

News of the Week - 26 | 2025

06 oct 2025 - Research & Innovation Pre-Award Advisory Unit (DPFC)

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Disclaimer

Non public documents (eg WP drafts) 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

1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» [2025 Meetings Plan](#) | Pre-Award Network Meetings

» Pre-Award Network Meeting 06 | 2025 (05sep2025)

The first draft of the meeting minutes is available [HERE](#)

According to the decisions from last Pre-Award Network meeting, DPFC's information will be disclosed through NoW, Teams or on the website repository. Therefore, the following meetings will have a slightly different configuration: period for questions or feedback regarding DPFC's information, short presentation from the host on pre-award and R&I activities and a period of discussion around specific subjects chosen by the research managers.

Next meeting will be on the **7th November 2025**. Please **choose the topic** for the next meeting and express your interest to host the next meeting [HERE](#).

» ERC 2026 call

Please find the Host Institution letter [HERE](#) and a tool, developed by DP, for building your budget [HERE](#).

» Financial feasibility of European applications

DP has updated the [budget calculation tool](#) for European projects to facilitate the analysis of the **financial feasibility** of proposals.

Further improvements will still be introduced, such as the **annual salary update**, but for now, since the file does not yet include this automatic update, it is recommended to **assume a 3% annual salary increase** for personnel costs.

We are also sharing the [Technical Guidance](#) regarding **IST's internal overheads**, and inform you that the **Technical Guidance for IST-ID's internal overheads** is currently under validation.

As a good practice, it is established that **all budgets must be sent to DP** for financial feasibility analysis by:

- **2 weeks before the deadline** for: ERC, Pathfinder, Transition, Infrastructures, MSCA, Widening
- **1 week before the deadline** for: **Pillar 2 collaborative projects**

» **NoW - Newsletter Repository**

All 25 issues are available in pdf format [HERE](#)

A **Table of Contents** is also available with the summaries per issue per section, allowing for a swift finding of any content. You can download in excel format [HERE](#)

DPFC is still experimenting with the layout and presentation (check [HERE](#)), so all suggestions are welcome.

» **News of the Week (NoW) Assessment | FOLLOW UP**

The assessment survey published in NoW #23 gathered important feedback, relevant in terms of quantity and quality.

The satisfaction was positive, and continuity was asked for. However, the general opinion is that it could be more focused on institutional and cross-cutting issues relevant for the pre-award activity. You can find the report [HERE](#)

Therefore, DPFC will continue to send weekly news on institutional and crosscutting issues to pre-award activities (institution info and guidance, policy, calls, events and networking, resources), introducing a thematic section **on the topic of XX** (e.g., ERC, MSCA, Health, Defense, Infrastructures, RFCS, Research Management, etc) that may vary according to the available and relevant information.

Also, the opportunities presented in the NoW newsletter' section of **Networking**, are but a summary filtered by the DPFC in accordance with the research (actual and intended) that it has knowledge of. Thus, it is important for UIDs to inform DPFC in what topics they are interested in participating in, either to match with other UID interest or with external partner search.

So, if you want to know more about a **topic** or **specific networking opportunities** to match your research, please contact us at pre-award@ist-id.pt and we'll look into it for you!

» IAedu - Digital Service | FOLLOW UP

Following its announcement in NoW #17, we can now update that the IST Management Board gave a **favorable opinion on the signing of a Protocol** between the Foundation for Science and Technology and Instituto Superior Técnico, within the scope of adhesion to the Azure-based [IAedu platform](#) (Meeting September 11th, 2025).

More details soon.

