News of the Week - 24 |2025

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1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» IST-ID temporary facilities

Due to foreseen construction work in the IST-ID headquarters, the R&I Funding Advisory Unit is from now on back to the Civil Building, 3rd floor, 5.14 office. There is not a due to time to go back. As soon as we know we will inform you.

Moreover, you can find the Executive Director and IST-ID secretariat at Multidisciplinar Building, 6th floor, 6.24 and 6.25 offices.

» Horizon Europe Writing Collaborative Projects Training (DPFC & Pre-Award Network & NFD)

Last week's **Horizon Europe Writing Collaborative Projects Training** was a major success, despite the challenges of integrating **new online and AI modules**. The event was made possible thanks to the strong support from **Research Managers** and organizers, with special recognition to Sofia Martins, Rute Martins, Evelyne Rodrigues, Clara Pereira, Dina Davide, and Sandra Justo. The training drew **46 registrants**, with an average of **24 participants per module**, and the **AI module saw the highest attendance**. Participants came with diverse experience levels, including **expert evaluators** and insights from **TU Berlin**, contributing to rich, practical discussions. Early feedback highlights the training's **hands-on, strategy-focused approach**, setting it apart from existing generic offerings.

» Welcome to new colleagues to the Pre-Award Network!

Joana Barrela joins Mariana Santa-Marta in supporting pre-award activities @ **CERENA.**

Andrei Utkin, will be the link to the recently funded FCT Research Unit **INESC INOV Lab**

You can find the **updated list of Pre-Award contacts** at Técnico Lisboa Research Ecossystem HERE and soon in IST-ID Website.
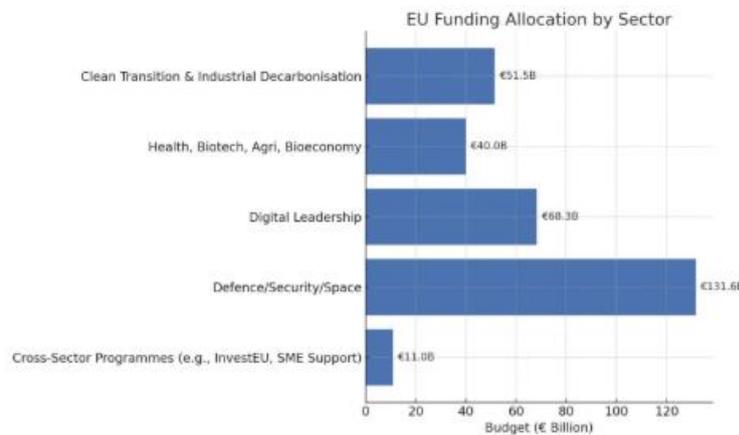
2. POLICY NEWS

» **Summary of the key points** from the proposed next phase of the **Horizon Europe** programme (2028–2034), based on the European Commission's July 16 proposal (source: Science Business)

Pillar	Current Budget	Proposed Budget	Key Change
Frontier Research (P1)	€25B	€44B	Boost for ERC & MSCA
Collaborative (P2)	€53.5B	€75.8B	Managed partly by ECF; split into "competitiveness" and "society"
Innovation (P3)	€13.6B	€38.7B	Major increase for the EIC
Research Policy (P4)	€3.4B	€16.2B	Includes Widening and infrastructures

Overall Budget & Structure:

- **Total Horizon Europe budget:** Proposed to increase to **€175 billion** (nearly double the current amount).
- **Major Change:** €68 billion from collaborative research (Pillar 2) will be managed by a new **European Competitiveness Fund**.
- **ECF Total Budget:** €410 billion (includes €175B for Horizon Europe and €234B for other schemes).

EU Funding Allocation by Sector

European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)

• A new umbrella fund with **€410B total**: €175B from Horizon Europe (Pillar 2). €234B from other EU schemes.

