

## News of the Week - 29 | 2025

03 nov 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 [pre-award@ist-id.pt](mailto:pre-award@ist-id.pt) and we'll look into it for you!

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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](mailto:pre-award@ist.pt)

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## INTERNAL INFORMATION

### » Preparing for the 2026 Horizon Europe Calls | DPFC initiatives

It's time to start getting ready for the **2026 Horizon Europe collaborative calls!**

To support researchers in this process, we are planning to organize two key initiatives:

- **Webinar on Networking** – providing an overview of the 2026 calls, upcoming events, matchmaking platforms, and practical tips on how to identify partners and join or build a consortium.
- **Workshop on Pathfinder** – offering guidance and lessons learned based on the **Evaluation Summary Reports** of proposals submitted by Técnico's research ecosystem.
- **Horizon Europe Pillar 2 Collaborative Projects Training** - continuation of the training cycle for researchers that are already involved in preparing an application.

We have identified **two possible dates** for each of these sessions.

As you are in close contact with researchers and best understand their availability, we kindly invite you to **complete this short survey** to indicate which dates would work best. Your input will help us schedule these initiatives to ensure maximum participation and impact.

**Access the survey** [HERE](#)

### » Preparing the 2026 Action Plan — We Want Your Feedback!

We are already working on **next year's action plan** and would greatly appreciate your **feedback and suggestions** on the activities we're planning.

Building on the feedback received and the performance of European funding programmes, we intend to:

- **Continue the training sessions** held twice a year, focused on **collaboration proposals under Horizon Europe Pillar 2**;
- **Launch a dedicated training on Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy & Mobility)** proposals;
- **Maintain the ERC mock interview process** for interested researchers and continue promoting **FCT support to ERC applicants** and the **ERC Club**;

- **Establish a support process for MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (MSCA-PF)** applicants;
- **Set up thematic mailing lists** targeted directly to researchers to improve the dissemination of information on **calls, events, and funding opportunities**;
- **Create a dedicated website section** with documents, guidance, and information — both for researchers and for support staff;
- **Continue our LinkedIn Group and weekly newsletter**, expanding their reach to all researchers interested in subscribing.

The **full draft action plan** is available [\[HERE\]](#) and is **open for your comments and suggestions**.

Your input is essential to ensure that next year's activities effectively address the community's needs and priorities — thank you for taking the time to share your views!

#### » DPFC contributes to the development of “Balcão da Ciência” initiative

DPFC participated in the focus group organized by the **Fundação para a Ciência e a Tecnologia (FCT)** and the **LabX – Agência para a Reforma Tecnológica do Estado, I.P.**, within the framework of the “Balcão da Ciência” project.

This initiative, part of the **Portuguese Recovery and Resilience Plan (PRR)**, aims to create a **physical and virtual interface** to support the scientific and academic community by facilitating access to information, funding opportunities, and institutional support.

The first workshop took place on **October 27**, at FCT's headquarters, bringing together several stakeholders from the higher education and research ecosystem. The session focused on identifying user needs and co-designing solutions that can enhance the interaction between researchers, institutions, and funding agencies.

DPFC's participation contributed with insights drawn from its experience in **research funding support, pre-award processes, and science policy articulation**, providing valuable input for the structuring of the Balcão da Ciência platform.

Following this session, a **second workshop** will be organized by FCT and LabX/ARTE, I.P., aiming to present the conclusions from the first meeting and to continue the collaborative work towards the implementation of the new support system.

This engagement reinforces DPFC's commitment to actively participate in national initiatives that promote **efficiency, accessibility, and innovation** in the management of research funding and institutional collaboration.

### » Técnico Innovation Summit Postponed to February 3, 2026

Técnico has announced that the **Técnico Innovation Summit (TIS)** will now take place on **February 3, 2026**, to ensure the best possible experience for all participants and partners involved in the initiative.

The decision follows a careful assessment of several logistical and organizational factors. The new date aims to maximize the participation of **UIDs and research teams**, while guaranteeing that **materials, prototypes, and exhibition stands** meet the highest standards of quality and design.