» HE 2025 - Proposals submitted | Aug – Sept 10th

- ERC-2025-AdG – 5 proposals submitted, 4 as coordinators and 1 as beneficiary
- MSCA-2025-PF – 37 proposals submitted

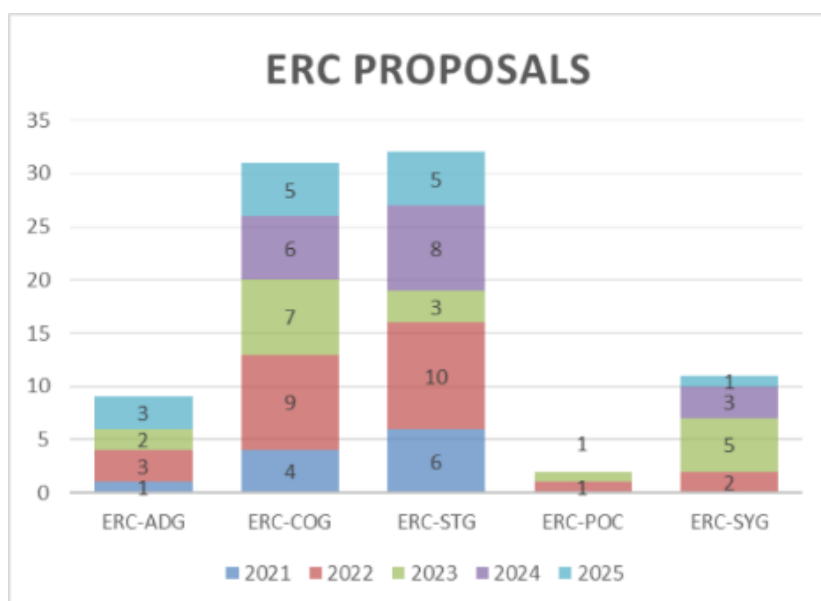
Collaborative – 2025 calls

- CL5 – 8 proposals submitted as beneficiaries
- Miss – CIT – 1 proposal submitted as beneficiary
- Hop-On – 1 proposal submitted
- CL6 – 2 proposals submitted as beneficiaries

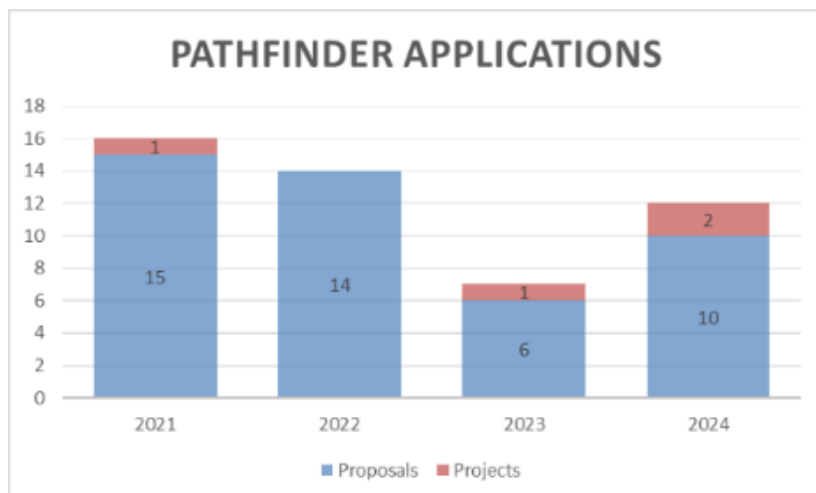
» IST/ IST-ID performance in European Programs 2021-2024



