News of the Week - 22 |2025

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1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» Pre Award network monthly meeting

📅 July 4th (friday) | 10:00

🌍 in Sede IST-ID 🔗 Livestream available

Main Topic: Discussion around Técnico Research Management Gap analysis and Recommendations

Agenda (draft)

10:00 Informations, DPFC

- Minutes procedure and validation of drafts
- NoW Analytics and Reassessment

11:00 Networking Coffee

11:30 Discussion around the main topic, All

12:30 Next Pre-Award Meeting: Host | Topic & Speaker

» Horizon Europe Collaborative Proposal Writing: Including AI-Powered Tools & Strategies

July 14 - 18, 2025

We are pleased to announce the Pre-Registration of the 5th edition of the HORIZON EUROPE Collaborative Projects Training, which will take place from **JULY 14 to 18, 2025**.

This edition is being held as part of the DIG4BIO European project. However, there are some novelties in this edition: the module of European Policies, Understanding the topic and Networking, which was held online on the 17th April, is replaced by **a module which will explore the use of AI in grant writing.**

The work language will be English and the training will be online.

Please check the [PROGRAMME](#), where you will find the schedule and the general objective of the 5 modules that make up this new edition of the Training.

The participation is free of charge but **vacancies are limited to 30.**

Pre-register **[HERE](#) by JULY 7th.** Those **selected will be informed by July 9th**.

1. **TARGET GROUP:** teachers and researchers from IST/IST-ID, IST/INESC-ID, IST/IT, IST/IDMEC, IST/INESC-MN, IST/LIP, TU Berlin and DTU, with **preliminary knowledge of the Horizon Europe program** and who, preferably, are **applying for the topics of 2025 or 2026** with a special focus on **research and innovation actions (RIA) and innovation actions (IA).**

2. **SELECTION CRITERIA FOR TRAINEES:**

a) Teachers/researchers that are preparing an application for the Horizon Europe Pillar II calls (2025 or 2026).

c) 2 from each Research Unit or Department

f) if there are still vacancies, one from each Unit/department

We also **need a volunteer to be trainer** for the following day:

- 17th - Part B - Implementation

» IST 2025 Action Plan

The Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) 2025 Action Plan includes several activities related to research and pre-award support. In summary:

Research Activities

- Strengthening IST's position as a **reference in scientific and technological research**.

- **Increasing capacity to attract national and international funding** for research projects.
- **Strengthening partnerships** with other research institutions and companies.

- Promoting the internationalization of research through **administrative support for participation in international research networks and attracting foreign researchers**.

- Promoting initiatives and programs with specific budget allocations, such as the FCT Tenure Plus Program and the Técnico Capacity Building Hub Initiative.

- **Applied research** for solving specific problems of the scientific community and/or the business sector.

- Promoting external funding initiatives focused on student and staff mobility and international cooperation partnerships.

- Supporting the participation of departments and research units in Erasmus+ projects.

- Enhancing the valorization of IST's intellectual property through technology transfer to society.

- Increasing the production of intellectual property, including patent submissions.

- Modernization of the Laboratory of Ionizing Radiation Metrology (LMRI), Environmental Radioactivity Laboratory (LRA), Accelerator Laboratory (LA), and Radioactive Waste Pavilion.

Pre-Award Support Activities:

- Optimizing **administrative support to researchers** in negotiating and opening projects, according to the specifics of funding sources.

- **Developing specific guides based on published calls and funding entities.**

- Developing **joint actions between the Projects Directorate and the Pre-award Office** to encourage the scientific community to build successful applications.

- **Regular dissemination of new funding opportunities, identifying open calls to increase the number of submitted applications**.

- Providing specialized support to international visitors, especially researchers, upon arrival, focusing on their orientation and integration into Lisbon and the IST campuses.

- **Offering training and capacity-building actions for researchers on preparing successful funding proposals and understanding administrative and financial requirements of funding entities.**

More information **HERE**

» Annual EAP (Estruturas de Apoio a Projetos) meeting organized by ANI

Support structures from Técnico were at this meeting. Thanks to Margarida Suarez, from Projects Unit, we have a summary of the main points of discussion on the subject of the meeting: **EU multiannual financial framework 2028/2034 principles and timetable.**

The EU aims to streamline its funding instruments and restructure its budget, focusing on competitiveness and a simpler, more flexible approach centred on key priorities rather than numerous programs. A new European Competitiveness Fund, closely linked to a standalone Framework Program (FP10) succeeding Horizon Europe, is expected. This FP10 will emphasize fundamental to applied research and innovation, connecting with startups and scale-ups. The European Commission is set to propose the financial framework and competitiveness fund on July 16, 2025, with negotiations concluding by mid-2027.

