

News of the Week - 30 | 2025

10 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 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 pre-award@ist.pt

INTERNAL INFORMATION

» Next Pre-Award Network Meeting - 5/12

As suggested during the last meeting, and since this it will be Christma's month, the next Pre-Award meeting will be a team building activity followed by lunch. For organization purposes, we will need to know who will be participating, and therefore we ask you to fill in the [confirmation form](#), until 17/11.

» INOARMY Summit & Expo25

 **19–20 November 2025** |  **Taguspark Congress Centre, Oeiras**

Instituto Superior Técnico will have its own **exhibition booth** at the upcoming **INOARMY Summit & Expo25**, organised by the **Portuguese Army** at the **Taguspark Congress Centre**.

This is a **unique opportunity** for Técnico's **research centres and investigators** to showcase **projects, prototypes, and technologies** related to the **Defence sector** or with **dual-use applications** (civil and defence).

Given the **limited exhibition space**, interested researchers are invited to **express their interest by Friday, 14 November (17h00)**. Confirmation of available slots will be communicated on **Monday, 17 November**.

 *Please also indicate if your research unit has registered independently and will be directly represented at the event.*

 **To express interest or request details, contact Alexandra Moutinho at alexandra.moutinho@tecnico.ulisboa.pt**

» Webinar | Networking for Horizon Europe Collaborative Projects

 **26 November 2025 | 10:00–12:00 | Online**

Looking for partners or a consortium for your next Horizon Europe Pillar 2 proposal?

Join our upcoming **Networking Webinar**, designed specifically for **researchers** preparing collaborative applications.

The session will explore **practical strategies and tools** to identify, approach, and connect with potential partners across Europe. Participants will also have the opportunity to **practice a 5-minute project pitch**, helping them refine their presentation and positioning for future collaborations.

 [Register here](#)

» **Pathfinder Workshop | Lessons Learned from Evaluation Reports**

 **10 December 2025 | 10:00–12:00 (details soon)**

The **EIC Pathfinder** is one of the most competitive instruments under **Horizon Europe** — and also one that continues to attract strong interest from our research community.

In the **Pathfinder Open 2025** call, researchers from the **IST research ecosystem** submitted a record number of proposals. Despite good evaluation marks, **none were selected for funding**.

Although the overall **European success rate was very low**, the **Portuguese research community** performed **above the European average** — showing that success is possible even in highly selective calls, and that small strategic changes can make a difference. [*see Funding Section*]

To reflect on this experience and identify what can be improved, we invite you to a **dedicated workshop** on **10 December 2025**, focused on **lessons learned from the Evaluation Summary Reports** of IST proposals.

This **closed session** is reserved for previous Pathfinder applicants (we'll reach out directly, with your Research Unit in copy).

An **open session** will follow early next year to share key insights with the broader research community.

 *Save the date — details coming soon.*

» Téc4Defence & Dia da Indústria do DEM 2025

 **14 November 2025 | 9:00–18:00**

 **Técnico Innovation Center powered by Fidelidade (TIC)**

On **14 November**, TIC will host **Téc4Defence**, the first event dedicated to **Defence** at **Instituto Superior Técnico**, held jointly with the **Dia da Indústria do Departamento de Engenharia Mecânica (DEM)**.

The initiative is the result of collaboration between several Técnico student groups — including **NFIST, AeroTéc, Lisat, Fórum Mecânica, NEEC, and Técnico Debate Club** — reflecting the growing European focus on **Defence and dual-use technologies**.

The event will feature **panel discussions, company pitches, and technology showcases**, with participation from **industry, the Armed Forces, and research institutions**.

Key themes include:

- Innovation and technological development in the defence sector
- Industry–academia partnerships
- Dual-use applications and technology transfer

Notable participants include representatives from **Tekever, Thales, OGMA, CEiiA, Indra, Beyond Composite, and Optimal Defence**, alongside senior officers from the **Army, Navy, and Air Force** and policymakers debating **Portugal’s and Europe’s defence future**.