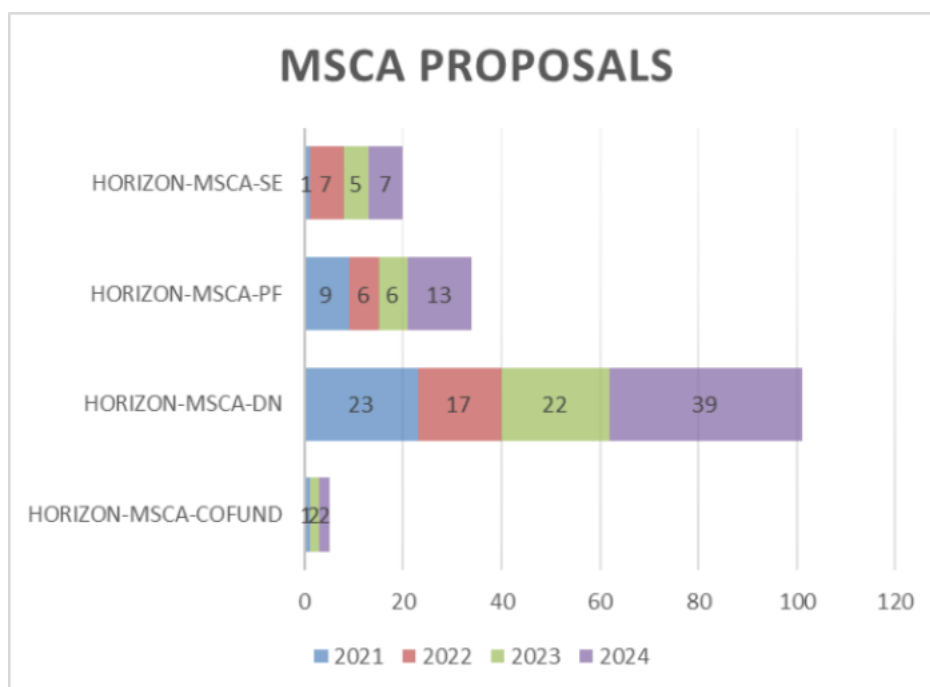
1 - Evolution of IST/IST-ID participation in European Programs | HE Projects: 120 - 39M€



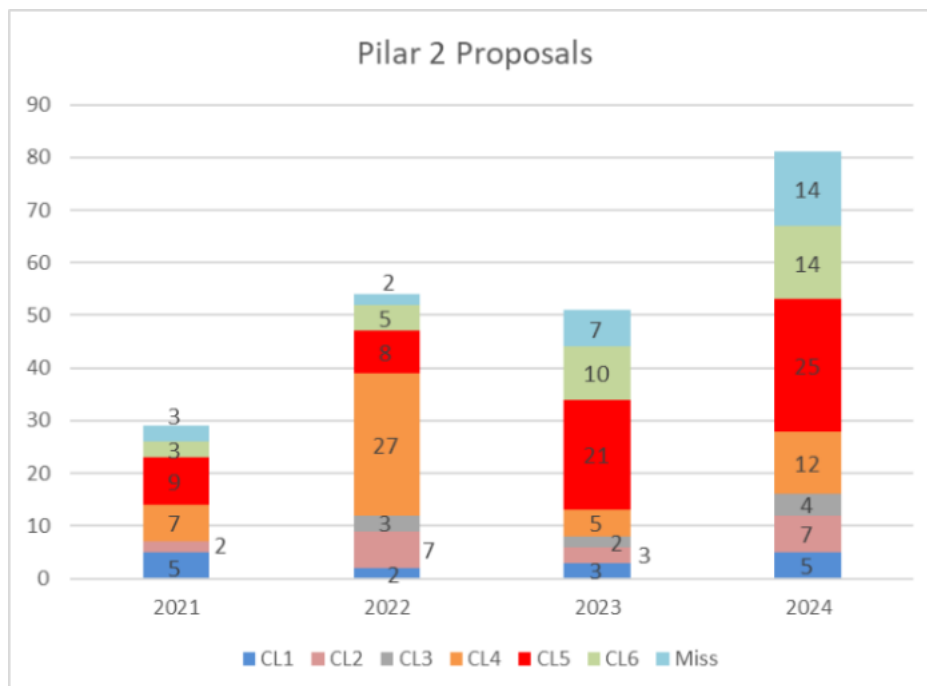
2 - HE ERC Projects: 3 projects - 4,1M€ (~1,4 M€/project)



