

News of the Week - 27 | 2025

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

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1. INSTITUTIONAL INFORMATION

» Next Pre-Award Network Meeting - 07 | 2025 (07nov2025)

According to the decisions from last Pre-Award Network meeting, next meeting's configuration will be:

Draft Agenda (structure)

- 1 - Questions or feedback regarding DPFC's information;
- 2 - Short presentation from the host on pre-award and R&I activities;
- 3 - Discussion around specific subject chosen by the research managers.

So far only 2 responses were collected. **Please express your opinion** [HERE](#)

» iTalksTécnico-Brisa | Nov 04,2025

The next **iTalks Técnico with Brisa** will take place in a different **format than usual**. This time, **Brisa** is opening the door to developments and innovations in the following thematic broad areas:

Maintenance and Asset Management

- **Inspections, Maintenance, and Rehabilitation:** Developing intelligent methods for automated inspections and predictive maintenance strategies to reduce costs and increase reliability.
- **Monitoring and Digital Twins:** Creating digital models that simulate and monitor assets in real time, enabling failure prediction and operational optimization.
- **Preservation and Risk Mitigation:** Defining strategies to extend the lifespan of infrastructures and reduce operational risks.

Efficiency in Vegetation Maintenance

- **New Maintenance Methods – Robotics and Computer Vision:** Developing robotic prototypes and intelligent systems to automate critical maintenance tasks.
- **Adapting Existing Tools for Cost Efficiency:** Reimagining and upgrading existing tools with integrated technology to reduce costs and improve productivity.

If your research team has **project ideas aligned with these areas**, please note that a **Call for Expressions of Interest is now open**.

The **Technology Transfer (TT) Office** has already shared this information with the **Presidents of the R&D Units (UIDs)** and the **IST research community**, as well as through our **shared TEAMS channel**.

Take note of the Agenda below.

Local: sala Técnico+

Agenda:

A moderação do evento será realizada pela Professora Fátima Montemor.

09h15 - Receção dos participantes

09h30 - Boas-vindas Técnico-Brisa

Apresentação colaborações a decorrer

09h45 - Apresentações Técnico

11h00 - Coffee Break

11h20 - Apresentações Técnico

12h15 - Outras oportunidades de colaboração Técnico-Brisa | Marta Candeias | Técnico Pre-Award

Q&A & Balanço Final: Fátima Montemor

12h25 - Apresentação Técnico+

12h30 - Encerramento e foto Grupo

» iTalksTécnico-BNP Paribas| tbc nov, 2025

The **Technology Transfer Office (TT)** is preparing the next **iTalksTécnico** session with **BNP Paribas**, planned for **late November** (exact date to be confirmed).

This edition will follow the usual structure of **identifying innovative solutions** to address specific **technical and analytical challenges** presented by the company.

Challenge Areas

1. ModernBERT for Chat2Trade [1, 2]

In Natural Language Processing (NLP), fine-tuning pre-trained language models has proven highly effective for transfer learning across many downstream tasks.

Over the years, we have adapted **BERT** to meet our needs (e.g. handling longer text sequences). Now, BNP Paribas aims to **evaluate the effectiveness of ModernBERT**, a model that natively supports longer sequences, for **Named Entity Recognition (NER)** and **text classification tasks** on extended texts such as emails.

References:

- [1] [BERT – Pre-training of Deep Bidirectional Transformers for Language Understanding](#)
- [2] [ModernBERT – A Modernized BERT Architecture](#)

2. Unexpected Losses: From Macroeconomics to Climate Impact and the Use of AI

As part of regulatory requirements, the bank must compute **capital (unexpected losses)** using internal models. This involves simulating the bank's **credit portfolio under 20,000 macroeconomic scenarios**, recently enhanced by incorporating **climate-related drivers** (both idiosyncratic and transition risk factors).

The objective of this session is to present **BNP Paribas' current modelling approach** and explore **how AI can be leveraged to improve analytical efficiency** and accuracy in these simulations.

Next Steps

TT will soon **launch a call for project ideas or sent direct invitations to specific researchers.**

You are encouraged to **reach out to your researchers** to identify anyone who may be interested in participating in this initiative and contributing innovative solutions.

Draft Agenda:

Data: 18 ou 19/11/2025 (tbc)

Local: TBD

09h15 - Receção dos participantes

09h30 - Boas-vindas Técnico-BNP Paribas

Apresentação colaborações a decorrer

09h45 - Apresentações Técnico-BNP Paribas TEMA 1

10h30 - Coffee Break

10h50 - Apresentações Técnico-BNP Paribas

11h35 - Outras oportunidades de colaboração Técnico-Brisa | Marta Candeias | Técnico Pre-Award [Caso se aplique]

Q&A & Balanço Final: Fátima Montemor

11h50 - Apresentação Técnico+

12h00 - Encerramento e foto Grupo

» IST-ID Gathering Day | October 29th, 2025 – 9:00 AM | IST Congress Centre

All **IST-ID researchers** were invited to the **IST-ID Gathering Day**, which will take place on **October 29th, 2025**, at the **IST Congress Centre**, starting at **9:00 AM**.

This special event is designed to **bring together the IST-ID research community**, strengthen collaboration, and provide updates on the services and opportunities available to support research and innovation activities.