 The **DEM Industry Day** complements this programme by promoting collaboration between academia and industry, exploring opportunities to **co-develop dual-use technologies** and strengthen **national technological capacity**.

More information [HERE](#)

» Horizon Europe Training 2026 – Save the Date!

 **27–30 January 2026**

The bi-annual **Horizon Europe Training** returns in January to support **researchers preparing applications** or planning to submit to upcoming calls.

This **hands-on programme** provides practical guidance on how to structure and strengthen **Pillar II Horizon Europe proposals**, with sessions covering:

- **Part A & Budget**
- **Part B – Excellence**
- **Part B – Impact**
- **Part B – Implementation**

Each 3-hour module includes **interactive exercises**, examples, and best practices across thematic clusters.

💡 **New this year:** Following the training, participants will have the opportunity to book **one-on-one slots** with the support team to discuss **specific aspects of their proposal** in detail.

📌 **We need your expertise!**

If you'd like to **contribute as a trainer**, share a **case study**, or present **examples from past applications**, please contact the organising team.

Together, let's strengthen Técnico's success in Horizon Europe!

» **IST-ID Gathering Event – A Successful Edition!**

The latest **IST-ID Gathering Event** brought together **over 100 participants** from across the Técnico community, confirming strong engagement and collaboration among researchers and project managers.

The event featured **presentations of IST-ID services**, a **success case on ERC funding**, and a **networking space** that encouraged the exchange of ideas and experiences.

👏 A warm thank you to all who joined and contributed to this inspiring day of connection and knowledge sharing!

🔗 You can access the presentations [HERE](#).

» I.Talks | Técnico–Brisa

 **4 November 2025 | 09h30**

 **Centro de Congressos, Pavilhão de Civil, Campus Alameda**

The 2nd edition of **i.Talks Técnico–Brisa** brought together **21 participants**, including **Técnico professors and researchers** and representatives from **Brisa's Group**.

The session aimed to **strengthen cooperation** between academia and industry, fostering **joint innovation projects** and **collaborative R&I opportunities**.

Brisa expressed **strong interest in the projects presented**, highlighting several potential areas for cooperation (Materials, AI for predictive maintenance and road safety, etc).

Marta Candeias identified **possible calls** within **Horizon Europe** aligned with the topics discussed.

A **follow-up process** will now be coordinated between **DPFC, Brisa's Innovation Office**, and **IST researchers** to advance concrete collaboration pathways.

Participants included:

Researchers from Técnico such as *Rafaela Cardoso, Pedro Lima, Paulo Peças, Francisco Blasques, Sérgio Batista and Miguel Mira da Silva*, among others.

From Brisa, **Innovation, Sustainability, Structural Engineering, Geotechnical and Geospatial Information** departments were represented.

POLICY NEWS

» **New Horizon Europe Partnerships: Switzerland Join the EU Research Family** (source: European Commission)

The EU's global research and innovation network continues to expand, with **Switzerland** officially joining **Horizon Europe** and related programmes — marking a major step forward in scientific and technological cooperation.

Switzerland is joining the **Horizon Europe** and **Euratom Research & Training** programmes, reinforcing its long-standing cooperation with the EU. The agreement enables **Swiss and EU-based institutions** to collaborate on **large-scale research and innovation projects** addressing global challenges.

In addition, Switzerland will take part in the **Digital Europe Programme**, and plans future association with **Fusion for Energy (2026)**, **Erasmus+ (2027)**, and **EU4Health**, deepening cross-border ties in **science, education, and innovation**.

These partnerships strengthen Europe's position as a **global hub for collaborative research**, advancing shared goals in **sustainability, digital transformation, and scientific excellence**.

» **ERA Act – Towards a Binding Framework for Research Integration in Europe** (Source: [Science | Business](#))

Research Commissioner **Ekaterina Zaharieva** announced plans to present an “**ambitious but realistic**” **European Research Area (ERA) Act** in **2026**, aiming to overcome Europe's fragmented research system and weak researcher mobility.

