



# News of the Week - 28 | 2025

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

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If you want to know more about an opportunity, call, RI, Event, and/or any other subject regarding a NoW section (already mentioned or not) please contact us at <a href="mailto:pre-award@ist-id.pt">pre-award@ist-id.pt</a> and we'll look into it for you!

#### 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 <a href="mailto:pre-award@ist.pt">pre-award@ist.pt</a>





#### INTERNAL INFORMATION

### » Next Pre-Award Network Meeting 07nov2025 | UPDATE Topic & Format

According to the responses collected, the meeting's agenda is:

#### **Draft Agenda (structure)**

- 1 DPFC's information;
- [2 Short presentation from the host on pre-award and R&I activities;]
- 3 Discussion around the **Topic** "Calls 2026 and 2027 and EU Networks map per cluster pillar 2 and their links and calls (if applicable)"

The meeting will be **ONLINE** (without host)

# » HORIZON EUROPE 2025 | IST- ID/IST Research Centers Performance in European Programmes

Data source: European Commission Portal and Local UIDs Manager

**Period**: 2021 - 2025 (data extracted from the EC Portal on the 19th October 2025)

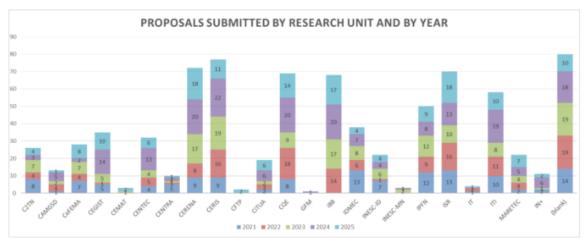
**European Programmes**: Horizon Europe (HORIZON), Digital Europe Program (DIGITAL), European Defence Fund (EDF), ERASMUS2027, COST, Research Fund for Coal and Steal (RFCS2027), Connecting European Facility (CEF2027), EU for Health (EU4H), Interregional Innovation Investments Instrument (I3), Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM2027), EURATOM2027, Creative Europe Programme (CREA2027), Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Program (CERV2027), LIFE2027

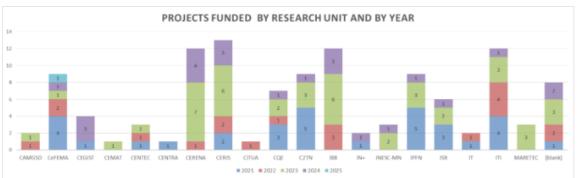
**Methodology**: Association of projects to UIDs by matching researchers' emails with the Research Units Members' List; looking on the Research Unit website and validation by the Local UID Manager.

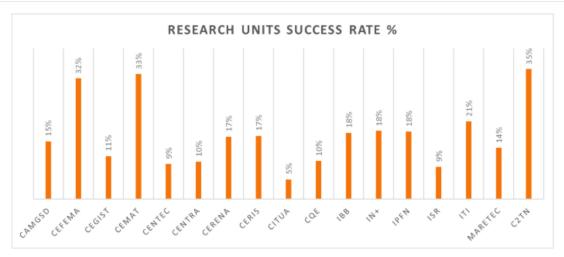
**Considerations:** Research Units performance is only for IST-ID or IST part. Some associations might not be correct because not all were validated by Local UIDs Managers. Research units success rate might not be accurate due to high level of proposals (blanks) that are not associated to any Research Unit.





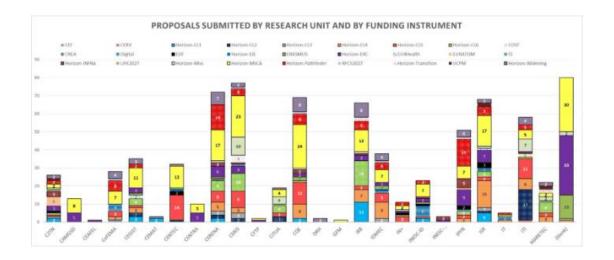


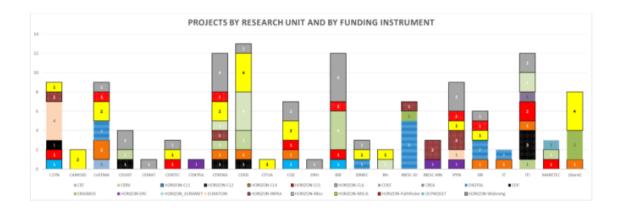
















#### **POLICY NEWS**

» Implementation Dialogues: Engaging with stakeholders in Rethinking EU Research & Innovation Policies

Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva is listening — and acting.