Programme Highlights

The morning will feature presentations and discussions covering key areas of IST-ID's activities, including:

- **Pre-Award and Post-Award Services**
- **Technology Transfer and Innovation**
- **Human Resources, Acquisitions, and Science Communication**
- **International Collaboration**

Participants will also hear from **IST and IST-ID leadership**.

The event will include **networking moments** and insights from a **European Research Council (ERC) grant holder**, offering valuable perspectives on successful research pathways.

Who Can Participate

This gathering is open to all **IST-ID researchers**, including:

- **Researchers on the Tenure Track**
- **CEEC researchers**
- **Researchers integrated in projects**



IST-ID GATHERING DAY

IST Congress Centre | October 29th 2025 | 9.00 am

09.00	Participants Reception
09.30	Opening – Prof. Fátima Montemor / President of the Scientific Council - IST-ID
09.35	Welcome Address – Prof. Rogério Colaço / President - IST-ID
09.40	IST-ID in a Glance – Dr. Cristina Oliveira / Executive Director - IST-ID
09.50	Pre Award Network – Dr. Marta Candeias / Head of Research & Innovation Pre-Award Advisory Unit - IST-ID
10.00	Pos Award Services (Projects Area) – Dr. Teresa Malhoa / Shared Services IST & IST-ID
10.10	Technology Transfer Area – Prof. Pedro Amaral / Dr. Carla Patrocínio / Shared Services IST & IST-ID
10.20	Q&A
10.35	Coffee Break & Network Moment
11.05	ERC Grant-Holder
11.15	Q&A
11.25	Human Resources – Dr. Cláudia Jacinto / Shared Services IST & IST-ID
11.35	Acquisitions and Orders – Dr. Ana Guimarães / Shared Services IST & IST-ID
11.45	Science Communication – Dr. Joana Lobo Antunes / Shared Services IST & IST-ID
11.55	International Area – Dr. Joanne Laranjeiro / Shared Services IST & IST-ID
12.05	Q&A
12.20	Closure – Doctor Isabel Dias / Vice-President - IST-ID

Invitation to all IST-ID Researchers: Researchers Tenure Track | Researchers CEEC |
Researchers Integrated in Projects

» Proposals submitted (Sept 10th - 16th October)

2025 Pilar 2 Collaborative Horizon Europe Program: **54**

- CL2 (16/09): **7** (5 as partner, 2 as a coordinator)
- CL6 (16/09; 17/09; 18/09; 24/09): **10** (9 as partner, 1 as a coordinator)
- CL1 (16/09): **9** (6 as partner, 3 as a coordinator)
- CL4 (17/09; 23/09; 24/09; 2/10): **15** (14 as partner, 1 as a coordinator)
- Missions (24/09; 30/09): **3** (Partner)

EIC-2025 -Transition Horizon Europe Program (17/09): **3** (1 as partner, 2 as a coordinator)

2025 Widening Horizon Europe Program (18/09): **3** (Partner)

2025 Infrastructures Horizon Europe Program (18/09): **2** (Partner)

LIFE 2025 Program (23/09): **1** (Partner)

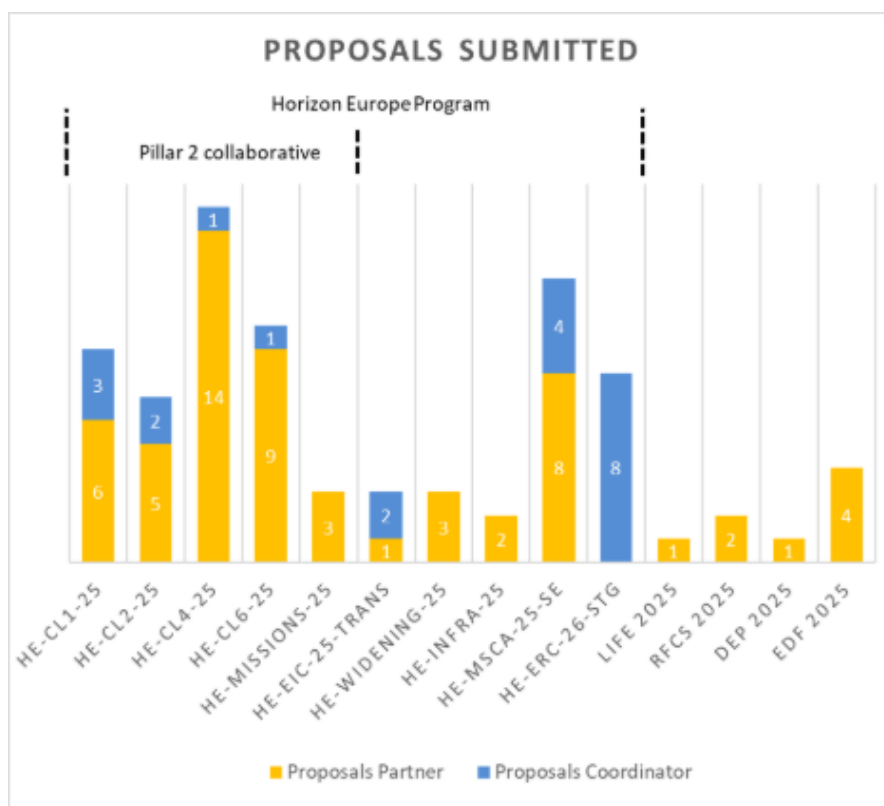
Research Fund for Coal and Steel 2025 Program (24/09): **2** (Partner)

Digital European Program 2025 Program (Skills) (2/10): **1** (Partner)

MSCA-2025-SE Horizon Europe Program (8/10): **12** (8 as partner, 4 as a coordinator)

ERC-2026-StG Horizon Europe Program (14/10): **8**

European Defense Fund 2025 Program (16/10): **4** (Partner)



» Técnico Innovation Summit 2025 | Situation Status

An email was sent to the Presidents of UIDs with the necessary information to operationalize the participation of UIDs in TIS 25.