The future budget will be more flexible, allowing for easier reallocation of funds. FP10 will concentrate on strategic areas like life sciences, space, defense, green transition, AI, and advanced materials. There's a likely reduction in Member State involvement in work program decisions, giving the Commission more power. While EIT's future structure is debated, its funding will likely remain tied to FP10, and successful programs like EIC and ERC will continue. Feedback highlights positives like process simplification and 100% funding, but also negatives such as call document complexity and issues with lump sum clarity for institutions. There's a call for smaller, more versatile projects and better communication of results.

2. POLICY NEWS

» EU reinforces its cybersecurity with post-quantum cryptography (source: European Commission)

The EU Member States, supported by the Commission, issued a roadmap and timeline to start using a more complex form of cybersecurity, the so-called post-quantum cryptography. Designed with complex algorithms, this is a key milestone to deflect advanced cyber threats.

More information **HERE**.

» PIANOFORTE Parthnership (co-funded)

The PIANOFORTE and EP PerMed European Partnerships are collaborating to advance **personalised healthcare** through research and innovation. This initiative will focus on **biomedical imaging, nuclear medicine, and radiotherapy** to enhance **radiation protection** and tailor diagnostic, treatment, and prevention strategies. The partnership aims to improve **patient care and public health** across Europe and potentially create new jobs in research and healthcare.

FCT and Técnico are part of this Partnership.

» New insights on dual-use research and innovation to support future EU policy! (source: European Commision)

Two EU reports, published on June 25, 2025, explore dual-use research and innovation (R&I). The policy brief, "Making the most of EU Research and Innovation Investments: rethinking dual use," advocates for "dual use by design" to leverage R&I for security, autonomy, competitiveness, and sustainability. The technical report, "Unlocking the potential of dual-use research and innovation," provides practical insights and case studies on applying dual-use R&I across civil and defense sectors. These publications aim to inform future EU funding programs and enhance decision-making on dual-use R&I's contribution to EU strategic objectives.

More information **HERE** (see also Reports section)

» EU's updated Bioeconomy Strategy, set for publication later this year (end of 2025) (source: BIC)

The EU's updated Bioeconomy Strategy, set for publication later this year (end of 2025), concluded its public consultation. This strategy aims to boost innovation and maintain the EU's leadership in the bioeconomy. A key focus for stakeholders, including the bio-based industries association, is the advancement of **biomanufacturing**. This area is considered crucial for Europe's bioeconomy, and the association awaits the European Commission's unveiling of actions to elevate it.

» **Wrapping up the R&I for a Competitive Green Transition conference** (source: EU Science, Research and Innovation)

A recent two-day event brought together diverse stakeholders to discuss how **Research & Innovation (R&I)** is driving Europe's **green and competitive future**. Key themes included **science diplomacy** for global environmental challenges, **empowering green startups** despite financing hurdles, and **combating disinformation** that undermines trust in science. Discussions also focused on **mobilizing green capital** through public-private partnerships and adopting **systemic, inclusive approaches** to ensure a just transition. The event showcased numerous **innovative R&I solutions**, from AI-driven monitoring to community engagement, with an **exhibition** featuring 15 cutting-edge projects funded by Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020. Overall, the gathering highlighted Europe's commitment to pioneering green technologies and solutions.

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

» GenAI for Africa (HORIZON-CL4-2025-04-HUMAN-08) | deadline October 2nd, 2025

This initiative aims to empower African societies, particularly rural communities and women, by equipping local technology companies with the tools to leverage GenAI for innovative solutions. Four key areas are in the scope of the calls:

- Agriculture optimisation: GenAI can analyse satellite and sensor data to monitor crops, soil, and weather, helping farmers increase yields and improve food security through predictive analytics and efficient resource use.

- Healthcare: GenAI supports disease diagnosis, outbreak forecasting, and telemedicine through virtual assistants, improving access in remote areas.

- Infrastructure and Urban Planning: GenAI can optimise energy use, integrates renewables, manages water and waste sustainably, and enhances safety through real-time monitoring.

- Digital Skills and Learning: GenAI personalises education, offers multilingual content and virtual tutoring via mobile devices, and supports local language understanding through conversational chatbots, benefiting rural, low-resource communities.

Proposals must include evidence-based analysis to detect specific needs, identify EU-based solutions that could be implemented, as well as integrate GenAI models and algorithms adapted for African contexts.

With a total budget of 5 million euros, the approved projects under this call will be able to support start-ups and local innovation clusters in Africa.

More information on the call for proposals [EU Funding & Tenders Portal](#)

» Funding for setting-up or upgrading a research management office, Horizon Europe 2027 Widening Call

The **ERA Research Managers call** aims to **enhance research management capacities** in universities and research organizations within widening countries. By **attracting experienced research managers**, the program seeks to establish or upgrade institutional capabilities, foster brain circulation, and create excellence pockets. **Strong research management is crucial for**

increasing efficiency, competitiveness, and impact, ensuring effective grant acquisition, resource allocation, and strategic planning.