Through the <u>Implementation Dialogues</u>, stakeholders across Europe are helping shape a smarter, simpler Horizon Europe.

The high-impact **Dialogue** held on sept 16th 2025, with more than **3000** attendants, was followed by a **Reality Check** event on sept 23rd, allowing discussions in more technical detail between over 1000 participants from universities, research institutes, industry, and startups. Here are some **highlights** from both events:

- ✓ Lump sum funding: promising but complex
  - Favored by SMEs for its simplicity, but challenging for large consortia due to upfront workload and rigid redistribution rules;
  - Risk of payment delays affecting entire projects
- ☑ Reporting: less financial auditing, more technical review
  - Financial audits reduced under lump sum model; Technical reviews more demanding
- Personnel & overheads: current models don't reflect reality
  - Dashboards fail to reflect real-world salary structures and progression; Risk of underfunding due to oversimplified models
  - Flat 25% rate often underestimates actual overheads (typically 40–60% in universities); Calls for more flexible or hybrid models
- ✓ Strong call for clearer guidance, diverse panels & streamlined tools
  - Demand for clearer templates, rules, and hybrid funding options





■ New app: *EU funding and me* 

More Resources from both events can be found in the respective <u>Events Calendar'</u> entries.

» New Strategic EU-India Agenda (source: European Parliament)

The **New Strategic EU-India Agenda**, adopted on 17 September 2025, marks a major renewal of the partnership between the European Union and India, first established in 2004. The initiative reflects the EU's desire to deepen cooperation with India amid global power shifts, Russia's war against Ukraine, and growing rivalry with China. The joint communication structures cooperation around **five pillars**: (1) Prosperity and sustainability; (2) **Technology and innovation**; (3) Security and defence; (4) Connectivity and global issues; and (5) Cross-cutting enablers.

The EU also proposes "Blue Valleys" for sustainable value chains, innovation hubs, and a start-up partnership, while inviting India to join Horizon Europe.

Security cooperation will expand through a planned **EU-India Security and Defence Partnership**, negotiations on a **security of information agreement**, and possible Indian participation in EU missions. The agenda is set to be adopted at the **EU-India Summit in January 2026**.

Read the PRESS RELEASE

» EU and OECD Launch Updated Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Compass (source: OECD)

The European Commission and the OECD jointly launched the updated EU–OECD Science, Technology and Innovation Policy (STIP) Compass, a flagship platform designed to map and analyse global STI policy initiatives.

Presented by **Jean-David Malo**, Director of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, and OECD representatives, the new version of the STIP Compass features **2,500 additional policy initiatives** compared with its previous edition. The platform provides a comprehensive, **interactive overview of national and** 





**international policies** driving research, innovation, and technology development across the world.

The STIP Compass serves as a key tool for policymakers, researchers, and stakeholders to track trends, compare strategies, and design evidence-based STI policies supporting competitiveness and sustainability.

**Explore the new STIP Compass HERE.** 





# **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS**

#### **DPFC Compilation work tools**

- » WP 2025 Calls deadlines
- » Funding Calls 2025
- » [drafts] WP2026-27 28oct2025 UPDATED
- » The summary document with the available **HE Work Programmes 2026-2027** has been updated with the 5th draft version for **Cluster 3 Civil Security for Society**. This version includes:
  - Small budgetary adjustments (minus €1 million in 2026, minus €1.2 million in 2027), to include shortfalls against spending targets for climate action (35%) and biodiversity (10%), in line with commitments in the Horizon Europe 2025-2027 strategic plan.
  - The Commission therefore revised the texts of the work programmes of the different clusters for 2026-2027 in order to strengthen the biodiversity component in many topics.

#### » Funding Opportunity: Boosting Innovation in the EU Blue Economy

The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership has launched its 3rd transnational call "Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems, Businesses, and Communities."

◆ **Objective**: Support 36-month R&I projects that drive a sustainable, climate-neutral, and competitive blue economy across Europe.

