

RECTORS' FORUM NEWSLETTER

22 April 2025

HORIZON CALLS	
Teaching Factories Competition (TFC) — Call for companies' challenges	
	Call website
Deadline:	1. 9. 2025
Description:	<p>EIT Manufacturing invites companies to propose relevant industrial challenges for higher education and vocational education and training (VET) students to form Solver Teams (4-6 members) and ideate solutions to those challenges.</p> <p>Manufacturing companies are invited to frame their business challenges on the following topics and subtopics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advanced Manufacturing: Additive Manufacturing, Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, Human-Machine Interface, Robotics & Automation. Green and Sustainable Manufacturing: Circular Economy, Sustainable Supply Chain Management, Zero Defect Manufacturing. Digital Transformation in Manufacturing: Artificial Intelligence (AI), Smart & Intelligent Manufacturing, Advanced Simulation & Digital Twin Technology, Internet of Things (IoT), Blockchain Technology, Big Data Analytics, Web 3.0 & Metaverse. <p>Companies may submit up to 3 challenges in different subtopics categories and state their interest in having their challenge included for the first cut-off stage or for the second cut-off.</p>
Budget:	--
HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025 - call for proposals	
	Call website
Deadline:	18. 9. 2025
Description:	<p>The Circular Bio-based Europe Joint Undertaking invites applications for its call for proposals. This supports research to make textiles production more sustainable and circular.</p> <p>The following 13 topics are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-01 — Urban-industrial symbiosis for bio-waste valorisation, with one expected grant, worth up to €20,000,000. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-02 — Bio-based drop-ins/smart drop-in platform chemicals, via cost-effective, sustainable and resource-efficient conversion of biomass, with one expected grant, worth up to €20,000,000; HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-03 — Circular-by-design fibre-based packaging with improved properties, with one expected grant, worth up to €20,000,000. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IAFlag-04 — Retrofitting of (bio)refineries industrial plants towards higher-value bio-based products, with one expected grant, worth up to €20,000,000. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-CSA-01 — Develop and deploy new curricula and knowledge exchange practices relevant to bio-based systems, with one expected grant, worth up to €1,000,000. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-RIA-01 — Valorisation of untapped forest biomass, with two expected grants, worth up to €3,500,000 each. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-RIA-02 — Bio-based and biodegradable delivery systems for fertilising products to reduce microplastics pollution & promote soil health, with two expected grants, worth up to €3,500,000 each. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-RIA-03 — Alternative biomanufacturing routes for natural and synthetic rubber, with two expected grants, worth up to €3,500,000 each. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-01 — Sustainable macroalgae systems for innovative, added-value applications: cultivation and optimised production systems, with two expected grants, worth up to €7,000,000 each. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-02 — SSbD bio-based solutions to replace hazardous conventional chemicals for textiles production, with two expected grants, worth up to €7,000,000 each. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-03 — Scaling-up nutritional proteins from alternative sources, with two expected grants, worth up to €7,000,000 each. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-04 — Cost-effective and robust continuous biotech bio-based processes, with two expected grants, worth up to €7,000,000 each. HORIZON-JU-CBE-2025-IA-05 — SSbD bio-based polymers/copolymers unlocking new market applications, with two expected grants, worth up to €7,000,000 each.
Budget:	MAX: 20.000.000 EUR

OTHER CALLS

Space Policy in Action training course	
	Call website
Deadline:	28. 4. 2025
Description:	ESA Academy is now accepting applications from university students for the pilot edition of Space Policy in Action - ESA's Contributions Over Half a Century (1975–2025) . The course was designed through a collaboration between the ESA Education Office, the Director General Cabinet and the Directorate of Strategy, Legal and External Affairs, and will take place at the ESA Academy Training and Learning Facility in Belgium, from 7 to 11 July 2025.
Budget:	--

