draft Annual Budget 2026** (source: European Commission)

The European Commission's **draft budget for 2026 proposes €14.12 billion for research and innovation**—mostly for Horizon Europe—and significant allocations across EU priorities. New funding supports **flagship initiatives** like the **Clean Industrial Deal, EU Startup Strategy, and the Competitiveness Compass. Defence receives a notable boost** via the European Defence Fund and the SAFE instrument, offering €150B in loans to member states. This proposal aligns with the current 2021–2027 MFF, with a new long-term budget framework expected on the 16th July 2025.

More information [HERE](#).



» **Research and Innovation Summit: shaping the future of EU research policy** (source: European Parliament)

A high-level debate on the role of research and innovation in Europe's competitiveness and sovereignty was held on 4 June 2025 in the European Parliament, co-organised by STOA and the G6 network. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen reaffirmed that **Horizon Europe** will remain a **standalone programme in the next EU budget**, highlighting the importance of **defending scientific freedom amid global uncertainty**. European Parliament President Roberta Metsola called for strong political will and investment to unlock the full potential of European science. MEP Christian Ehler stressed that **FP10 must be driven by scientific and industrial experts** to deliver ambitious results. Von der Leyen also praised **STOA for its long-standing role in linking science and policymaking at the EU level**.

Read the [PRESS RELEASE](#)

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

» 2025 OCEANLOVE INNOVATION AWARD

The OceanLove Innovation Award (OIA) aims to push forward ideas with potential to restore, sustain and/or protect the oceans. The Award challenge is open to ideas that are at early stage innovations, from motivated people that in potential could make a real impact on ocean sustainability (SDG 14) and even strengthen local communities.

Read more [HERE](#)

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

» **Marketplace | Calls DIGITAL-CNECT and DIGITAL-HADEA** (deadline 2nd October 2025)

Brookering Event May 15, 2025

[Project Cooperation, Expertise & Service - 197 Opportunities \(16jun2025\)](#)

» **Marketplace | Calls INDUSTRY and INDUSTRY -TWO-STAGE** (i.e. all topics with deadline 23rd Sept.)

Brookering Event May 14, 2025

[Project Cooperation - 147 Opportunities \(16jun2025\)](#)

» **Marketplace | Cluster 2 - Calls 2025**

Brookering Event May 16, 2025

[Partnership - 718 Opportunities \(16jun2025\)](#)

» **Marketplace | Cluster 6 - Calls 2025**

Brookering Event May 27, 2025

[Project Cooperation - 570 Opportunities \(16jun2025\)](#)

» **Marketplace | Missions - Calls 2025**

Brookering Event May 26, 2025

[Project Cooperation - 271 Opportunities \(16jun2025\)](#)

Browse the **STACK** and check these expertise' seeking announcements

Keywords: Virtual Reality, Citizen Science, Earth Data

Seeking expertise (big data analytics, Ai, Citizen science, Emergency management, Early warning systems, Civil protection, Ethnographic analysis, Advanced big data analytics) for upcoming call **Open topic on citizen and regional and/or local authorities' engagement in enhanced disaster risk awareness, including education, and preparedness** ([HORIZON-CL3-2025-01-DRS-01 option a](#))

Keywords: Materials, Trustworthy AI

Seeking expertise (New materials, Material science, Computer aided drug design, Generative artificial intelligence, Generative ai for chemistry) | **Expression of Interest** – Partnering for [HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-DIGITAL-61](#): AI Foundation models in materials science

Keywords: Digital, Manufacturing, Trustworthy AI

Seeking expertise (Hardware, Demonstration pilots, Industrial data, Industry pilots) | Seeking international collaborators and consortia for upcoming call **Artificial Intelligence for knowledge valorization** ([HORIZON-CL4-INDUSTRY-2025-01-HUMAN-62](#))

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» Together, towards a Research and Innovation Union | SAVE the DATE

 Sept 16-17th | 8:00 (GMT)

 in Brussels  Livestream

The Commission's flagship research and innovation event brings together policymakers, researchers, stakeholders and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond.

More details on the programme and registration will soon be available [HERE](#)

» Free Webinars (1 hour, 10:00, from 23 to 27 June 2025):

Mon 23 June [Horizon Europe Missions - How to develop mission projects? What is different in a proposal/project? How to contribute to Missions in your Cluster projects?](#)

Tue 24 June [The Stakeholder Engagement Spectrum: Design Thinking for Meaningful Stakeholder Involvement in your Horizon Europe Projects](#)

Thu 26 June [Understanding Purchase Costs in Horizon Europe: Travel, Equipment, and Other Goods, Works and Services Explained](#)

Fri 27 June [Analysing topic text as the first step to a successful proposal. What makes a proposal truly competitive?](#)

6. RESOURCES

» **Success stories from the research management community - A catalog of best practices and achievements**

The creation of this catalogue follows the European Commission's call for success stories in Research Management (RM), launched in May 2024. The call for submissions was widely promoted with the assistance of European RM associations, ERA stakeholders, the RMROADMAP and CARDEA project teams, and RM-ROADMAP Ambassadors.