It included:

- A google forms to collect the UID's expression of interest in participating in the event and how,
- The proposal agenda
- An example of how the stands are presented, the content to be used in their background panels and,
- a guiding document of the thematic areas that will serve to organize the round tables.

There was a meeting on Monday, 13/10, in the morning, with the UIDs, to clarify doubts and a presentation of this initiative during the IST-ID C.C. in the afternoon.

If you need further information regarding:

- Topics related to **thematic areas**, subjects to address in the **round tables**, or types of inputs that could have the **greatest impact on the communication of the stands**: Marta Candeias | marta.candeias@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
- Topics related to the **characteristics of the stands, including what should or should not be included in them**: Diogo Henriques | carlos.diogo@tecnico.ulisboa.pt
- Matters related to **marketing towards companies** that wish to be involved with the R&D Units and/or need **additional communication materials**: Pedro Amaral | pedro.amaral@tecnico.ulisboa.pt and he will coordinate with **Carla Patrocínio** and, when necessary, also liaise with **Joana Lobo Antunes**.

The TIS operational committee will meet again on the 21st October and further information will soon be shared with UIDs.

» HORIZON EUROPE Collaborative Projects Training (5th edition) - Satisfaction Assessment Report

This training cycle is designed and implemented by DFFC/Pre-Award team, under the guidance and management of the HRD - NFD. Its 5th edition occurred last July (14th - 18th) and it was a success - read all in the Report [HERE](#)

We are taking inspiration from the "aspects to be improved" and "other topics of interest" sections to design the next edition, to take place **January 2026**

Stay tuned, as we'll engage you for a dedicated brainstorm soon.

» **Informal Sharing Session on FP10 & the European Competitiveness Fund** (Marta Candeias meeting summary)

An informal session was held to discuss the European Commission's newly presented [proposal](#) (16 July 2025) for the **10th Framework Programme for Research & Innovation (FP10) / Horizon Europe 2028–2034**, and its close link to the **European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)**. The discussion included an intervention by Carla Matias dos Santos, representative of PT in the WGs Research, Research and Atomic Questions, and Space, in REPER (Representação Permanente de Portugal junto .

Key messages about what is under discussion:

- **Partnerships:** Partnerships are expected to continue in the form of **Article 185 and 187 initiatives** (current *institutionalised partnerships*) and **co-funded partnerships** (supported by Member States or organisations). Other partnership models may be implemented under the **European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)**, similar to today's *co-programmed partnerships*.
- **European Innovation Council (EIC):** EIC funding instruments will adopt an **ARPA-style** approach — more agile, mission-driven, and focused on breakthrough innovation.
- **Research Infrastructures:** Under FP10, up to **20% of the total budget** may be used to support the **construction of world-class research infrastructures**.
- **Widening Participation Programme:** The Widening scheme will distinguish between:
 - **Widening countries**, which will continue to have access to the **full range of instruments**; and
 - **Transition countries** (including **Portugal**), which will have access **only to networking and coordination mechanisms**. This means **capacity-building instruments** such as *Teaming* and *ERA Chairs* will no longer be available for transition countries.
- **Dual-use Research:** FP10 will be **open to dual-use activities**, supporting technologies with both civilian and defence applications.
- **European Competitiveness Fund (ECF):** The ECF will **consolidate several existing EU programmes** into a single framework, covering the entire investment journey — for example: **LIFE, Space Programme, EDF, DEP, InvestEU**, and others.
- **Policy Windows:** Funding priorities will be organised into **Policy Windows (thematic areas)** jointly financed by **FP10 and the ECF**. Each Policy Window will include: **Stakeholder Committees** (selected members) and **Stakeholder Platforms** (open participation) to help **shape and influence funding priorities**. Budgets will

not be ring-fenced — funding can be flexibly reallocated between and within Policy Windows, depending on evolving policy priorities.

- **Funding Focus:** There will be **less emphasis on bottom-up calls**, with a **larger share of resources directed toward competitiveness**, compared to societal and environmental challenges.

» CERIS Funding Talk: National and European Funding – Opportunities, Challenges, and Best Practices

 **Date:** 3 October 2025

 **Time:** 9:30 – 12:30

On 3 October 2025, CERIS hosted the Funding Talk: National and European Funding – Opportunities, Challenges, and Best Practices, **where DPFC and DP participated.**

The event brought together researchers and professionals for an engaging morning dedicated to exploring funding opportunities and learning how to build stronger, more competitive proposals.