Despite the new timeline, all ongoing processes — including content production, procurement, and stand development — will continue as planned to consolidate the work already in progress.

Técnico thanks all the institutes and centers that have already confirmed their presence — including **C2TN, CAMGSD, CERENA, CERIS, CiTUA, CQE, iBB, IDMEC, IN+, INESC-ID, INOV-Lab, IPFN, ITI, IT-Lx, ISR, and MARETEC** — for their continued engagement and collaboration. The remaining research centers have now more time to find suitable solutions to participate.

Further details regarding the event's **logistics, program updates, and participation guidelines** will be shared in the coming weeks. Meanwhile, confirmed participants are encouraged to continue contributing actively to **stand design, roundtable discussions, and activities in the Innovation Arena**, ensuring that TIS 2026 becomes an even stronger showcase of Técnico's talent and innovation ecosystem.

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## POLICY NEWS

» **Ehler appointed rapporteur for FP10 and Competitiveness Fund** (source: Science Business)

German MEP **Christian Ehler** has been appointed **lead rapporteur** for the EU's next research Framework Programme, **FP10**, and **co-rapporteur** for the upcoming **European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)**. This dual role underscores the European Commission's plan to align the two programmes closely. Ehler, a senior figure in EU R&D policy from the **European People's Party (EPP)**, previously helped shape both Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe. His responsibilities will include leading negotiations within the European Parliament, engaging with stakeholders, and managing hearings and legislative procedures. Ehler will share the ECF file with a still-unnamed MEP from the **Socialists and Democrats (S&D)** group, following a precedent set during Horizon Europe's negotiations.

### » **European Commission Work Programme 2026**

The European Commission has published its overall work programme for 2026, which includes 38 new policy objectives across e.g. competitiveness, research & innovation, circular economy, single market, energy, climate, defence, capital markets, competition, tourism, education, skills, etc. (with simplification the central theme).

More detailed documents available [HERE](#)

Factsheet [HERE](#)

» **CESAER calls for collective action to strengthen research security while protecting academic freedom**

The European association **CESAER** has released a new **Input Note on Research Security as a Collective Responsibility**, outlining best practices and key recommendations for enhancing research security at the university level across Europe.

Recognising that **research is one of Europe's greatest assets**, the document stresses that safeguarding research integrity and academic freedom is vital for maintaining Europe's global competitiveness and innovation capacity. It calls on the **European Union** and **national governments** to empower universities to implement **proportionate, risk-based measures** that protect research from misuse, interference, and undue influence.

The Input Note builds on two years of work following CESAER's 2023 white paper and identifies **five priority areas for action**:

1. **Building strong institutional foundations** – embedding research security within existing governance and integrity frameworks.
2. **Empowering researchers** – providing training, incentives, and clear guidance for managing risks.
3. **Integrating openness and security** – ensuring open science and protection of sensitive knowledge are mutually reinforcing.
4. **Ensuring responsible collaboration** – aligning compliance, screening, and international partnerships with shared values of integrity and trust.
5. **Assuming collective responsibility** – creating a European level playing field through coherent standards, dialogue, and support.

CESAER highlights that **research security is not about closing doors**, but about **building resilience and trust** through collaboration. The association calls for **EU-level coordination, funding, and policy guidance** to help universities strengthen research security structures while preserving openness and academic freedom.

You can access the full Input Note [HERE](#)

## » Science Europe releases new report on balancing openness and security in research

Science Europe has published its latest report on **Research Security**, addressing how research organisations can navigate the growing geopolitical challenges that affect **openness, integrity, and academic freedom**. The report distils insights from workshops held between January and June 2025, presenting **six key actions** to help institutions balance collaboration with protection. These include safeguarding international cooperation, defining clear boundaries, applying proportionate due diligence, and embedding security through awareness and culture change. It also highlights the need for capacity building within national research ecosystems and systemic, collaborative support at the European level. Science Europe will continue advancing this discussion as a **co-organiser of the European Flagship Conference on Research Security**, focusing on academic freedom and secure international partnerships.

You can find the report [HERE](#).