The act is expected to move **beyond voluntary coordination** by introducing **binding commitments** on:

- Career development and mobility** of researchers
- Alignment of EU and national R&I funding**
- Incentives to reach the 3% GDP investment target** (with many stakeholders calling for 4%)

Stakeholder groups including **LERU**, **Science Europe**, and **EARTO** broadly support a stronger legal framework but warn that success will depend on **member states' political backing** and respect for national competences.

The legislation will also address **researcher rights**, **academic freedom**, and the **valorisation of knowledge**, promoting uniform visa regimes and integration of IP and innovation skills in doctoral training.

If approved, the ERA Act would mark the EU's **first legally binding step** toward a true single market for research and innovation.

» **Lisbon Declaration: A Joint Commitment to Europe's Digital Leadership** (source: República Portuguesa - XXV Portuguesa)

On **17 October**, ministers from Europe's leading **digital transformation countries** signed the **Lisbon Declaration**, a joint commitment to strengthen the **EU's competitiveness, innovation, and digital sovereignty**. The declaration outlines four core priorities:

 **Simplification and regulatory harmonisation** – less bureaucracy, more room for innovation.

 **Modernisation of public administration** – more agile, interoperable, citizen-centred digital services.

 **Investment in sustainable technologies** – boosting European leadership in AI and digital infrastructure.

 **Digital skills development** – empowering talent and ensuring broad participation in the digital transition.

Reaffirming the role of the **D9+ group** as a driver of the European digital agenda, the Lisbon Declaration envisions a **simpler, more innovative, and human-centred Europe**, where technology serves people first.

» **EU Launches the Critical Chemicals Alliance** (source: European Commission)

The **European Commission** has announced the creation of the **Critical Chemicals Alliance**, a strategic initiative to strengthen **Europe's chemical industry** — the “industry of

industries” that underpins sectors from **automotive and machinery to construction and clean water**.

Europe’s chemical sector is currently facing **severe competitiveness pressures**, with declining production, site closures, and loss of qualified jobs. The new alliance brings together **Member States, regions, and industry stakeholders** to address these challenges and ensure **resilient European supply chains**.

The alliance will:

- ◇ Define **criteria for identifying critical molecules and production sites**
- ◇ Support **monitoring of trade flows and global overcapacity**
- ◇ Strengthen **trade defence tools** and facilitate **investment in modernisation** of critical facilities

This initiative forms part of the **European Chemicals Industry Action Plan**, aimed at securing **strategic autonomy, industrial competitiveness, and sustainable growth** across Europe’s production base.

🔗 *More information:* [Critical Chemicals Alliance](#)

» **Have Your Say: Shaping the Future of Quantum in Europe** (source: EC)

The **European Commission** is inviting **quantum experts, researchers, academia, industry leaders, and infrastructure operators** from across Europe to help shape the **future EU Quantum Act**.

The consultation seeks input on:

- ◇ Europe’s **quantum R&I landscape**
- ◇ **Industrial capacities and investment gaps**
- ◇ **Supply chain vulnerabilities**

📅 **Deadline for feedback: 26 November 2025**

🔗 [Share your views](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES & UPCOMING CALLS

DPFC Compilation work tools

- » [WP 2025 Calls deadlines](#)
- » [Funding Calls 2025](#)
- » [\[drafts\] WP2026-27 28oct2025 - UPDATED](#)

» **Digital Europe Programme – New Calls Open!** (source: European Commission)

🚀 **Eight new calls** have just opened under the **Digital Europe Programme**, supporting the **development and adoption of innovative digital technologies** across Europe.

The 2025–26 calls focus on:

- ◇ **Healthcare** – AI for medical imaging, genomics, and personalised care
- ◇ **Advanced Digital Skills Competitions** – boosting students’ skills and awareness
- ◇ **Automotive** – creating the European Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Alliance

...and more!

📅 **Deadline: 3 March 2026**

🔗 [Apply and learn more](#)

» **Portugal Performs Above EU Average in EIC Pathfinder Open 2025** (source: [ANI](#))

The results of the **EIC Pathfinder Open 2025** call, which closed in May, have now been published — and **Portugal stands out above the European average**.