2. POLICY NEWS

» **FP10 co-financing plan for research infrastructures** (originally published in [Science Business](#))

The European Commission's FP10 proposal introduces a **co-financing plan** for research infrastructures, allowing **EU funds to cover up to 20%** of construction and upgrade costs to better align EU and national priorities. The move is broadly welcomed as a way to **boost investment and coordination**, especially where national budgets are constrained. However, **infrastructure operators warn of unresolved issues**: operational costs remain underfunded, **human resources are scarce**, and long-term sustainability is uncertain. Experts like **Nicolas Pade (EMBRC)** and **Mattias Björnmalm (CESAER)** stress the need for a **stable, multi-source funding model** and **legal clarity on state-aid rules**. Concerns persist that FP10's growing focus on **competitiveness and market outcomes** could marginalise fundamental science. Stakeholders also seek clarity on **how much of Pillar 4's €16.2 billion** will support infrastructures and call for **policy stability** to consolidate, not constantly reinvent, Europe's research facilities.

» **Role of Research Ministers in FP10 negotiations** (originally published in [Science Business](#))

EU research ministers insist their role in **negotiating the next Horizon Europe (FP10)** will not be diminished, despite Council plans for **finance ministers** to oversee parts of the programme through an ad hoc budget working party. Danish minister **Christina Egelund** stressed that science ministries remain key in shaping priorities such as **AI, quantum, and infrastructure**. Yet diplomats warn research ministries must work hard to retain influence. Ministers broadly back including **dual-use research** (civil and military) but want **civil focus and security safeguards**. Divisions persist on funding **purely defence projects** through the EIC Accelerator. The **€175B budget** faces major hurdles: **frugal states** oppose expansion, while others push for more R&I spending. Germany's tight finances align it with budget hawks. Political shifts, inflation, and security concerns add uncertainty, with final **budget talks expected to last into 2027**.

» **Single rulebook for EU research funding** (originally published in [Science Business](#))

European Research Council (ERC) President **Maria Leptin** warned that the European Commission's plan to introduce a **single rulebook** for all EU research programmes could mean “**death to all programmes.**” Speaking at the **Hamburg Science Summit**, she argued that different EU research bodies have **distinct missions** requiring **tailor-made procedures**, not uniform contracts or rules. While the Commission says standardisation will simplify access, Leptin countered that it would **erode flexibility and independence**, especially for the ERC, which succeeds thanks to its **autonomous peer-review system** led by hand-picked experts. She cautioned that a common framework would restrict adjustments—such as publicising panel members or adapting contracts—and undermine scientific excellence. Leptin also criticised the Commission for **not increasing the ERC's budget share** in FP10 and warned against the **European Competitiveness Fund** being used to tighten political control over research priorities.

» **EU research funding should focus on 'sizeable priority programmes,'** Draghi says (originally published in [Science Business](#))

Former ECB President **Mario Draghi** welcomed the European Commission's proposed **€175 billion Horizon Europe budget**, but warned it may “**fall short**” of boosting the EU's technological competitiveness. Speaking a year after his landmark **competitiveness report**, Draghi said Europe still lacks the **scale and focus** needed to rival the US and China, urging that new funds be **concentrated on priority programmes**. He called for swift adoption of the “**28th regime**” to help start-ups operate seamlessly across the EU, noting weak member state support. Meanwhile, Research Commissioner **Ekaterina Zaharieva** admitted the €175B figure may shrink during negotiations but pledged early reforms and targeted R&D spending—such as **€1B for EV innovation**—to align with Draghi's vision. She also pressed for **greater private R&D investment**, warning Europe lags behind global competitors despite similar public spending levels.

» **Scientists urged to demand independent governance in Horizon Europe** (originally published in [Science Business](#))

Manuel Heitor, chair of the expert group advising the European Commission on the next Framework Programme (FP10), has called for “**scientific activism**” to promote **independent governance models** across EU research funding. Speaking in Copenhagen, Heitor praised the **European Research Council (ERC)** as the “**jewel of the crown**,” citing its autonomous Scientific Council as a model for the rest of the Framework Programme. He criticised collaborative instruments in Horizon Europe as overly bureaucratic and less impactful than single-beneficiary schemes like the ERC. His group proposed **independent councils** for industrial competitiveness and societal challenges, but these were **not included** in the Commission’s FP10 plan, which instead links funding to the **European Competitiveness Fund**. ERC President **Maria Leptin** warned against a **single rulebook** limiting ERC flexibility, though the Commission has since reassured its autonomy. Danish science minister **Christina Egelund** and others defended strong investment in **frontier research**, while **Margrethe Vestager** floated **lottery-based funding** to simplify grant access — an idea the Commission is reportedly exploring.

» **MEPs put Europe’s innovation gap on FP10 agenda** (originally published in [Science Business](#))

Members of the European Parliament’s **industry and research committee** reaffirmed the need for a **Widening programme** in Horizon Europe after 2027 but stressed that **member states must boost national R&D funding** and better use **EU structural funds**. MEP **Christian Ehler (EPP)** said Widening “cannot fix low national investment” and called for a **mandatory R&I quota** in cohesion funding. Commissioner **Ekaterina Zaharieva** defended Widening as a **political commitment** to equal opportunities in research but admitted it cannot close Europe’s innovation gap alone. The Commission’s FP10 proposal introduces a **two-tier system** — “Widening” and “transition” countries — based on the **EU Innovation Scoreboard**, though Ehler questioned its accuracy. MEPs warned against **finance ministries** leading the negotiations, arguing that **research ministers** should steer the debate. The Parliament’s work on the FP10 legislative file begins soon, with Ehler likely to play a leading role once again.