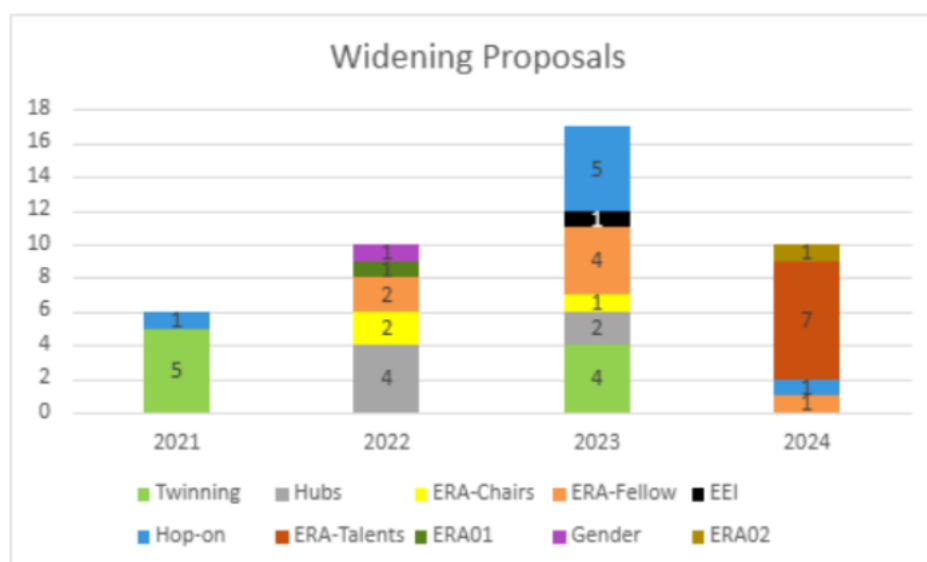
3 - HE EIC Pathfinder Projects: 4 projects - 2,5 M€ (~625k€/ project)



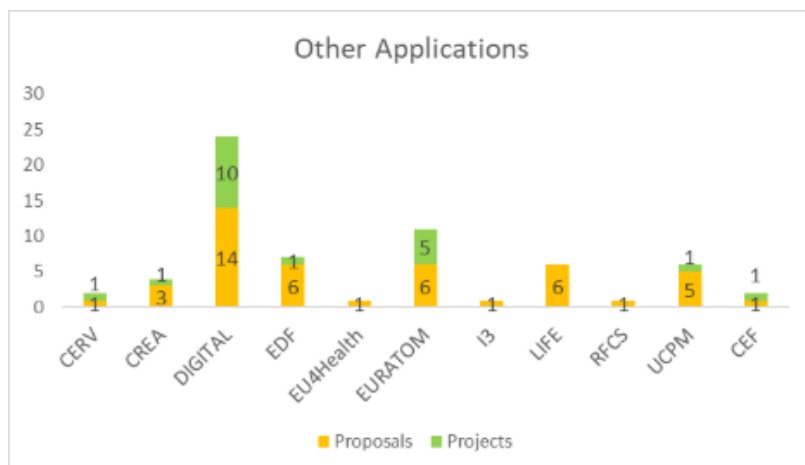
4 - HE MSCA Projects: 25 projects - 3,6 M€ (~150k€/ project) | 46% MSCA-DN; 29% MSCA-SE, 17% MSCA-PF, 8% MSCA-COFUND



5 - HE Pilar 2 Projects: 35 projects - 12,8 M€ (~366 k€/project) | 23% CL4, 20% CL6, 20% Miss, 14% CL5, 9% CL1



6 - HE Widening Projects: 16 projects - 6,8M€ (~425k€/project) | 31% Hop-on, 25% Twinning, 25% ERA-Fellowships, 6% ERA-Talents, 12%



7 - Other EU Programs Projects: 20 projects - 5,9 M€

2. POLICY NEWS

» 2025 State of the Digital Decade Package (source: EC)

The [report](#) assesses the EU's progress toward its 2030 digital transformation goals under the Digital Decade Policy Programme. It highlights both achievements—like improvements in public service digitalisation and edge computing—and persistent gaps in connectivity, digital skills, and technological sovereignty. Key challenges include dependence on non-EU providers for AI, cloud, and semiconductors, a lack of advanced ICT specialists, and underdeveloped infrastructure such as fibre networks and satellite systems. The growing energy demands of AI and data technologies are outpacing clean energy capacity, threatening future scalability. The report raises concerns over online misinformation, digital inequality, and mental health risks, particularly for minors. Member States have proposed nearly €289 billion in digital measures, yet structural weaknesses and uneven progress remain. The report calls for stronger civil-defence tech collaboration, investment in secure digital infrastructure, and acceleration of AI adoption. It urges reforms to strengthen the EU single market and reduce administrative burdens to support innovation. Achieving Digital Decade targets could boost EU GDP by up to 1.8% and strengthen economic and technological sovereignty. The report concludes that 2025 is a critical turning point, requiring bold and coordinated action across sectors.