Out of **2,069 proposals evaluated** across Europe, **44 projects** were selected for funding. Portuguese entities participate in **7 of these projects**, representing **16% of all approved proposals**, with **8 institutions** securing approximately **€4.2 million** in funding.

National proposals achieved a **2.22% success rate**, slightly **above the European average of 2.13%**, confirming the growing competitiveness of Portuguese institutions in this highly selective call. Most successful applicants are **universities, research institutes, and innovative SMEs**.

The **EIC Pathfinder** supports **early-stage research and disruptive technologies** with the potential to create new markets or tackle global challenges, forming one of the three core instruments of the **European Innovation Council**.

 *In light of these results, the upcoming **Pathfinder Workshop (10 December)** will provide an opportunity to reflect on evaluation feedback and identify strategies to strengthen future submissions from the IST research ecosystem.*

» **EIC Work Programme 2026 – €1.4 Billion for Deep Tech Innovation**

The **European Innovation Council (EIC)** has adopted its **2026 Work Programme**, allocating **€1.4 billion** to support **deep tech innovators, startups, and scaleups** across Europe.

Key highlights include:

 **Advanced Innovation Challenges** – a new funding scheme inspired by the U.S. ARPA model

 **Higher maximum grants for Pathfinder projects**

 **Broader eligibility for Transition funding**

 **EIC Information Days** – open to all potential applicants:

- **13 November 2025:** [General information](#), including *Pathfinder*
- **17 November 2025:** [Advanced Innovation Challenges](#)

These updates strengthen the EIC's role in driving **Europe's Startup and Scaleup Strategy**, supporting breakthrough technologies and market-creating innovation.

 [Discover more](#)

» **Impulse by Chiesi – Call for Innovative Drug Delivery Systems** (source: Inpart)

 **Deadline: 7 January 2026 (23:59 GMT)**

The **Impulse by Chiesi** Open Innovation team is seeking **novel non-invasive and/or personalised drug delivery systems** to enhance **targeting efficiency** and **patient outcomes**.

 **Areas of interest:**

- **Oral delivery of biologics** – peptides, proteins, or complex biotherapeutics for home-based care and improved adherence.
- **Non-invasive delivery beyond the blood–brain barrier** – e.g. intranasal routes enhancing bioavailability and patient comfort.
- **Personalised delivery systems for ultra-precise dosing** – modular, scalable platforms adaptable to individual patient needs.

 **Eligibility & scope:**

- Approaches using **oral, nasal, pulmonary, or parenteral** routes (non-invasive).
- **TRL 3–6** preferred; in vitro validation required, in vivo or first-in-human data advantageous.
- Solutions from **academia, research centres, spinouts, or biotech companies** are welcome.
- Out of scope: diagnostics, analytical methods, or oral small molecule delivery.

 **How to apply:**

Submit a **1-page summary (200–300 words)** and optional **slide deck** via the online platform: [Submit here](#)

Daiichi Sankyo – In Vitro Assay Models for Drug Safety and Efficacy Assessment (source: Inpart)

 **Deadline: 5 January 2026 (23:59 GMT)**

» **Daiichi Sankyo**, a global pharmaceutical company, is seeking **innovative in vitro models** to improve **drug safety and efficacy evaluation** in humans.

 **Approaches of interest:**

- **Immune-mediated organ toxicity** – models detecting the risk of drug-induced immune-related toxicities using appropriate endpoints, ideally incorporating **microphysiological or co-culture systems** (lung and heart models prioritised).
- **Drug efficacy in breast and lung cancers** – repeatable, measurable models using **iPSC-derived cells** or **patient-derived organoids**, validated with existing and drug-resistant compounds.

 **Eligibility & collaboration:**

- Open to **academic teams, research centres, spinouts, and biotech companies**.
- **Basic to clinical-stage research** considered.
- Potential outcomes: **licensing, research collaborations, MTAs, or project/PhD funding**.
- Out of scope: single-use test systems for efficacy assessment.