» **2025 State of the European Union** - main messages for R&I (source: [European Commission](#))

State of the European Union's messages frame research and innovation as the **core of Europe's strategic autonomy**. They shift focus from isolated funding to **building an integrated knowledge ecosystem** — talent, infrastructure, technology, and capital — all tied to the **Competitiveness Fund** and **Horizon Europe expansion**.

In essence, Europe's future independence is to be secured not by protectionism, but by research excellence and innovation leadership.

Main messages

- **Competitiveness through Research and Innovation** - Von der Leyen positioned R&I as the **engine of Europe's competitiveness and independence**, linking scientific strength to technological sovereignty, security, and prosperity. A new **European Competitiveness Fund** will pool investments in *digital, green, AI, and deep-tech innovation*.
- **Doubling the Horizon Europe Budget** - The **next Framework Programme (FP10)** will see a **doubling of the Horizon Europe budget** to accelerate Europe's capacity for scientific and technological breakthroughs, especially in strategic sectors such as **clean tech, quantum, space, and biotech**.
- **"Choose Europe" Initiative for Talent Attraction** - A **€500 million package** will support the *Choose Europe* scheme to **attract and retain world-class scientists, innovators, and entrepreneurs**, offering funding, mobility incentives, and academic freedom safeguards.
- **Fifth Freedom: Knowledge and Innovation** - The Commission will enshrine a **"fifth freedom"** in the Single Market — the free movement of **knowledge, research, data, and innovation** — to deepen integration between universities, research centres, and industry.
- **AI and Emerging Technologies Leadership** - Launch of the **AI in Science and Apply AI** strategies, including the creation of **Raise (Resource for AI Science in Europe)** — a **"CERN for AI"** — and **AI Gigafactories** to ensure Europe leads in safe, transparent, and human-centred AI.
- **Digital and Clean-Tech Investment Drive** - "Massive investment" in **digital and clean technologies** via new instruments such as the **Industrial Accelerator Act, Battery Booster (€1.8 billion)**, and **Energy Highways initiative** to link R&I with green industrial deployment.

- **Simplification and Efficiency in R&I Funding** - Ongoing efforts to **cut administrative burdens by 25 %** and streamline funding rules across EU programmes, while preserving flexibility for excellence-based science (notably for the ERC).
- **Skills and Knowledge Infrastructure** - New **STEM education and Union of Skills programmes** to train and retain the next generation of researchers and technicians; upgraded **research infrastructures** to modernise Europe's scientific base.
- **Global Partnerships and Open Science** - The EU re-commits to **international scientific cooperation** through equitable partnerships, while safeguarding research security and strategic autonomy.

» **EU launches AI strategies to boost competitiveness and science** (originally published in [Science Business](#))

The European Commission has launched two new initiatives — **Apply AI** and **AI in Science** — to accelerate the use of artificial intelligence across Europe and boost competitiveness.

The **Apply AI strategy** will integrate AI into key sectors such as **healthcare, mobility, and public services**, backed by **€1 billion in EU funding** plus national and private contributions. It will also support **SMEs** through new **AI Experience Centres** and provide a **service desk** to guide companies on AI Act compliance.

The **AI in Science strategy** will establish **Raise (Resource for AI Science in Europe)** — a “**CERN for AI**” — offering researchers data, tools, and computing power for advanced AI research. The Commission plans to **double Horizon Europe's AI investment to over €3 billion annually**, reinforce AI computing infrastructure, and launch **pilot projects under Horizon calls in 2026–27**. Officials say this structured approach gives Europe an edge over the US and China, which lack comparable, coordinated AI-in-science frameworks.

» **EU Defence Transformation Plan** (originally published in [Science Business](#))

The European Commission will unveil a Defence Transformation Roadmap in November 2025 to boost innovation, agility, and dual-use technology in Europe's defence sector. The plan highlights the importance of AI and rapid tech development but lacks concrete details or new R&D funding.

Four flagship initiatives are proposed—on drones, air defence, eastern surveillance, and space protection—driven by lessons from Ukraine and open to all EU states. The roadmap sets a target for EU countries to procure 55% of defence investment from European companies by 2027 and includes an annual readiness report. Tech alliances and a defence industry summit will aim to close capability gaps across nine strategic areas, amid rising defence spending and plans to channel €131 billion through the European Competitiveness Fund.

3. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

DPFC Compilation work tools - UPDATED

» [WP 2025 Calls deadlines](#)

» [Funding Calls 2025](#)

» [\[drafts\] WP2026-27 16oct2025](#)

» **EP PerMed Launches RITC2026 Call**

The European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed) has opened its first Research, Innovation and Technology Call (RITC2026), focused on **multimodal data approaches for personalised medicine**.

Key details:

- **Theme:** MultiPMDData2026 – tackling multimorbidity via data-driven solutions
- **Budget:** ~€14.8 million from 19 funding organisations
- **Target:** Mature technologies (TRL ≥ 3) tested in real-world settings
- **Deadline:** Pre-proposal: 12 Jan 2026 Full proposal: 27 Apr 2026

Consortium Requirements & Support

Projects must include:

- At least one **SME or industry partner**
- One **clinical partner**
- Strongly encouraged: **patient/citizen organisation involvement**

Proposals should address six enabling elements (e.g. infrastructure, policy, behavioural factors) to ensure clinical adoption.