» European Chemicals Industry Action Plan (source: EC)

The European Commission has launched the [European Chemicals Industry Action Plan](#) to strengthen the competitiveness and sustainability of the chemical sector, which underpins over 96% of manufactured goods in Europe. Central to this plan is promoting **innovation and safe, sustainable products**, aligned with the broader Life Sciences Strategy. Key initiatives include a **revised [Safe and Sustainable by Design \(SSbD\) framework](#)**, supporting the replacement of harmful substances with better alternatives. The EU is also launching **Innovation and Substitution Hubs** and preparing an **Advanced Materials Act** by 2026 to accelerate and reward innovation. The SSbD framework is positioned to become a **global standard** for safe, sustainable, and competitive industrial innovation.

» **New Life Sciences Strategy** (source: EC)

The European Commission has launched a [new Life Sciences Strategy](#) to make Europe the world's most attractive hub for life sciences by **2030**, aiming to boost health, environmental sustainability, and economic growth. The sector already adds **€1.5 trillion to the EU economy** and supports **29 million jobs**, but faces challenges in turning research into real-world innovations. Backed by over **€10 billion annually**, the strategy focuses on accelerating R&D, enabling faster market access, and building public trust in technologies such as microbiome-based solutions, biomanufacturing, and advanced materials. Key actions include an **EU Biotech Act**, new funding tools, and a matchmaking platform for startups, industry, and investors. The strategy also seeks to improve coordination across EU policies, mobilizing **€300 million** for innovation procurement in areas like climate adaptation, vaccines, and cancer treatment.

» **Dual use in next European Program** (source: [Science Business](#))

The European Parliament is increasingly divided over whether to allow **dual-use research**—projects with both civilian and defence applications—into the next EU research Framework Programme (FP10). Proponents, like MEP Eszter Lakos, argue dual-use is a **strategic necessity** for Europe's security and competitiveness, urging a uniquely European approach and integration with the **European Competitiveness Fund**. The European Commission has confirmed that dual-use projects will be eligible in FP10, shifting away from the **civilian-only focus** of previous programmes. Critics, including MEP René Repasi, warn this could **threaten academic openness**, increase bureaucracy, and limit international collaboration due to security constraints. As EU member states align defence strategies with research funding, debates continue over whether dual-use inclusion will enhance innovation or compromise EU research values.

» **European strategy on research and technology infrastructures** (source: [Science Business](#))

The European Commission has launched a **new [strategy on research and technology infrastructures](#)** to strengthen Europe's global leadership in science and innovation. The strategy aims to make **cutting-edge facilities, data, and services more accessible** to researchers, innovators, and industry across the EU. It highlights Europe's existing strengths—such as particle accelerators, clean rooms, and pilot production lines—as essential to supporting the **entire innovation cycle**, from basic research to market-ready technologies. To enhance impact, the strategy outlines **five key action areas**: expanding and aligning infrastructure capacities, improving access, attracting talent, streamlining governance, and boosting international cooperation. It also emphasizes **digitalisation and AI integration** to modernize research infrastructures. The strategy seeks to create **clear career pathways** in technical and scientific roles, support talent development, and attract global researchers under the 'Choose Europe' initiative. Improved governance will support **long-term investment planning** and better coordination among Member States and funding sources. The international dimension includes collaboration with strategic partners and associated countries while also addressing **critical infrastructure security and risk management**. Ultimately, it positions research and technology infrastructures as pillars of EU competitiveness and the foundation of the "fifth freedom": the free movement of research, innovation, and knowledge.

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

DPFC Compilation work tools - UPDATED

» [WP 2025 Calls deadlines](#)

» [Funding Calls 2025](#)

» Work Programme 2026-2027

The Horizon Europe draft work programme for 2026-2027 has been made public. This is change from previous practice and makes the Horizon Europe work programmes more transparent and accessible to all stakeholders. The draft documents can be accessed through the European Commission's Comitology Register, and direct links can be found [HERE](#)

However, until we are positive that the confidential draft versions the DPFC has access to are the ones made public, we'll continue to compile them. Furthermore, now that we notice more stable versions, the DPFC will start working on funding calls and deadlines for 2026!