Projects are expected to contribute to increased mobility of research management talent, institutional reforms, and enhanced research capacity and competitiveness at system and organizational levels. Proposals should detail institutional needs, an implementation strategy with targeted actions, and plans for investments. The ERA Research Manager must be an excellent, internationally experienced professional, appointed through an open, merit-based process, who will establish a high-performing research management team with long-term sustainability plans. The grant covers salaries, recruitment, travel, training, and administrative expenses, also supporting structural reforms and gender equality.

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

» Marketplace | Clean Energy Transition Partnership call 2025

Brookerage Event may 28, 2025

[Project Cooperation - 383 Opportunities (30jun2025)](#)

» Cluster 3 Brokerage Event – 12 jun 2025 (onsite)

[Download Pitches 2025](#)

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

Keywords: Health, Manufacturing, Circular Industry

Seeking expertise (Equipment manufacturer, Advancing healthcare, Access to health services Ai in medical applications) and partners for **Eureka Project: Data-Driven Circular Design in Healthcare** (check call details and Consortium [**HERE**](#))

Keywords: Digital, Space, Earth Data

Seeking expertise (Earth observation, Digitalization, High power electronics, Ai and decision making, Space) and partners for upcoming call **Digital enablers and building blocks for Earth Observation and Satellite telecommunication for Space solutions** ([HORIZON-CL4-2025-02-SPACE-31](#))

Keywords: Society, Transport, Trustworthy AI

Seeking expertise (Transportation, Intelligent transportation systems, Active transport, Agent-based simulation, Application of artificial intelligence, Traffic simulation, Heterogeneous traffic simulation) and partners for upcoming call **Innovative, AI-based solutions for urban planning and management** ([HORIZON-MISS-2025-04-CIT-02](#))

Keywords: Energy, Materials

Seeking expertise (Redox flow cells for energy storage, Electrochemical energy storage, Batteries and energy storage, Redox materials) and partners for upcoming call **Cost-effective next-generation batteries for long-duration stationary storage (Batt4EU Partnership)** ([HORIZON-CL5-2025-D2-02](#))

» COST Networks

Looking to grow you network and connect with a wider pool of experts in your field? Why not apply to join one of the 70 new COST research networks that have been approved.

 Today we're introducing you to 4 of the new networks:

- [EU-RESOLVE](#)
- [Neutro-NARPS](#)
- [InterCoML](#)
- [STOCHASTICA](#)

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» Info Day: Call for proposals on "European Quantum Communication Infrastructure (EuroQCI)"

📅 July 09th | 09:00   🔗 Online

The Info Day will welcome representatives from the European Commission and the Research Executive Agency to provide guidance on the EuroQCI call under the Union Secure Connectivity Programme (IRIS²).

This call foresee three topics that contribute to the objectives of the EuroQCI Declaration by addressing the maturation of the European industrial ecosystem for security-certified terrestrial QKD technologies and systems, the coordination of EuroQCI deployments across Europe and the support to necessary standardisation activities.

The call is published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal (DIGITAL-IRIS2-2025-QCI), with applications accepted as from 15 July and with a deadline for submission on 16 October 2025.

Agenda

Register

» European R&I Opportunities: AI, Robotics and Data - Strategy and Funding

📅 July 16th | 14:30 🌍 in ANI, Lisboa (evento presencial e aberto ao público)

Este evento contará com a presença do Pontos de Contacto Nacionais do Cluster 4 para o Horizonte Europa, com membros da Comissão Europeia, assim como da Associação Industrial para a Inteligência Artificial, Dados e Robótica (ADRA).Será uma excelente oportunidade para aprofundar conhecimentos sobre as estratégias e prioridades europeias na área e para descobrir como os vossos projetos de I&D em Inteligência Artificial podem ser financiadas no âmbito do Horizonte Europa. **A participação é gratuita, mas sujeita a inscrição obrigatória até 9 de julho.**

Registe-se aqui.

AGENDA

» European Virtual Human Twins (VHT) Initiative: Accelerating innovation and making personalised medicine a reality through virtual human twins | SAVE THE DATE

📅 21 October 2025

🌐 in Brussels

The European Commission is organising a high-level event to discuss the strategic vision for the European Virtual Human Twins (VHT) Initiative – a major step towards driving AI innovation and making personalised medicine a reality.