 **How to apply:**

Submit a **1-page (200–300 words)** non-confidential summary via the online portal: [Submit here](#).

NETWORKING & PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

» Consortium Seeking Partners – Wind Energy Project (Horizon Europe)

A consortium preparing a proposal for the call **HORIZON-CL5-2026-D3-02-07: *Improved reliability and optimised operations and maintenance for wind energy*** is currently **looking for new partners from academia and industry.**

◇ Academia:

Partners with expertise in **Hydrodynamics** (Civil or Mechanical Engineering) for **CFD numerical modelling**, and in **Structural Mechanics** (Civil Engineering) for **structural dynamics analysis**.

✉ Interested parties may contact mbulker@itu.edu.tr, with ncpenergy@tubitak.gov.tr in CC.

 [Summary proposal available.](#)

» Matchmaking for Horizon Europe Cluster 2 (2026–2027) is Open!

The **new topics of the 2026–2027 Cluster 2 Work Programme** have just been added to the **Community Platform**, and matchmaking is now live! 

Find your next project partners:

Log in to your profile, select the topics that match your interests, and connect with others exploring similar ideas.

 [My Profile](#) | [Arrange Meetings](#)

Take this opportunity to start building your **next Horizon Europe consortium!**

UPCOMING EVENTS & SAVE THE DATE

DPFC Compilation work tools

» [Events Calendar](#) | [DPFC](#)

November 2025

- **13 Nov | Online | [From Knowledge to Impact: Shaping Europe's Next Innovation Wave](#)**

– Explore EU R&I policy developments, collaboration, and impact strategies. [Registration](#)

- **13 & 17 Nov | Online | EIC Information Days**

13 Nov ([General Info, incl. Pathfinder](#))

17 Nov ([Advanced Innovation Challenges](#))

– Learn about new EIC 2026 funding opportunities.

- **18 Nov | Porto | [Innovation and Smart Specialisation Forum](#)**

– Debate interregional collaboration, cohesion policy, and Europe's autonomy. [Registration](#)

- **19 Nov | Online | ANI Information Session on the European Innovation Council (EIC)**

– Organised by ANI, this [session](#) (10:00) will present the 2026 EIC funding opportunities — *Pathfinder, Transition, and Accelerator* — and introduce the new *Pre-Accelerator* and *Advanced Innovation Challenges*. Includes Q&A with national NCPs. [Register here](#)

- **21 Nov | Online | [MSCA Science–Policy Matchmaking Event](#)**
 - Connect researchers and policymakers to explore science-based policymaking. [Registration](#)

- **27 Nov | Online | Webinar “[Preparar 2026–2027: Novos Concursos do Cluster 6 e Missões Solo e Oceano & Águas](#)”**
 - NCPs share insights and national success stories for upcoming Cluster 6 calls. [Registration](#)

- **26 Nov | Hybrid (Mönchengladbach & online) | [The Future of EU Steel Research – How to Foster EU Steel Leadership](#)**
 - Discover advances in green and hydrogen-based steelmaking. [Registration](#)

December 2025

- **1 Dec | Online | [Workshop: Mapping & Monitoring Energy-Intensive Industries Transition to Climate Neutrality](#)**
 - Contribute your expertise; register by 17 Nov [here](#).

- **2 - 4 Dec | Online | EU-Rail Flagship Projects – Information Sessions**
 - Discover Europe’s most innovative rail projects, meet coordinators and experts, and explore key milestones from the first wave of EU-Rail Flagships. [Register here](#)

- **11 Dec | Online | [Horizon Europe Info Days – WIDERA Work Programme ERA Calls](#)**
 - Learn about ERA topics: open science, research careers, equality, and citizen engagement.

 **Early 2026**

- **14–15 Jan 2026 | Online | Horizon Europe Cluster 5 Info Day & GREENET Brokerage Event**

Brokerage event on 14 Jan; Info Day on 15 Jan. [Register](#) by 17 Dec (brokerage) / 14 Jan (info day).

– Explore funding opportunities for **Climate, Energy, and Mobility** (2026–27 WP, €1.2B budget).