More information on MFF 2028-2034: Horizon Europe Factsheet; Defense on the future MFF Factsheet

» Horizon Europe to Back Dual-Use R&D by Default (source: Science Business)

The EU will drop its civilian-only funding rule in Horizon Europe, enabling **dual-use (civil/defence)** projects across all pillars—not just the **EIC**. Commissioner **Zaharieva** confirmed the shift, aligning the programme more closely with **strategic priorities** like defence, security, and space. (background documents: Dual-use technologies; Unlocking the potential of dual-use research and innovation; Making the most of EU Research and Innovation Investments: rethinking dual use; White Paper for European Defence – Readiness 2030; European Preparedness Union Strategy; European Internal Security Strategy – ProtectEU; White Paper on options for enhancing support for research and development involving technologies with dual-use potential; public consultation)

Despite this, **bottom-up research** via the **European Research Council** will remain protected. The **€175B proposal** nearly doubles the current budget, aiming to close the funding gap for high-quality projects. Member states support the ambition but await clarity on **budget allocation** and ECF coordination.

» South Korea has officially joined Horizon Europe (source: European Commission)

Through this agreement, **Korea is now associated with Pillar II**, which focuses on global challenges and industrial competitiveness. Korean researchers and organisations can now participate in collaborative projects alongside EU partners on equal footing. This **strengthens EU–Korea cooperation** in areas like **climate, energy, digital tech, and global health.**

You can check which countries are associated with Horizon Europe and are **automatically eligible for funding** HERE and what mechanisms are there for **other countries HERE**

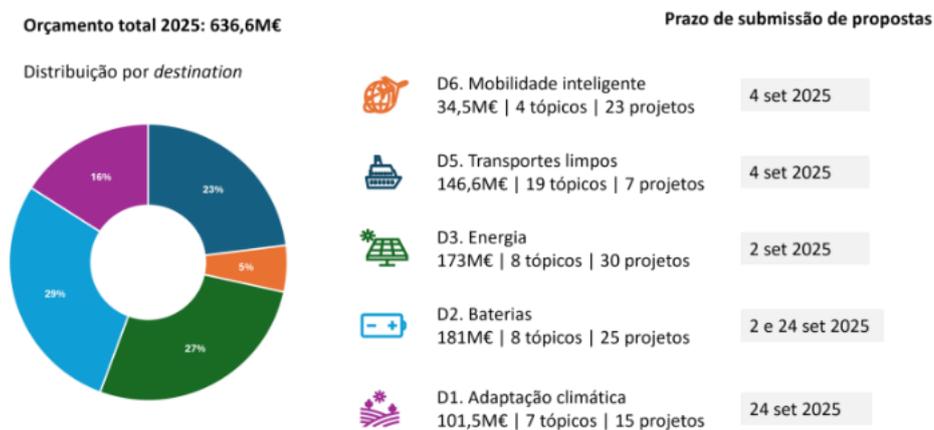You can also learn more on **International Cooperation** in Horizon Europe **HERE.**

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

» REMINDER: 2025 Calls for Cluster 5 – Climate, Energy, and Mobility

With a budget of **€636.6 million**, **Cluster 5 of Horizon Europe** is launching **51 topics** with submission deadlines in **September 2025**.

For partner search look in section Networking & Partnership Opportunities.

Orçamento total 2025: 636,6M€

Distribuição por *destination*

		Prazo de submissão de propostas
🍊	**D6. Mobilidade inteligente** 34,5M€ | 4 tópicos | 23 projetos	4 set 2025
🚢	**D5. Transportes limpos** 146,6M€ | 19 tópicos | 7 projetos	4 set 2025
🌿	**D3. Energia** 173M€ | 8 tópicos | 30 projetos	2 set 2025
🔋	**D2. Baterias** 181M€ | 8 tópicos | 25 projetos	2 e 24 set 2025
🌾	**D1. Adaptação climática** 101,5M€ | 7 tópicos | 15 projetos	24 set 2025

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

» 2025 & 2026 Calls for Cluster 5 – Climate, Energy, and Mobility Partner offers (source: CL5 NCPs)

If you are looking for partners to build your consortium, access a collection of profiles of European entities that have already expressed interest in calls and are actively looking for consortia **HERE**.