Key discussion topics:

- The role of the VHT Initiative in addressing the gaps identified in the VHT Roadmap developed by the EDITH Coordination and Support Action

- How the forthcoming advanced platform for virtual human twins can reap the benefits of, and be integrated into, the European Health Data Space and other health data infrastructures (e.g. cancer imaging, genomics)

- Key aspects for VHT solutions uptake, in particular regulatory aspects

- Challenges and opportunities for VHT foundational research

Check if this event is for you Target Audience

Draft agenda

Registrations will open in July 2025

6. RESOURCES

» RADIANCE Postdoctoral Fellowship Handbook & Submission Guide 2025 (source: RADIANCE Network of NCPs)

This highly popular guide—developed by NCPs in collaboration with European Research Executive Agency (REA) and Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions—walks you through each part of the application template with expert tips. The Submission Guide takes you step-by-step ✎ through the process. More information **HERE**

» European Virtual Human Twins Initiative

Factsheet / infographic | 20 December 2023

The European Virtual Human Twins Initiative is an EU framework supporting the emergence and adoption of the next generation of virtual human twins solutions in health and care.

» Will AI decide who is funded?

As AI tools rapidly make their way into grant funding processes, understanding how these technologies are used and their potential impact on your career, is becoming essential.

The *Research on Research Institute (RoRI)* has just released a new handbook: **"Funding by Algorithm: A Handbook for Responsible Uses of AI and Machine Learning by Research Funders."** As research funding evolves, staying informed about how decisions are made (and how AI may influence them) is key to navigating the future of grant applications.

Handbook

» How to become an expert for Horizon Europe (19 jun)

Presentation and Recording HERE

» Cluster 3 Infoday and Brokerage Event 2025

11–12 Jun 2025 | Brussels , Belgium

Brokerage event and the Pitch session were onsite only. (no online marketplace)

- [Presentations](#)
- [Info Day Recording - 11jun2025](#)
- [SEREN5 Training for applicants - 12jun2025](#)

» State of the Digital Decade 2025 Report

The State of the Digital Decade 2025 report evaluates the progress of the EU's digital transformation towards achieving the Digital Decade Policy Programme 2030 goals. The report highlights **structural challenges** and new concerns:

1. Although there are certain advancements, the rollout of connectivity infrastructure, such as fibre and 5G stand-alone networks, is still lagging.

2. Adoption of Artificial Intelligence (AI), cloud and big data by companies has improved, however it needs to accelerate.

3. Just over half of Europeans (55.6%) have a basic level of digital skills, which are fundamental for societal resilience to online threats, including those affecting information integrity, mental wellbeing and minors.

4. The EU's digital future is becoming increasingly dependent on stable energy production.

5. The lack of effective collaboration between the civil sector and the defence sector is causing delays in advancing dual–use digital technologies, such as AI, quantum computing and semiconductors.

6. Urgent societal challenges linked to digitalisation in the EU - While technology advances, digital transformation has intensified vulnerabilities and inequalities, especially affecting minors and mental health. A major concern is information integrity, with 88% of Europeans expressing concern about fake news and online manipulation, and 90% seeing the protection of children online as a critical priority. These risks, amplified by AI and online platforms, threaten to undermine democratic integrity, deepen societal polarisation and erode public trust.

You can find the main report and its annex, as well as a summary of the 27 country reports, [HERE](#)

» Making the most of EU Research and Innovation Investments: rethinking dual use #report

The policy brief "Making the most of EU Research and Innovation Investments: rethinking dual use" underscores the significance of dual-use R&I for security, autonomy, competitiveness, and sustainability. Its authors advocate for a strategic integration of dual-use considerations within R&I funding in a "dual use by design" approach, through which technologies are explicitly designed for both civil and defence applications.

REPORT

» Unlocking the potential of dual-use research and innovation #report

The technical report "Unlocking the potential of dual-use research and innovation" offers practical insights and case studies illustrating the application of dual-use R&I across the civil and defence sectors. It examines opportunities and challenges for research performers, SMEs, and startups, while also highlighting international best practices.

REPORT

7. ACCESS TO RESEARCH INFRASTRUCTURES

» AQUASERV's Transnational Access (TA) | 2025 Open Call

AQUASERV welcomes innovative research ideas across all areas related to sustainable aquaculture, fisheries, ecological restoration and blue economy —whether focused on sustainability, food security, marine biotechnology, ecosystem health, pollution, or other.

With AQUASERV's Open Call, you can design a project that aligns with your unique goals while supporting European priorities like the European Green Deal, the Farm to Fork Strategy, the Common Fisheries Policy, the Sustainable Blue Economy, and efforts to restore our oceans by 2030. This programme offers you the flexibility to bring fresh perspectives and explore ambitious, impactful ideas in fields essential to sustainable development and environmental resilience.

- Browse AQUASERV's services catalogue

How to Apply

8. RM CAPACITY BUILDING

» EARMA Conference 2026 | SAVE THE DATE

📅 **May 5-7, 2026**

🌐 in **Utrecht, The Netherlands**

The Call for Abstracts will be launched during the summer of 2025, and registration details will follow in December.

Further information will be available soon on **Earma Conference 2026**