- **20 Jan | Brussels | [Cluster 6 Training](#)**

– Hands-on preparation for the 2026 calls. [Registration](#) until 8th January 2026.

- **21 Jan | Brussels | Cluster 6 Brokerage Event**

– Meet partners and build competitive consortia. [Registration](#)

- **20–21 Jan | Online | [Missions Info Days](#)**

– Discover upcoming Mission calls and priorities.

- **22–23 Jan | Brussels & Online | [Horizon Europe Cluster 6 Info Days](#)**

– Understand policy context and funding opportunities in bioeconomy, food, and environment.

- **28–29 Jan | Online | [Missions Brokerage Event](#)**

– Partnering event for upcoming Mission proposals.

- **5 Feb | Karlsruhe, Germany | KETs 2026 EU Brokerage Event**

– Partnering for Key Enabling Technologies in Clusters 4 & 5. [Register here](#).

- **6–13 Jun | Brussels | [New European Bauhaus Festival 2026](#)**
- Explore creativity, sustainability, and design focused on affordable housing.

RESOURCES

» **On-Demand Training | Mastering MSCA-COFUND** (source: Crowdhelix)

Missed the live session on **Mastering MSCA-COFUND**? **Crowdhelix subscribers** can now access the **exclusive on-demand recording**, featuring strategic insights from **Dr Jorge Pérez Barrio**, expert in European programmes.

The session explores how leading organisations navigate the growing competition for MSCA-COFUND, covering **eligibility and financial requirements, budgeting, and proposal**

design — with practical advice to improve success rates (only 30 projects were funded out of 136 proposals in 2025).

What you'll gain:

- Introduction to MSCA-COFUND and *Choose Europe for Science*
- Strategies for doctoral and postdoctoral schemes
- Guidance on financial structures and budgeting
- Step-by-step planning and submission advice
- Expert tips to strengthen proposals

 [Watch now](#)

» **MSCA “Choose Europe for Science” – One Month Left to Apply!** (source: European Commission)  **Deadline: 3 December 2025**

There's **one month left** to apply for the **MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2025** call — a **new pilot initiative** with an **indicative budget of €22.5 million** designed to make research

careers in Europe more attractive through excellent working conditions and long-term prospects.

Part of the European Commission's **Choose Europe** package and the **Union Of Skills** actions, this call aims to **attract, develop, and retain top research talent** — a key driver of Europe's innovation, growth, and competitiveness.

 *Read 6 essential tips to fine-tune your application [Here](#)*

ON THE TOPIC OF: Research Management

» **Universities in Europe's New Competitiveness Paradigm** (source: EUA)

As the European Union redefines competitiveness around **security, sustainability, and technological sovereignty**, universities are being called to adapt — not only to current policy trends, but to long-term structural change.

A new report explores how this shift could reshape higher education and research by **2035**, presenting three alternative scenarios:

- ◇ *Europe's Resurrection* – a coordinated and innovation-driven recovery
- ◇ *Tech Oligarchy under US Hegemony* – global dependence and strategic weakness
- ◇ *Fragmented Society* – declining trust and fragmented governance

Drawing on feedback from university leaders across Europe, the study highlights how institutions must **strategically position themselves** to strengthen Europe's competitiveness — through research excellence, talent development, and international collaboration — and outlines the **framework conditions** needed to enable this transformation.

🔗 Read the full report: [HERE](#)

» **EARMA Launches New Website and Membership Platform** (source: EARMA)

The **European Association of Research Managers and Administrators (EARMA)** is launching a **new website and membership platform** in the **third week of November** — fully redesigned to enhance user experience and community engagement.

The platform will make it easier for members to:

- ◇ Stay connected with the **EARMA community**
- ◇ Manage their **membership and personal details**
- ◇ Access **resources, events, and updates** all in one place

This refreshed online space aims to strengthen collaboration and streamline access to EARMA’s growing portfolio of tools and opportunities for research management professionals.