#### **⋄** Focus Areas:

- Digital Twins of the Ocean (DTOs)
- Marine multi-use infrastructures & sector transitions
- Climate-smart sea-use planning





- Sustainable fisheries, aquaculture & blue bioresources
- Resilient coastal communities & businesses
- **⋄** Eligibility:

Consortia must include at least 3 partners from 3 different countries, with 2 from different EU sea basins. Stakeholder involvement (e.g., SMEs, public authorities, NGOs) is strongly encouraged.

◇ Budget: ~€43.5 million pooled from 38 funding bodies across 28 countries + EU contribution.

# **B** Deadlines:

o Pre-proposals: 17 Nov 2025, 15:00 CET

o Full proposals (provisional): 17 June 2026, 15:00 CEST

**©** Call Documents

If you're interested in this funding opportunity, check its informative Webinar in **Resources**, the Matchmaking platform in **Networking** and the pre-announcement of the call for **Experts** in the respective section.

# » Built4People Open calls | Deadline 17 February 2026

#### For:

- Innovative pathways for low-carbon and climate-resilient building stock and environments
- Optimal combinations of low embodied carbon materials, building systems, and circularity principles

More info **HERE** 





#### **NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

# » Looking for partners for Horizon Europe NEB call | deadline 12th November

Call on Sufficiency measures in the built environment (HORIZON-NEB-2025-01-REGEN-03) | Call details HERE

The Institute of Construction and Design Principles, Faculty of Architecture is looking for European cooperation partners (researchers in the fields of **Architecture**, **Construction Management** or similar) from Unite! Universities to join an ongoing project consortium.

The project, titled *Beyond Demolition: Sustainable School Transformation* - focused on building in existing contexts—specifically, the sustainable transformation of school buildings constructed between the 1960s and 1980s - aims to develop an integrated evaluation system that combines both quantitative criteria—such as life cycle assessment (LCA) and embodied carbon—and qualitative aspects, including architectural qualities, potential for reuse, and social sustainability.

Case studies will be selected in collaboration with Graz Building Management and the Province of Syria, focusing on schools in need of renovation or at risk of demolition.

The project team includes experts in sustainable construction from the <u>ITE Institute</u> at Graz University of Technology, who bring extensive experience in European directives, LCA, and the New European Bauhaus (NEB).

If interested, please contact Ajna Babahmetovic directly

(ajna.babahmetovic@tugraz.at)





#### » Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership 3rd transnational call | Brokerage Event

A matchmaking event will take place from Monday, 15 September, to Thursday, 13 November, and has the ambition to connect researchers, companies, and stakeholders from marine and maritime communities interested in the Partnership's third transnational Call. To help you find a project to join, or partners for your project, you have the possibility to set up 20-minutes meetings with other participants during the matchmaking sessions of the event.

More information here

#### **Cooperation Opportunities in (Keywords):**

» Keywords: Digital, Open Science

Seeking expertise (Digital transformation, Process improvement and modernisation) to collaborate under the WIDERA Work Programme: Concept title - **Research-Based Continuous Accreditation Model (HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01-ACCESS-01)** 





# **UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE**

#### **DPFC Compilation work tools**

» Events Calendar 2025

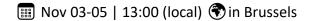
- » Since last NoW issue, we added to the Calendar the following Events and/or Resources from Events; be sure not to miss!
  - Sep 23, 2025 | Reality Check on implementation aspects of Horizon Europe (Operational Conclusions & Recording)
  - Oct 06, 2025 | Digitalisation and Innovation for Resilient Marine Ecosystems Businesses, and Communities to Strengthen the EU Blue Economy's Competitiveness (Presentation & Recording)
  - Nov 03-05, 2025 | EOSC Symposium 2025 (Onsite)
  - Nov 12, 2025 | Shaping a Sustainable and Competitive Europe (Hybrid)
  - Nov 13, 2025 | Exploring Science Disinformation and the Strategies to Tackle It (Online)
  - Nov 24, 2025 | Circular Mining: international matchmaking for Horizon Europe proposals (Online)
  - Feb 11, 2026 | Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's 2nd Symposium (Onsite)

See some Upcoming Events highlighted below.





#### » EOSC Symposium 2025 (source EOSC Association)



The <u>EOSC Symposium 2025</u> will mark the exciting transition of the EOSC Federation into its operational phase. As with previous editions, participants can expect insightful discussions, strategic updates, and unparalleled networking opportunities.