Support events:

- **Info Day:** 28 Oct 2025
- **Matchmaking Event:** 18 Nov 2025
- **Partnering Search Tool** - If you are looking for a partner or a project to join a matchmaking platform is available [HERE](#)

» The Europe's Rail JU 2025-02 call

The Europe's Rail JU Call for project proposals 2025-02 opened the 8 October 2025 and will close on the 11 February 2026.

Find all Call details in the Europe's Rail JU Annual Work Programme 2025 [HERE](#)

Last Oct 10, an Info Session took place to launch the Call. Find the Info Day materials in the Resource Section.

- **Partnering Search Tool** - If you are looking for a partner or a project to join a matchmaking platform is available [HERE](#)

» EUREKA Cluster SMART 9th Call for Projects | Deadline 22th of January 2026

Applicants to this call can send their Project Outlines (PO) providing a short overview of the concept, the objectives of the project and the partnership even if they are not entirely settled. This document allows early advice and feedback from the evaluators. This step is highly recommended, but participants may submit a Full Project Proposal straightforward. The PO is used for the pre-selection of proposals, preliminary information and budget discussions between the SMART organisation and the respective Public Authorities and for general information exchange within the SMART organisation. It enables an initial selection among the different submitted ideas, while keeping the workload of consortia to a minimum.

As in the previous editions, SMART will be using the [Cluster Project Tool](#) that will enable participants to enter the key project data into the system to automate some subsequent tasks.

Submitted proposals must cover any of the topics listed [HERE](#)

4. NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Cooperation Opportunities in (Keywords)

» **Keywords:** Smart Cities, Transport, Trustworthy AI

Seeking expertise (Road safety, Traffic modeling) and Consortium for upcoming call **Expertise in Drone-based Data Acquisition and ML** | [Crowdhelix](#)

» **Keywords:** Digital, Materials, Water

Seeking expertise (Environmental monitoring, AI, Aquatic environments, Engineering and technology) and Project Coordinator for [Draft WP Call HORIZON-CL6-2026-01-ZEROPOLLUTION-03](#)

» **Keywords:** Mission Climate, Society, Digital

[Partner Search – EUREKA Network Projects: Disaster Resilience 2025](#)

Seeking expertise in Disaster, Signal processing, Deep learning, Prototyping, Field testing

» **Keywords:** Energy, Mission Climate, CO2 Removal

Seeking expertise (Biofuels, Co2) and Consortium for upcoming call **Large-scale production of liquid advanced biofuels and renewable fuels of non-biological origin** ([HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-01](#))

» **Seanovation**, an innovation center in southern Israel focused on aquaculture, aquatech, marine and desert biotechnology, renewable energy, and sustainability, is interested in exploring joint applications for upcoming HORIZON calls. The organization supports startups, runs pilot projects in its city, and collaborates with schools and artists. It can lead pilot activities, capacity building, and dissemination tasks, and is open to questions or an online introductory meeting.

Contact: salome.zajbert@gmail.com

» **Marketplace | Europe's Rail Joint Undertaking Call 2025-02**

8 Oct 2025 – 11 Feb 2026

Project Cooperation - [16 Opportunities](#) (15oct2025)

» **Online Matchmaking | MultiPMDData2026**

1 Oct 2025 – 12 Jan 2026

Project Cooperation - [3 Opportunities](#) (searched 16oct2025)

» **SMART PO Proposers' Day - 9th Call**

(Matchmaking Event ONSITE October 14th)

The platform online is not open to registration, but you can find 6 project cooperation opportunities [HERE](#)

5. UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

DPFC Compilation work tools

» [Events Calendar 2025](#)

» **Since last NoW issue, we added to the Calendar the following Events and/or Resources from Events; be sure not to miss!**

- Oct 10, 2025 | The Europe's Rail JU 2025-02 call infoday (Presentation and Recording)
- Oct 28, 2025 | EP PerMed Launches RITC2026 Call infoday (Online)
- Nov 04-05, 2025 | 19th SET Plan Conference (Onsite)
- Nov 18, 2025 | Online Matchmaking: MultiPMDData2026
- Nov 26-27, 2025 | FAME - Future of Advanced Materials in Europe (Onsite)
- Nov 27-28, 2025 | FAME-EcoSys - Future of the European Advanced Materials Ecosystem (Onsite)
- Dec 1-2, 2025 | Matchmaking Event on Horizon EU Cluster 6 (Onsite)
- Dec 3-4, 2025 | Matchmaking Event on Human-Centered Digital Transformation for Sustainable Societies (Onsite)
- Dec 04, 2025 | Advancing cancer care: focus on personalised treatment and innovation for all Europeans (Hybrid)
- Jan 20-21, 2026 | Horizon Europe info days - EU Missions (Online)
- Jan 21, 2026 | CARE4BIO 2026 Brokerage Event in Brussels (Onsite)
- Jan 22-23, 2026 | Horizon Europe info days - Cluster 6 (Hybrid)

6. RESOURCES

» Europe's Rail Call for proposals 2025-02 InfoDay [Presentation](#) and [Recording](#)

ON THE TOPIC OF: Research Management

» First National Conference on Science Management Strengthens Role of Professionals in Portugal

The [1st National Conference of the Portuguese Association for Science Management](#) took place at the **University of Aveiro**, marking the official launch of the association that represents professionals working in **science, technology, and innovation management** across the country.