Read the full EU Publication (apr 2025) [HERE](#)

» **ReviewIQ**

Launched June 10th, ReviewIQ is a new AI-powered sidekick for crafting winning MSCA proposals on **CrowdHelix's** global collaboration platform!!

Built to optimise how researchers write, refine, and submit their proposals, ReviewIQ evaluates individual sections of MSCA proposals and suggests refinements to enhance submissions. Curious? Check it out [HERE](#)

» **Cluster 6 Info Days** took place on May 20th - 21st in an online format. The presentations and their recordings are available [HERE](#)

» **Missions Info Days** took place on May 22nd - 23rd in an online format. The presentations and their recordings are available [HERE](#)

» **Megatendências 2050 – O mundo em mudança: Impactos em Portugal** (source REPLAN) #report

Publicado pela Rede de Serviços de Planeamento e Prospetiva da Administração Pública, este relatório apresenta uma análise das nove megatendências que condicionarão o futuro de Portugal até 2050:

- Agravamento das alterações climáticas
- Pressão crescente sobre os recursos naturais
- Evoluções demográficas divergentes

- Um mundo mais urbano
- Um mundo mais digital
- Aceleração do desenvolvimento tecnológico
- Diversificação e mudança dos modelos económicos
- Um mundo multipolar
- Novos desafios à democracia

[Full REPORT](#)

» **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): How has the EU performed?** (source Eurostat) #report

The monitoring report highlights several areas where the EU has made significant strides, based on the assessment of the past 5 years of available data. However, it also notes no progress or movement away from progress for 3 out of the 17 goals.

Significant progress has been made towards the objectives and targets related to reduced inequalities (SDG 10), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) and quality education (SDG 4).

The EU has also taken steps forward towards most of the other SDGs, but at a slower pace. Among the group of goals with moderate progress, the EU has performed best for gender equality (SDG 5), responsible consumption and production (SDG 12), industry, innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9) and zero hunger (SDG 2).

By contrast, the assessment shows no significant progress for life below water (SDG 14), due to the slow expansion of marine protected areas as well as the worsening health of the ocean.

A movement away from the sustainable development objectives has been observed for clean water and sanitation (SDG 6) and life on land (SDG 15). Progress towards SDG 6 has been unfavourably affected by water stress, whereas development in SDG 15 has been negatively impacted by land degradation and loss of biodiversity.

[Full REPORT](#)

» [The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#) #worthrevisit

7. ACCESS TO RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

» Integrated Research Infrastructure Services for Climate Change Risks (IRISCC) – First General Call for Transnational & Virtual Access

The IRISCC First General Call for Transnational and Virtual Access is open until June 30, 2025.

This call allows researchers, policymakers, and industry professionals to access cutting-edge research services and facilities addressing climate change-driven risks. This general (non-thematic) Call invites proposals from various sectors, including academia, industry, and government, with no specific thematic focus. This is an excellent opportunity to access world-class infrastructure and services, supporting a wide range of research related to hazards, exposure, and vulnerabilities.

Check all details [HERE](#)

8. RM CAPACITY BUILDING

» ERA Policy Agenda 2025–2027 (source EARMA)

Action 17: "Empowering R&I" recognises the critical role of research managers and aims to boost professional development, visibility, and support across Europe. This brings new funding opportunities and political momentum for our field through 2027.

[Explore the full Agenda](#)

» A unified vision for the future of Research Management in Europe!

At the **INORMS Congress Madrid 2025**, two milestone initiatives: RM COMP and RM FRAMEWORK, took centre stage, sparking dialogue on how to professionalise, empower, and connect research managers across Europe.

- ◇ [RM Comp: The European Competence Framework for Research Managers](#) – offers a structured foundation for skills development, capacity building, and career progression in research management, aligned with ERA and Horizon Europe goals.

- ◇ [RM FRAMEWORK: Creating Framework Conditions for Research Management Training and Networking](#) – a newly funded EU project aims to build on RM COMP by developing a sustainable training infrastructure, piloting high-quality programmes, and creating a quality label for excellence in research management training.

9. LOOKING FOR EXPERTS

» **Become a COST external expert**

Interested? Create or update your e-COST profile with core and other expertise, add info like CV and ORCID ID, and flag your availability as an expert.

[Call for COST external experts](#)

» [Commission in search of experts for Horizon Europe](#)

The European Commission is looking for experts to evaluate and monitor Horizon Europe proposals and projects.

An online info day is set to take place on June 19.

More details [here](#).