» Full list of InfoDays and Matchmaking Events from which we highlight the following in the stack so you can search for partners and/or consortia to apply to Horizon Europe calls

Horizon Europe - Cluster 1 Health Brokerage Event 2025; Marketplace

Cluster 2 Brokerage Event for Call 2025; Marketplace

European infoday and brokerage event for Cluster 3 (Security)

Infoday and pitch session on Challenge-driven GenAI4EU booster call under Horizon Europe;

Cybersecurity B2B Meetings & Marketplace

Brokerage by IDEAL-IST for the calls DATA, DIGITAL, HUMAN; Marketplace

ADRA Brokerage Event 2025; *Cluster 4 Calls - AI, data, robotics*

Future of Digital Investments in EU - Matchmaking; Marketplace

Key Emerging Technologies 2025 Brokerage Event (KETs); Marketplace

Brokerage by NCP4Industry for the calls INDUSTRY; Marketplace

[Horizon Europe - Cluster 5 calls 2025](#)- Marketplace

[Cluster 6 Brokerage Event](#); [Marketplace](#)

[Horizon Europe Missions Brokerage](#);

Browse the STACK and check these Partner searches:

» Partner Search: Water Quality Science for Eurostars Project on Real-Time Water Safety Monitoring (source: **[Crowdhelix](#)) Seeking expertise** (Chemical analysis, Monitoring water quality, Water microbiology, Water testing)

Valmore Technologies, an innovative Greek SME, is building a strong Eurostars consortium for AquaGuard — an advanced solution for real-time detection of microbial and chemical risks in water. The system integrates cutting-edge water quality sensors (pH, turbidity, conductivity, and chlorine) with AI-driven analytics to identify anomalies at the point of use or within municipal networks.

Current consortium: Valmore Technologies (Greece) – technology lead (hardware/software/AI); A Public Water Utility – pilot use case and field validation partner

What we are looking for: A third partner, ideally a lab, institute, or company specialized in water testing, water microbiology, or chemical analysis, to: Guide sensor calibration and validation; Co-design detection algorithms and thresholds; Support interpretation of lab-confirmed events

Funding route: [Eurostars September 2025 cut-off,](#) but open to exploring alternative joint funding options if better aligned.

» Partner Search: EIC Pathfinder Challenge – Waste-to-Value Devices (source: [Crowdhelix](#))

Seeking expertise (Monomer synthesis, Waste-to-value devices, Circular production)

Looking for: research partners with expertise in CO_2 conversion technologies, particularly those focusing on the synthesis of polypropylene (PP) or polyamide (PA) monomers from captured CO_2.

Funding route: [HORIZON-EIC-2025-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-04: Waste-to-value devices - circular production of renewable fuels, chemicals and materials](#)

» Partner Search: [HORIZON-CL4-2025-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-04](#) (source: EU Funding & Tenders) **Deadline: 2 Oct 2025**.

The project aims to develop **AI risk and capability assessment frameworks**—including benchmarking tools, audit protocols, and transparency scoring—aligned with the **EU AI Act**, focusing on **public sector and enterprise** GenAI applications.

Seeking expertise: AI ethics, policy auditing, benchmarking, and regulatory compliance. Respond ideally before the **second week of August 2025**, by contacting **m.mahmudul@mediprospects.ai** and copying **shafi@mediprospects.ai**.

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» **Urban Mobility Days 2025**, 30th Sept - 2nd de Oct, Vilnius

Urban Mobility Days (UMD) is the European Commission's flagship conference on urban mobility policy. It brings together **policymakers, local authorities, NGOs, researchers, and industry professionals** to network and discuss key mobility issues. The 2025 edition will align with the EU's new priorities on sustainable prosperity and social resilience. Themes of **competitiveness, innovation, and tourism** will be integrated across the event. Each of the three days will focus on a **specific topic**: urban nodes, cycling, and public transport.

Program, **Registration**

» **Battery Innovation Days**, 2-3 DECEMBER / GRAZ, AUSTRIA & ONLINE

The Battery Innovation Days (BID) 2025 will bring together **policymakers, researchers, industry leaders, and end-users** to shape the future of battery R&I in Europe. The event will feature the **latest developments in battery technologies** and offer valuable industry insights. Attendees can enjoy **networking opportunities**, including a dinner and cocktail event, and celebrate emerging talent through the **Battery Young Researcher Award**. The conference will also include an **exclusive site visit** and **exhibitor booths** for business development. Sponsorship and exhibition packages are available for organizations wishing to engage directly with the battery innovation ecosystem.