The event brought together **science managers, researchers, and policymakers** for a full day of dialogue, collaboration, and knowledge sharing. Sessions highlighted the **strategic importance of science management** in research institutions, including a roundtable featuring Marta Candeias (DPFC, IST-ID) among the speakers. The program also showcased **international case studies**, with Mariana Santa-Marta (CERENA & CEGIST, IST-ID) participating as a **RM ROADMAP Ambassador**, and promoted an open debate on **public policies and funding for science and innovation**.

Organized by the association's founding members with local support from the University of Aveiro, the conference fostered **networking and community building** among professionals from across Portugal. Participants praised the initiative as a **key step toward strengthening recognition, collaboration, and professional identity** within the national science management landscape.

Attended from **Técnico's research management ecosystem**: Ana Costa (DP, IST), Ana Espada (CQE, IST-ID), Margarida Suarez (DP, IST-ID), Mariana Santos (CEGIST, IST-ID), Rita Soares (CAMGSD, IST-ID), Rute Martins (CiTUA, IST-ID), Sara Correia (IT, IST), Silvia Castro (INESC-ID), Sofia Martins (iBB, IST-ID), Teresa Malhoa (DP, IST), Vesna Bozanic (IDMEC), Joana Barreiras (CERENA, IST-ID), Patricia Pinheiro (DP, IST)

Thank you Ana Espada, for the photos!

» DIG4BIO Workshop on Project Management

The **DIG4BIO Workshop on Project Management** successfully took place in October 2025, bringing together **research project managers and invited experts** from across Europe for three dynamic training sessions.

Held **online on 7 and 9 October** and concluding with a **hybrid session at Instituto Superior Técnico (IST), Lisbon, on 14th October**, the workshop offered practical insights into key aspects of EU project management.

Sessions covered topics such as **EU budgeting and Lump Sum schemes** (Charles William Lawrence, DTU), **common planning mistakes and their impact** (Sara Correia, IT), **process management** (Philipp Wasserscheidt, TU Berlin), and **project management practices at IST** (Margarida Suárez, Técnico). The final hands-on session, led by **Catarina Madeira (ColabTrials)**, provided participants with practical training in the **PMI methodology**.

Organised by the **DIG4BIO team**, the workshop was praised for its **interactive format and practical focus**, fostering **skills development, experience sharing, and collaboration** within the European research management community.

ON THE TOPIC OF: Defence

» Canada Portugal Navy Innovation Roundtable (Marta Candeias meeting summary)

This roundtable brought together the Portuguese Navy, Royal Canadian Navy, and key industry and academic partners to foster collaboration, share insights, and explore cooperation in the context of REPMUS, including Técnico Lisboa.

Instituto Superior Técnico (IST) underlined the value of **REPMUS** as a world-class operational testbed for maritime technologies. The event highlighted how REPMUS enables Portuguese and Canadian teams to integrate and stress-test systems in realistic naval environments, fostering rapid transitions from lab prototypes to field-ready solutions.

IST presented its contributions to these efforts, including the **Seagull** and **STORM ZERO** autonomous vessels and the **MarSyn** dataset, which together support experimentation, interoperability, and resilience testing.

Participants also discussed the crucial **role of academia** in bridging research and naval capability development. Técnico showcased examples such as the **FUSION Hybrid AUV/ROV**, developed through IST research and now operational with international navies, and decades of work on **cooperative navigation and control algorithms** tested in real maritime missions.

Finally, IST showed its work in **dual-use innovation**, citing projects like **RAMONES** for ocean radioactivity monitoring and **ASTRIIS** for satellite-based maritime surveillance — both demonstrating how scientific research can serve environmental monitoring and defense applications alike.

The growing engagement of IST in forums related to the **Armed Forces** and its closer alignment with **Defence and Security R&D funding** is being coordinated by **Deputy Director for Defence and Security RTD Initiatives, Associate Professor, Alexandra Moutinho**. She leads a small group of experts — which also includes Marta Candeias, **DPFC** — dedicated to advancing IST's strategic involvement in these areas.

» Communication of Sensitive information in social networks

We would like to draw your attention to the importance of exercising **caution when sharing information** that may involve **sensitive themes**, such as defense-related activities, international security matters, or ongoing geopolitical situations (e.g., Israel).

Although we do not have specific institutional guidance at this time, we kindly ask everyone to **carefully consider communication strategies and the choice of channels** used when disseminating such content.

As an example, a recent visit by a **delegation from Lockheed Martin (USA)** to Técnico Lisboa — part of ongoing discussions on collaboration in autonomy and artificial intelligence with the Institute for Systems and Robotics — was shared on social media platforms such as Instagram. The post generated **strong public reactions and negative comments**, illustrating the sensitivity of such topics in public communication.

We therefore encourage a **thoughtful and measured approach** to external communication on potentially sensitive issues.

» Funding opportunities

- Tenders [Quantum Technologies in Defence](#) | Deadline: 27/10/2025
- PRR launches funding line for the Defense and Security Economy

The **Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR)** has opened a new **€50 million funding line** to support innovative business investments in the field of defense and security, under the **Financial Instrument for Innovation and Competitiveness (IFIC)**.