## » European Flagship Conference on Research Security: advancing openness, trust, and resilience in European research

From: 28–30 October, more than **500 policymakers, experts, and practitioners**, gathered for the **first European Flagship Conference on Research Security**, a landmark event dedicated to strengthening Europe's capacity for **open, values-driven, and secure research collaboration**.

The conference, co-organised by **twelve major European research associations**, including **ALLEA, CESAER, EUA, The Guild, and Science Europe**, explored how the EU and its institutions can ensure that research remains both "**Open and Secure**."

During the event, the **European Commission** announced several **upcoming measures to reinforce research security across the continent**:

- Embedding research security within the **European Research Area Act**;
- Establishing a **European Centre of Expertise on Research Security**;
- Launching a **due diligence platform** to help researchers assess risks in international partnerships;
- Developing a **common EU methodology** to test the resilience of research organisations.



The conference marks a crucial milestone in shaping the **future of research governance in Europe**, ensuring that security and openness work hand in hand to sustain excellence, trust, and global collaboration.

» **Three new research security initiatives** (source: [Science Business](#))

The upcoming **European Research Area (ERA) Act** will include **new research security laws** to protect the EU from risks like technology leakage, foreign interference, and ethical violations. EU Commissioner Ekaterina Zaharieva confirmed the move, adding it will be backed by legally binding obligations for member states. Alongside the Act, the Commission will launch three initiatives: a **European centre for research security**, a **risk assessment platform for international collaboration**, and a **common resilience-testing methodology** for research institutions.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

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

» [HE Funding Calls Calendar](#)

» [Funding Calls 2025](#)

» [\[drafts|GNAD\] HE Work Programme 2026-2027](#)

» The summary document with the **HE Work Programme 2026-2027** has been updated with the proposed topics for 2026 by the Clean Hydrogen for Europe partnership.

### » **EIC Transition: Your Bridge from Lab to Market** (source EIC)

**Why this matters:** If you've ever wondered how to turn your breakthrough research into a real-world innovation, the EIC Transition call is designed for you. It helps researchers and innovators **move beyond proof-of-concept** and get closer to market readiness.

**Record-breaking interest:** The latest EIC Transition Open call attracted **611 proposals from 40 countries**, showing just how competitive and sought-after this funding is. Interviews for shortlisted projects will happen in December, with results expected in January 2026.

### **What's in it for you?**

- **Up to €2.5M** to validate your technology in relevant environments and build a strong business case.
- **Open to all fields**—no thematic restrictions.
- **Extra perks:** Business Acceleration Services for coaching, investor matchmaking, and networking.

**Who can apply?** SMEs, start-ups, universities, and research organisations—either solo or in small consortia.

**Why now?** This instrument is your chance to **turn research into impact**. If your project builds on EIC Pathfinder, FET, or ERC Proof of Concept results, you're in the right place.

👉 Learn more and prepare for the next call: [EIC Transition details](#)

» **EU4Health: Driving Health Innovation Across Europe | deadline 6 January 2026 (17:00 CET)**

**Why this matters:** EU4Health is the EU's largest health programme, investing over €5 billion (2021–2027) to strengthen healthcare systems, improve disease prevention, and boost resilience against health crises. For researchers and health organisations, this is a unique opportunity to scale impactful projects beyond national borders.

**Latest update:** The 2025 Work Programme has launched **nine open calls** - [EU4Health Calls – HaDEA](#) - with a combined indicative budget of **€56.8 million**. Applications close on via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal.

**What's in it for you?**

- **Funding amount:** Varies by topic; total budget €56.8M.
- **Scope:** Topics include cancer screening, AI-driven cardiovascular health, lifelong prevention strategies, medicine pricing transparency, orphan medical devices, biotech innovation using health data, and conference organisation.
- **Extras:** Access to HaDEA info sessions and guidance materials for proposal preparation.

**Who can apply?** National authorities, health organisations, universities, NGOs, and other eligible entities from EU Member States and associated countries.

**Why now?** These calls align with major EU health priorities like **Europe's Beating Cancer Plan** and digital health transformation. They offer a chance to contribute to a stronger European Health Union while advancing your research and innovation goals.