Program, **Exhibitors**

9. LOOKING FOR EXPERTS

» The **European Parliamentary Research Service (EPRS)** has launched a **call for expressions of interest** to identify **academic and scientific experts** for **independent support to the European Parliament.**

Experts can apply to contribute in one or more of **12 policy areas**, including **environment, economic affairs, public health, energy, legal affairs, foreign policy, and more.** The goal is to strengthen the Parliament's work with high-quality, external expertise. This opportunity is open to researchers across disciplines who meet the eligibility criteria.

Full details and application requirements can be found **HERE.**

» **Call for Independent Experts in Innovation and Entrepreneurship – June 2025**

EIT Digital is seeking **independent external experts** to **evaluate proposals in key areas** such as **Digital Technology, Industry, Cities, Well-being, and Finance**. This is a unique opportunity for professionals with backgrounds in **entrepreneurship, venture capital, or angel investing** to gain early access to cutting-edge innovation projects before market entry.

The initiative also includes recruiting **Independent External Observers** to ensure transparency and fairness in the evaluation process.

Ideal candidates should have: Deep sector knowledge, Experience evaluating EU-funded programs, Fluency in English, No affiliations with EIT Digital partners in the past 3 years

 Learn more **here**.

ON THE TOPIC OF – European Research Council (ERC)

Browse the STACK and check relevant information and don't forget to follow the Técnico Lisboa ERC Club

» [New ERC Workshop Report:](#) **Unlocking Innovation Through Frontier Research** (source: Maria Leptin, ERC President) #report

Why is Europe lagging in disruptive innovation and economic growth—and what can be done about it? Leading scientists, industry experts in critical technologies, and policymakers identified key structural barriers holding back innovation in Europe, including: a) Market and regulatory **fragmentation** across Member States; b) Lack of a **true financial union** and unified standards; c) **Duplication of efforts** and inconsistent implementation of EU legislation; d) **Underfunding** of high-risk, frontier research and e) A **risk-averse regulatory culture**

The message was clear: Tackling these challenges requires **long-term, risk-tolerant support for fundamental science**, beyond short-term cycles or narrow industrial targets.

» **Key Updates in the** [ERC Work Programme 2026](#)

1. **Streamlined Structure**: updated and simplified, with revised sections on **proposal submission** and **evaluation criteria**.
2. **Proposal Format Changes**: The **Scientific Proposal** is now split into **Part I** (background, objectives, and strategy) and **Part II** (implementation). Evaluation elements have been adjusted accordingly.
3. **Eligibility Extensions**: New eligibility extensions are available for **Starting and Consolidator Grant** applicants who have experienced **gender-based or other violence**. **Parental leave** has also been formally added to extension grounds.
4. **Resubmission Restriction**: **Synergy Grant** applicants who received a **'B' score in Step 1 of the 2025 call** are barred from reapplying in 2026.
5. **Increased Incentives for International Talent**: The **additional funding cap** has been **doubled** for **Starting, Consolidator, and Advanced Grant** applicants relocating from non-associated third countries to the EU or an associated country.

» ERC 2026 - Important Documents and Deadlines

[ERC WP 2026](), [Information for Applicants](), [Guide for Peer Reviewers](), [More Documents]()

[ERC-2026-STG](); Deadline: 14 October 2025;   Synergy Grant Call; Deadline: 5 November 2025

Consolidator Grant Call; Deadline: 13 January 2026;   Advanced Grant Call; Deadline: 27 August 2026

ON THE TOPIC OF – Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

» Watch the step-by-step training session: "Excellence in Research and Innovation: **MSCA Post-Doctoral Fellowships**" (source: Crowdhelix) #trainingvideo

What Will You Learn? View Video Library

◉ Understand what makes a competitive MSCA proposal

◉ Learn how to maximise ReviewIQ's capabilities to refine MSCA proposals

◉ Walk through the MSCA submission guidelines

◉ Discover tips and tricks for writing a successful proposal

◉ Understand how Crowdhelix delivers value for researchers

» The **MSCA Staff Exchanges** programme offers funding to support **staff mobility across academic institutions, research centres, and businesses.** It enables participants to engage in **research and training activities** while fostering interdisciplinary learning. Staff benefit from international mobility and networking opportunities. Applications are open until **8 October 2025**.