🔗 *More details coming soon on earma.org*

» How Research Funding Shapes University Governance

A recent *Science and Public Policy* study examines how **research funding models influence universities’ capacity to act strategically** — going beyond the question of “just following the money.”

Across Europe, two major shifts have redefined the landscape: universities are now expected to function as **autonomous strategic actors**, while research funding has evolved into a complex mix of **performance-based block grants** and **competitive project-based schemes**.

Through a comparative analysis of **Austria and Sweden**, the authors show that **funding arrangements significantly affect leadership’s ability to steer research** along three key dimensions:

- ◇ **Governance locus** – who controls research priorities and resources
- ◇ **Implementation** – how strategies are operationalised within institutions
- ◇ **Directionality** – which fields and topics receive emphasis and support

The findings provide a nuanced view of how **financing mechanisms can both enable and constrain strategic decision-making**, offering valuable insight for policymakers and research managers seeking to balance **autonomy, accountability, and strategic coherence** in university research.

🔗 *Fochler, J. et al. (2025). “Just following the money? How research funding shapes the governance of university research.” [Science and Public Policy](#)*

ON THE TOPIC OF: Defence

» **Defence Industry as a Driver of Strategic Reindustrialisation in Portugal** (source: [Jornal Económico](#))

Under growing geopolitical pressure to strengthen **strategic autonomy**, reduce external dependencies and compete in a world shaped by the **US–China technological axis**, Portugal faces a critical choice: remain a **technology consumer** or assert itself as a **sovereign producer of applied knowledge**.

A recent *Jornal Económico* article argues that **defence investment** can serve as a national anchor for **reindustrialisation and territorial cohesion**. With over **380 companies** and **40,000 direct jobs**, the Portuguese defence industry already represents **1.6% of GDP** and **2% of national exports**, spanning areas from **aeronautics and naval systems** to **cybersecurity, AI, advanced materials, and space technologies**.

This dual-use ecosystem integrates **traditional industries** — textiles, ceramics, composites, cork — with high-tech sectors, creating opportunities well beyond Lisbon’s metropolitan area. Clusters in **Ave, Braga, Felgueiras, and Aveiro** show that innovation and export capacity can thrive from the interior, provided there are **targeted incentives, fiscal benefits, and university–industry partnerships**.

According to the article, reindustrialising through defence means turning **defence expenditure into anchor investment** — ensuring that NATO’s **2% GDP target** and EU defence programmes translate into **local economic value, skilled jobs, and sustainable technologies**. Achieving this requires long-term coordination across **Defence, Economy, Science, and Territorial Cohesion** policies.

Ultimately, the piece concludes, **Portugal’s sovereignty** will depend not only on military capability but on its ability to **generate knowledge, technology, and prosperity across all regions**.

» **Portugal Gains Visibility in Europe’s Defence Industry** (source: Jornal Económico)

Portugal is increasingly **attracting international attention** in the rapidly expanding **European defence sector**, positioning itself as a **credible supplier and innovation partner**.

According to **Rui Santos**, Director-General of **AED Cluster Portugal**, “Portugal is calling attention abroad,” thanks to strong examples such as **Tekever**, which is opening its **fourth drone factory in the UK**, and **Beyond Vision**, planning a **€50 million manufacturing facility in the US**.

Speaking at the **12th Automotive Industry Week (AFIA)**, Santos underlined that, with the EU approving a **€150 billion fund** for Member States to purchase military equipment, these measures represent a **significant opportunity for Portugal** to expand its industrial footprint.

European supply chains are under pressure — with **Germany and France** openly seeking new partners — creating space for **Portuguese companies** to enter and scale up. Examples such as the **LUS-222**, Portugal’s first civil–military aircraft, illustrate growing national capabilities across aerospace, defence technology, and dual-use innovation.

As **NATO countries move towards investing 5% of GDP in defence by 2035**, and with major national modernisation programmes underway, Portugal’s **defence industry ecosystem**— encompassing over **380 companies and multiple innovation clusters** — stands well positioned to integrate into **European value chains** and strengthen its **technological sovereignty**.