
News of the Week - 23 | 2025

14 jul 2025 - Research & Innovation Pre-Award Advisory Unit (DPFC)

IN THIS ISSUE

Section	Content
1 - Institutional Information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ News of the Week (NoW) Reassessment○ Improved Organization at IST○ Pre-Award Meetings
2 - Policy News	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Horizon Europe 2028 - 2034
3 - Funding Opportunities & Upcoming Calls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Transparency portal
5 - Upcoming Events & Save the Date	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ The future of EU RD&I in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (Webinar Series)
6 - Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Finding the right (ie winning) consortium partners
9 - Looking for Experts	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Expert evaluator for HaDEA

1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» **News of the Week (NoW) Reassessment**

Six months after launching the weekly newsletter (NoW), DPFC found it **time-consuming** and observed **declining engagement**. Some **Research Managers (RM) missed key institutional updates**, suggesting NoW may not be the most effective communication method. As an alternative, DPFC proposed sending individual updates throughout the month, followed by a monthly summary (NoM). However, most **RMs preferred the NoW for its consistency and centralized format**.

As a compromise, **NoW will continue weekly, while institutional updates will also be shared individually on TEAMS**, and feedback will be gathered to improve content relevance.

A repository of past NoWs is also being finalized and soon be available for consultation.

To improve NoW's content, please give your feedback [HERE](#)

» **Improved Organization at IST**

For those who missed it, two pieces of information were mentioned in the IST Management Board meeting notes that align with several suggestions we have been making and that we identified as important gaps:

- The creation of an institutional repository was approved for all procedures approved by the Management Board, in force and in their updated version, to be made available on the Management Board's institutional webpage;
- The procedure for the Use of Standardized Templates at IST was approved;

Moreover, a mapping exercise of internal processes is ongoing at Técnico. The objective is to create clear procedures.

DPFC is also doing that exercise, including its coordination with the Pre-award network, based on the structure that has been discussed between the Pre-Award Network, DP and International Affairs. DPFC will ask for feedback to RM in regard of Pre-Award activities. Since Pre-Award activities are new to Técnico, there is room to propose new procedures.

» Pre-Award Meetings

On the 4th of July, the Pre-Award meeting took place at IST-ID.

A draft of the main points discussed and action points are summarized for your review [HERE](#)

According to the our internal procedure, you have until the next meeting to send suggestions or propose changes.

The next meeting will be hosted by CAMGSD, on the 5th September.

As usual, at the beginning of each semester, DPFC will be the speaker, making an assessment of past activities, present strategies or activities for the future.

2. POLICY NEWS

» **Horizon Europe 2028 - 2034** (source: European Commission CONFIDENTIAL)

Purpose:

- EU's flagship R&I programme
- Supports political priorities 2024–2029
- Connects science, innovation, and investment

◇ STRUCTURE: 4 MAIN PILLARS

1 Excellent Science

-  *ERC*: Frontier research, bottom-up excellence
-  *MSCA*: Mobility, career development, inclusion
-  *JRC*: Science-based policy support

2 Competitiveness & Society

-  Collaborative R&I on global challenges
-  Health |  Clean Transition |  Digital Leadership
-  *EU Missions*
-  *New European Bauhaus*: Sustainable and inclusive places

3 Innovation

-  *EIC*: Deep tech & disruptive innovations
-  *Innovation Ecosystems*: Linking academia, business, and R&I
-  Scale-up tools & support for high-risk sectors

4 European Research Area (ERA)

-  Reform of EU R&I system
-  FAIR data & research infrastructure
-  Inclusion & excellence across all EU regions

GOALS & PRIORITIES

-  Freedom of science
-  Attract world-class researchers
-  Simplify access to funding
-  Full R&I cycle: From idea → market
-  Focus: Digital, Green, Security, Resilience

LINK TO ECF (European Competitiveness Fund)

-  Shared investment journey
-  Common tools: grants, loans, equity
-  One rulebook = less bureaucracy
-  Close integration: Horizon = Innovation | ECF = Market deployment

Outcome:

A seamless EU R&I ecosystem — from fundamental research to global market impact.

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

The European Commission has made the draft **Horizon Europe Work Programmes 2026-2027** available on the Transparency Portal. This preliminary release is an important step for all researchers and innovators seeking to fund their R&I projects. Your early consultation is of utmost importance. It allows teams to start preparing their R&I projects, aligning their proposals with the priorities and thematic focuses that are being outlined for the different areas.

[\[drafts\] WP2026-27 \(15jul2025\)](#)

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» The future of EU RD&I in the next Multiannual Financial Framework (Webinar Series)

1 The Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

 15 September 2025 |  10:00–11:00 CET

2 The European Research Area (ERA) Policy

 9 October 2025 |  14:00–15:00 CET

3 The Widening Policy and EP ITRE Task Force on Widening

 16 October 2025 |  14:00–15:00 CET 

Register [HERE](#)

6. RESOURCES

» **Finding the right (i.e. winning) consortium partners**

GREENET recently published a great piece on the subject, written by Louise Mothersole at Innovate UK.

A few key takeaways:

- Treat joining a consortium as a project in its own right
- Building your network is by far the most useful way to find consortium partners
- Find potential partners that have a strong track record of previously successful proposals

🔗 Read more [HERE](#)

9. LOOKING FOR EXPERTS

» Become an **expert evaluator** for [EUfunded](#) project proposals!

HaDEA is looking for professionals with **solid expertise and hands-on experience in key digital fields** to evaluate proposals submitted under the upcoming **Digital Europe Programme** calls.

Swipe through the carousel to see if your profile matches the fields we're looking for.

 Learn more & apply: <https://europa.eu/pyTCRr>