The ambition of the European Open Science Cloud (EOSC) is to develop a Web of FAIR Data and Services where European researchers, universities, and companies can easily find, access and reuse research outputs giving unparalleled competitive advantage in tackling pressing global challenges, from climate change to pandemics.

To implement this, the EOSC Federation is being established by linking national and thematic infrastructures into a coherent ecosystem of data repositories and services that will serve as the European Data Space for Research and Innovation.

Full Agenda **HERE** 

This event will not be streamed. Register HERE

# » Shaping a Sustainable and Competitive Europe (source ERC)

mov 12th | 10:30-16:30 CET

in Brussels & Livestream

This joint European Research Council and the European Parliament's Panel for the Future of Science and Technology (STOA) event builds on an <u>ERC report</u> showcasing pioneering projects that address the urgent transformations needed to tackle climate change and rising social inequality.

- <u>A</u> Discover the pioneering research and bold policy ideas driving the green transition.
- Hear from leading scientists and key stakeholders as they share real-world solutions to tackle climate change.
- **Explore** how science can directly shape EU policymaking.

Check out the Programme

Registration to attend in-person is now closed. The event will be webcast HERE





# » Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership's 2nd Symposium

iii feb 11th, 2026 | 09:00 CET

n Bucharest, Romania

Marking midpoint of the Partnership's journey, this flagship event will reflect on progress made, showcase co-funded projects, and look ahead to the future of Europe's sustainable blue economy.

Over 100 participants are expected to join us in Bucharest — including funded projects, policymakers, industry leaders, funding organisations, and the Black Sea community. The day will feature panel discussions, arts and culture, and dedicated spaces for research and innovation projects, followed by a reception in the evening.

Register now to secure your place (limited capacity) HERE

Explore the tentative programme





#### **RESOURCES**

#### » Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership 3rd transnational call | Informative Webinar

A general information webinar took place on 6 October 2025 to answer questions regarding the call.

- Watch the Recording HERE
- Download the Presentation HERE

# » BlueComp: The competence framework to navigate the blue economy (CINEA; sept 16, 2025) #report

The European Commission launched the "Study to Support and Design Skills Development in the Blue Economy" with the objective of mapping the current skills landscape, identifying future needs, and proposing actionable recommendations to address skills gaps and mismatches across blue economy sectors.

In line with the European Ocean Pact, it seeks to shape the EU's vision for a sustainable and inclusive blue economy, ensuring that its workforce remains at the forefront of global maritime innovation and leadership. The study also aims to contribute to the objectives of the Pact for Skills and the broader Union of Skills initiative.

A key output of the study is **BlueComp**, a dynamic and evolving competence framework, capable of adapting to new technological, environmental, and policy developments. Download the full report <u>HERE</u>





» On the topic of **Blue Economy**, you can revisit the **EU blue economy report 2025** presented in <u>NoW #21</u> or check its Web Version <u>HERE</u>





#### LOOKING FOR EXPERTS

# » Open Call: AI Scientific Panel (source UN)

The United Nations has launched an **open call for candidates** to serve on the Independent International Scientific Panel on Artificial Intelligence ("the Panel"), set to comprise 40 members serving in their personal capacity for a three-year term (non-remunerated) beginning in 2026, and will play a key role in advancing global, evidence-based understanding of artificial intelligence (AI).

Read more about the Panel HERE

Submit your application **HERE** (until oct 31st)

#### » Driving Urban Transitions experts call (source DUT Partnership)

The Driving Urban Transitions (DUT) Partnership is seeking experts to evaluate project proposals submitted in its annual calls. The external experts will be selected through a Call for Experts, which will be open until 1 December 2025.

The experts should have a high level of expertise and professional experience in the topics of the DUT Call 2025. The project proposals are grouped into three thematic areas, the Transition Pathways. Read more <a href="here">here</a>.

# » Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership 3rd transnational call | pre-proposal deadline nov 17th

#### **Call for Experts**

You can find more information on the pre-announcement of the call for experts here





# **ON THE TOPIC OF: Research Management**

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

The <u>1st National Conference of the Portuguese Association for Science Management</u> 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 Barrelas (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: Digital**

» State of AI 2025 (source: Science Business)

The State of AI Report 2025 shows the US now overwhelmingly dominates AI, attracting 81% of global private investment (\$109 billion) and holding 17 times the EU's AI computing capacity. Meanwhile, China leads in open AI models, with Alibaba's Qwen surpassing Western rivals like Meta's Llama and France's Mistral. Although Chinese private investment has collapsed, allowing the EU to become the second-largest AI investor (\$8 billion), Europe still trails far behind the US in both money and compute power. Public access to AI supercomputing has shrunk dramatically—from 60% to below 20%—as private labs dominate resources, creating research and policy blind spots. The report predicts that by 2030, the top AI supercomputer could cost \$200 billion and require power equivalent to nine nuclear reactors, with energy capacity becoming the new bottleneck. Across the world, countries are funding "sovereign AI" efforts to reduce reliance on US or Chinese technology, though the report warns many projects amount to "sovereignty washing" without real domestic capability.

NVIDIA's CEO Jensen Huang has become a key promoter of these initiatives, as they drive massive global demand for its chips. Despite booming private investment, publicly funded AI research remains stagnant, with US federal spending stuck around \$3 billion annually, far below the \$32 billion once recommended. The EU has launched €700 million in new generative AI research programmes, but total spending remains unclear and fragmented across member states. Overall, the report paints a picture of US financial dominance, Chinese open innovation, and European policy anxiety, as global AI development becomes increasingly commercialized and power-hungry.





#### » AI Strategies from EC (source: <u>European commission</u>)

The European Commission has launched **two complementary strategies** — the *Apply AI Strategy* and the *AI in Science Strategy* — to accelerate the adoption of artificial intelligence across industry and research. The **Apply AI Strategy** focuses on integrating AI into key sectors such as healthcare, energy, mobility, manufacturing, and agri-food, with €1 billion mobilised to support innovation, SMEs, and workforce training under an "AI first" approach. The **AI in Science Strategy** aims to make Europe a global hub for AI-driven research through **RAISE** (Resource for AI Science in Europe), investing in computing infrastructure, AI-ready data, and €58 million for talent networks, with plans to double AI funding in Horizon Europe to over €3 billion annually. Both strategies strengthen Europe's leadership in **trustworthy, safe, and competitive AI**, supported by new coordination tools like the *Apply AI Alliance*, an *AI Observatory*, and the *AI Act Service Desk*. They form part of the EU's **AI Continent Action Plan**, culminating in the **AI in Science Summit** in Copenhagen (3–4 November 2025), where RAISE and related initiatives will be officially launched.

**» Position Paper**, "Investing in Light: The Vision to Secure Europe's Competitiveness in the Global Tech Race" (source: Photonics21)

Photonics21 has released its new Position Paper, "Investing in Light: The Vision to Secure Europe's Competitiveness in the Global Tech Race," urging the EU to prioritize photonics in the upcoming Framework Programme 10 (FP10). The paper calls for a €2 billion standalone EU photonics programme (2028–2034), projected to attract €6–8 billion in private co-investment and strengthen Europe's technological sovereignty. Key proposals include launching Photonics Grand Challenge Proposals in strategic sectors such as AI, space, health, and defence, and accelerating photonics manufacturing scale-up to secure critical supply chains. It also advocates creating high-TRL photonics application hubs, boosting investment readiness for European start-ups, and ensuring a key role for Integrated Photonics in Chips JU 2.0.

Photonics21's message is clear: Europe must "invest in light" to remain competitive in the global technology race.

Read the full position paper **HERE**.





#### » Resource Highlight: BIAS Project Video Series on Fairness in AI

New content has been released in the *BIAS Project's Awareness-raising Video Series*, concluding the three-part campaign with a legal perspective on fairness. This final video explores what is considered "fair" under the law and its implications for both citizens and AI deployers.

Watch the video **HERE** 

#### **About the Series**

The BIAS Project's video series examines fairness in AI from three key angles—social, technological, and legal. It aims to help audiences understand and address bias in AI-driven hiring practices.

Funded by the Horizon Europe programme, the BIAS Project is developing a proof-of-concept for a novel technology that combines Natural Language Processing (NLP) and Case-Based Reasoning (CBR) to support fairer HR recruitment processes. As AI becomes increasingly embedded in hiring and employee management, the project seeks to identify and reduce bias in these systems.

#### **Get Involved**

HR professionals, AI developers, researchers, and organizations committed to diversity, justice, and ethical AI are invited to engage with the project and contribute to shaping more equitable hiring solutions.