This initiative aims to strengthen the **national defense industry**, supporting projects in **productive innovation, research and development, qualification, and internationalization** of companies engaged in **dual-use activities (civilian and military)**.

Total available amount: €50,000,000 (fifty million euros)

Managing entities: Banco Português de Fomento, in coordination with the “Recuperar Portugal” Mission Structure.

Application deadlines:

- **Phase I:** until **November 14, 2025**
- **Phase II:** until **December 29, 2025**, if funds remain available after Phase I.

More information:

In the PRR call “Business Innovation – Defense and Security Economy” (Notice No. 02/C05-i14.01/2025), **only companies can apply as beneficiaries**. However, **the evaluation criteria give additional merit** to projects that **include subcontracts with ENESII entities, encouraging collaboration between industry and the national scientific and technological system**. (Thank you Vesna Bozanic for the additional information)

- Public Notice No. [02/C05-i14.01/2025](#) — “Defense and Security Economy” [Funding Line](#)
- Ministerial Order [No. 286/2025/1, dated August 14](#)

Contacts for inquiries:

✉ ific@recuperarportugal.gov.pt

✉ bpfomento@bpfomento.pt

- **SAFE (Security Action for Europe) and Its Impact on Research and Innovation**

Adopted by the EU Council in May 2025, [SAFE](#) is a **new €150 billion European financial instrument** designed to **accelerate defense readiness** and strengthen Europe’s **Defence Technological and Industrial Base (EDTIB)**. It provides **long-term, low-interest loans** to Member States for large-scale defense investments, with an emphasis on **joint procurement and capability development** involving multiple EU partners, Ukraine, and EEA-EFTA countries.

SAFE marks a **strategic shift toward integrated European defense financing**, complementing existing R&D and industrial mechanisms under the **ReArm Europe / Readiness 2030** initiative. For the research and innovation community, SAFE represents a **major opportunity to align technological R&D with capability needs**, encouraging **dual-use innovation, industrial-academic partnerships, and cross-border collaboration**.

By requiring high European content (minimum 65%) and adaptability in technology design, SAFE will **stimulate innovation in advanced manufacturing, AI, autonomy, materials, and cybersecurity**, fostering deeper collaboration between universities, research institutes, and industry. For Portugal, with a tentative allocation of **€5.8 billion**, this framework could significantly expand defense-related R&D and innovation capacity in the coming years.

» WORKSHOP AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS QUANTUM COMPUTING FOR DEFENCE SIMULATIONS | 11-12 February 2026 | Luxembourg

Invitation to the WORKSHOP AND CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS QUANTUM COMPUTING FOR DEFENCE SIMULATIONS to be held on 11 and 12 February 2026, at the premises of the Luxembourg Chamber of Commerce, 7, rue Alcide de Gasperi, L-2981 Luxembourg-Kirchberg.

If you are interested **please contact Alexandra Moutinho** (alexandra.moutinho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt) and marta.candeia@tecnico.ulisboa.pt .

Confirmation of your attendance is needed via the link, no later than 08 January 2026 COB.

» Webinar "Research and Transfer of Dual-Use Technologies - Guidelines for S&T Institutions" | 22 de out 2025 | online | 10h00

Dual-use technologies, developed for civilian purposes but with potential military applications, are subject to specific **export control rules** aimed at preventing risks to national and international security. **For science and technology institutions**, understanding this framework is essential for research activities, knowledge transfer, and participation in international cooperation projects.

In this context, **IAPMEI** and the **Enterprise Europe Network Portugal** are organising a cycle of webinars on export control, designed to support companies, universities, and research centres in understanding the applicable rules. This initiative is part of the activities of the **Aerospace and Defence sector** within the Enterprise Europe Network Portugal.

Second session | Focus on Science and Technology Institutions

This webinar will provide key guidelines on research and transfer of dual-use technologies, highlighting the regulatory framework and associated risks.

It is aimed at universities, polytechnic institutes and research centres, as well as project managers, innovation offices, and technology transfer officers engaged in international cooperation projects.

[PROGRAMME](#) | [REGISTRATION](#)

» **SEGUREX 2025** ⓘ *October 21–23 | Lisbon, Portugal*

idD Portugal Defence will be present at **SEGUREX 2025**, taking place at the **Lisbon International Fair (FIL)**, with a stand (3E28 – Pavilion 4) shared with **10 entities** that develop innovative and technologically advanced solutions.

As part of this participation, the “**Defense Industry at SEGUREX 2025**” Conference is scheduled to take place, focusing on **funding opportunities, internationalization, and cooperation between the defense sector and national industry**.

For further information [HERE](#).

» Emerging risks and opportunities for EU internal security stemming from new technologies #report

This report explores the transformative potential of **Key Enabling Technologies** in addressing emerging security challenges within the European Union. Through foresight analysis, the report evaluates technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced sensing, blockchain, and drones, highlighting their ability to enhance law enforcement and critical infrastructure resilience, while exposing vulnerabilities, such as misuse by criminal actors or regulatory gaps. The findings emphasise the need for proactive EU policies to both support technology transformation and mitigate risks, including strategic investments in secure innovation, legal harmonisation, and addressing societal concerns.

Read the full Report [HERE](#)