How to apply? Check [HERE](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

### DPFC Compilation work tools


» [Events Calendar | DPFC](#)

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

- Oct 09, 2025 | Info session: EU4Health action grants (AWP 2025) (presentation and recording)
- Nov 18, 2025 | AI in Research Management: From Workflows to Widening (hybrid, fees apply)
- Nov 18, 2025 | Bridging the gap: How to connect social research with the public and policymakers (online)
- Nov 24-25, 2025 | Hydrogen Research and Innovation Days 2025
- Dec 02-03, 2025 | Battery Innovation Days (5th edition)
- Feb 04-05, 2026 | KETs 2026 EU Brokerage Event (onsite)
- Several | CoARA Online Exchange Events: Action Plan and Spotlight Events (online)

See some Upcoming Events highlighted below.

» **KETs 2026 EU Brokerage Event** (source [NKS DIT](#)) | SAVE THE DATE

 February 4, 2026 | 16:00 CET

 in **Karlsruhe, Germany** (In-person only)

The aim of the event is to support interested parties in forming consortia for submitting applications within the framework of the Horizon Europe call topics in Cluster 4 (Digitalisation and Industry) and in Cluster 5 (Batteries and Hydrogen).

The in-person event will take place in Karlsruhe. Afterwards, networking with all registered participants will be possible on the b2match platform (online) for several weeks.

**For the first time in KETs history: a get-together reception on the day before the event!** Take advantage of the opportunity to register on the late afternoon of February 4, 2026, and get to know the other participants in a relaxed atmosphere before the official start of the event (February 5).

**Further information about the event and the registration page will follow shortly.**

## ON THE TOPIC OF: Defence

» Webinar on *“Research and Transfer of Dual-Use Technologies – Guidelines for S&T Institutions”*, IAPMEI

The 22 October 2025 webinar on *“Research and Transfer of Dual-Use Technologies – Guidelines for S&T Institutions”*, organised by IAPMEI and Enterprise Europe Network Portugal, focused on **helping universities and research centres understand the risks and compliance needs around dual-use technologies**—civilian innovations with potential military applications. It stressed the importance of **awareness, regulation, and institutional policies**, noting that emerging fields like **AI, biotech, and quantum** are increasingly **subject to export control frameworks**.

**Institutions must integrate dual-use checks in research management, licensing, and international collaborations**, while balancing open science with legal and ethical obligations.

**Key recommendations** included setting up internal procedures, staff training, and early identification of dual-use risks during the research lifecycle. The webinar called for a "responsible transfer" culture, encouraging coordination between technology transfer, legal, ethics, and export-control teams.

Webinar available [HERE](#)

Summary of the event [HERE](#)

» **Can dual-use and aerospace become Europe’s innovation frontiers? (source: EIT Manufacturing)**

At InnoHive 2025, a clear consensus emerged: **dual-use innovation**—technologies serving both civilian and military purposes—is now **essential for Europe’s sovereignty, security, and economic resilience**. As defence budgets rise to 3–3.5% of GDP, speakers from AI, manufacturing, and defence stressed the need for Europe to adopt a **bold, systemic approach** to integrating defence-related R&D. Historically cautious, Europe is now rethinking its separation of civilian and defence research, especially as global threats like **Russia’s aggression and cyberattacks** expose the risks of technological dependency. Unlike the U.S., where DARPA has long linked defence needs with commercial breakthroughs, Europe has lagged—but that gap must close fast. The new global reality

demands that Europe make dual-use and aerospace technologies **central pillars of innovation**, not afterthoughts.

» **European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)** (source: [Science Business](#))

The European Parliament and EU governments have approved the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP) to **strengthen Europe's defence manufacturing, support joint procurement**, and ensure timely **availability of critical military equipment** amid rising security threats. Backed by a €1.5 billion budget (2025–2027), including €300 million for Ukraine's defence industry integration, **EDIP introduces structural reforms to the defence supply chain and embeds a “buy European” principle requiring 65% EU-origin components in funded projects.**

The programme complements the EU's broader shift toward allowing dual-use research in Horizon Europe and aims to boost long-term cooperation, resilience, and strategic autonomy in European defence.