[\[drafts\] WP2026-27 15sep2025](#)

» Water4All 2025 Joint Transnational Call | 13 nov 2025

33 Funding Partner Organisations from Europe and abroad are pleased to announce the opening of a new Joint Transnational Call on “**Water and Health**”

The four topics are

Topic 1: Waterborne contaminants & health risks: occurrence, behaviour, interactions and vulnerability

Topic 2: Innovative tools and technologies for water quality and exposure monitoring

Topic 3: Water treatment and exposure mitigation

Topic 4: Governance, socio-economic innovation, and policy integration for water and health

» Call Documents & Webinar Recording [HERE](#)

» **Partnering Search Tool** - If you are looking for a partner or a project to join a partner search tool is available. [Link here](#)

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

» Looking for experts for a **COST Action on Green Energy**

The CEU Democracy Institute is exploring the possibility of a COST Action network on Green Energy Transitions (GETs) and is looking for partners interested in shaping a collaborative European research agenda.

Planned topic: The network will examine how the move to net zero is reorganising economies, politics, and societies, and envisage the following thematic foci:

- Justice, Inclusion & Coalitions – What does a “just transition” mean across different contexts, sectors, and scales? How do claims around distribution, recognition, intergenerational fairness, and rights of nature shape transitions? And how are cross-class coalitions realigned or transformed at national and international levels?
- Varieties of Green Capitalisms & Green Valuations – How do public policies, corporate strategies, and financial logics converge or diverge in constructing “green capitalisms”? What new forms of valuation (carbon markets, ESG metrics, biodiversity credits) are emerging, and how do they reshape accumulation? To what extent do GETs transform — or reproduce — existing growth models, and with what consequences for labour, democracy, and inequality?
- Extractivism & Resource Frontiers – How are energy transitions reshaping extractive regimes for critical minerals and land, and what new forms of resistance, dispossession, and conflict emerge?
- Geopolitics, Trade & Production Networks – How do critical minerals, trade regimes, and resource nationalism (re)configure global competition and cooperation? How are transnational production networks in energy and industry being reorganised, and what does this mean for core–periphery hierarchies?
- Knowledge, Labour & Land – Whose knowledge counts in shaping transitions? How are labour regimes restructured across class, race, gender, and migration? How do competing ontologies of land and nature play out in struggles around extractivism and renewable energy infrastructures?
- Supranational Institutions & Regulation – What role do supranational institutions (EU, WTO, MDBs, UN agencies) play in structuring the markets, regulations, and politics of GETs? How do their interventions interact with national strategies and local resistances?



They are especially looking for partners from the following countries, but all are welcome:

- Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, **Portugal**, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia
- French Guiana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mayotte, Reunion Island and Saint-Martin (France), Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain)
- Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Türkiye, Ukraine

If you are interested, please fill in the following form [HERE](#) and the PI coordinating the initiative will reach out to you directly.


5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

» Horizon Europe - Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Choose Europe for Science 2025 call - info session

 Oct 9th (thu) | 13:00  Online

The call opens October 1st. This initiative helps organisations in the research & innovation sector recruit postdoctoral researchers, with a strong focus on offering them long-term career perspectives in Europe.

The goal? **To tackle precarity in research careers** and turn brain drain into brain gain.

 The info session is for universities and research institutions, support offices, and National Contact Points. **It is not targeted to individual researchers.**

9. LOOKING FOR EXPERTS



» IPCC seeks experts to review the first draft of the Special Report on Climate Change and Cities

Read the Press release and Register [HERE](#)

What is an expert reviewer of IPCC reports? [Factsheet](#)

Experts can register to review the drafts from 17 Sep 2025 10:00 to 30 Nov 2025 23:59 (CET).

» HorizonEU call for experts is just out

If you're a specialist in  Climate ⚡ Energy  Mobility you can act as an evaluator and help select the most promising projects making a real impact on Europe's research and innovation future.

[Register](#) to join the Commission Experts Database.