Interested organizations can follow the **6-step guide** to prepare their proposal available at the **programme site.**

» RADIANCE Staff Exchanges Handbook & Submission Guide! (source: MSCA NCP Network)

The handbook offers **clear, practical advice** to help you prepare a competitive proposal and the submission guide takes you by the hand when you are ready to upload your documents. Access the Handbook and Submission Guide **here**

ON THE TOPIC OF – Research Infrastructures

The **Joint Research Centre** opens its scientific laboratories and facilities to people working in academia and research organisations, industry, SMEs, and more in general to the public and private sector.

Call for proposals: FCTEST, Fuel cells and electrolyser testing facilities

Call for proposal: Hopkinson Bar facility, European Laboratory for Structural Assessment (ELSA)

Call for proposal: BESTEST, Battery Energy Storage Testing for Safe Electric Transport

Call for proposal: GasTeF, Gas Tank Testing Facility

Call for proposal: Reaction Wall, European Laboratory for Structural Assessment (ELSA)

2025-1-RD-ELSA-ReactionWall; 2025-1-RD-NanoBiotech - Nanobiotechnology laboratory

ON THE TOPIC OF – Health

» New tool highlighting **health-related funding opportunities for 2025** under **Horizon Europe** (source: HNN 3.0)

It covers not only the **Health Work Programme (Pillar II, Cluster 1)** but also relevant topics in other clusters, such as culture's impact on health and nutrition's role in mental health. It serves as a **comprehensive reference**, with detailed descriptions, hyperlinks, and funding topic summaries across the programme. The tool is particularly useful for those preparing for the **2026–2027 Work Programme**. Download the full resource HERE**.**

» REMINDER: If you have a health research idea aimed at improving well-being in the EU, **Horizon Europe** offers funding to support your project. Current calls focus on cutting-edge topics such as **AI for pandemic response**, **micro- and nanoplastics**, **cell and gene therapies**, **phage treatments**, and **mental health innovations**. Projects targeting **intellectual disabilities** and the **translation of biotech research into therapies** are also encouraged.

Proposals must be submitted by **16 September 2025** — explore all opportunities **HERE**

ON THE TOPIC OF – Research Fund for Coal & Steel

» Annual 2025 RCSF Call InfoDay

▶ Watch the recording of the session [HERE](#)

🗎 Download the [presentations](#)

🌐 Access all documents, templates and guidance on the official RFCS Annual Call webpage [HERE](#)

📅 **Deadline: 24 Sept 2025**

ON THE TOPIC OF – Research Management

» Call for Expert Evaluators – EARMA Conference 2026

Inviting **volunteers** to help **evaluate abstract submissions** for the **EARMA Annual Conference** in **Utrecht, 5–7 May 2026**.

🧠 **What you'll do:** Review up to 30 abstracts in a core topic area; Evaluate independently from **24 Sept to 10 Oct 2025;** Join a short online briefing on **24 Sept (11:00–12:00 CEST);** Receive a **certificate** and be acknowledged in the conference proceedings

🌐 Open to **all research support professionals** and both early-career and senior experts are welcome.

🗓 **Apply by: 5 September 2025** 🔗 **More info & application** HERE

» Call for Abstracts – EARMA Conference 2026 📍 **Utrecht, Netherlands | 🗓 5–7 May 2026**

EARMA invites research managers and administrators to **submit abstracts** for the 2026 Annual Conference, themed: **"Empowering Research Managers and Administrators as Leaders for Impact"**

Key Topics: Professional Development & Recognition; Strengthening RMA Services; Inclusive & Open Research Management; Pre-, Award, and Post-Award; Knowledge Valorisation; RMAs as Strategic Leaders

Deadline: September 12, 2025 🔗 **Submit your abstract** HERE