PIANOFORTE - Open call	
	Call website
Deadline:	30. 4. 2025
Description:	<p>The PIANOFORTE partnership aims to improve radiological protection of members of the public, patients, workers and the environment in all exposure scenarios and to provide solutions and recommendations for optimised protection in accordance with the Basic Safety Standards (BSS). This objective will be reached by multidisciplinary research, innovation and citizen involvement activities in a collaborative approach of scientists, regulators and stakeholders. Research projects focusing on identified research and innovation priorities will be selected through competitive open calls.</p> <p>This call addresses 3 main topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Investigating the effects of temporal and spatial variations in dose delivery on the risk of health effects. • Topic 2: Developing an integrated approach for risk assessment and evaluation from environmental exposure to ionising radiation. • Topic 3: Use of Artificial Intelligence and Big Data techniques to improve emergency response – covering radiological impact assessments, decision support, data collection response and recovery strategies and public engagement, communication and education. <p>The aims of the call are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To support transnational research projects that combine innovative approaches in the field of radiation protection in line with the research priorities of PIANOFORTE. • To actively integrate Education & Training activities and collaboration with universities in multidisciplinary research projects. • To make optimal use of research infrastructures.
Budget:	--

Lights on Women Scholarship	
	Call website
Deadline:	8. 6. 2025
Description:	<p>The Florence School of Regulation Energy launches its 7th Lights on Women Scholarship under the Lights on Women initiative. The 2025 edition of the scholarship will offer 10 free seats to FSR community courses to women contributing to innovative solutions, research, and initiatives that accelerate a sustainable, diverse, resilient, and just energy transition.</p> <p>Courses offered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulation of the Power Sector, • Evolution of Electricity Markets in Europe, • EU Gas Network Codes, • Electric Vehicles – Mobility Meets the Power System, • Sustainable and Smart Cities, • Getting to Net-Zero – the updated EU Green Deal course (course page will be available soon!), • Energy Markets and Regulations – Tools and Practices (course page will be available soon!).
Budget:	--

Open Call for Transnational Service Provision	
	Call website
Deadline:	15. 7. 2025
Description:	Under the canSERV open call researchers are welcome to apply to a portfolio of services offered by canSERV to address the research needs of the entire oncology developmental pipeline. Projects can vary from basic discovery science to translational science and translation into personalised oncology but must address at least one of the four strategic goals of the cancer mission, including understanding of cancer, prevention and early detection, diagnosis and treatment, quality of life for patients and their families.
Budget:	--

AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE — Transnational actions on asylum, migration and integration	
	Call website
Deadline:	16. 9. 2025
Description:	<p>This supports transnational actions on asylum, migration and integration. The aim is to provide support for the Action Plan on Integration and Inclusion 2021-2027, which outlines strategic guidance for concrete actions designed to promote the integration and inclusion of third-country nationals and EU citizens with a migrant background.</p> <p>This call covers the following topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE-01-WOMEN - Support measures for migrant women's social and economic integration, AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE-02-HEALTH- Access to healthcare, AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE-03-DIGITAL- Improving digital skills among migrants, AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE-04-PATHWAYS - Complementary pathways linked to education, AMIF-2025-TF2-AG-INTE-05-CHILDREN - Measures to support Member States in the field of protection of children in migration.
Budget:	--

Call for proposals for development access	
	Call website
Deadline:	--
Description:	<p>The EuroHPC Joint Undertaking invites applications for its call for proposals for development access. This supports researchers and HPC application developers by giving them the opportunity to develop, test and optimise their applications on the available EuroHPC Pre-exascale or Petascale system prior to applying for an extreme scale or regular access.</p> <p>The EuroHPC Development call is designed for projects focusing on code and algorithm development and optimisation, as well as development of AI application methods. This can be in the context of research projects from academia or industry, or as part of large public or private funded initiatives as for instance Centres of Excellence or Competence Centres.</p>
Budget:	--

Strategic call for capitalisation	
	Call website
Deadline:	--
Description:	This call aims to tailor existing outputs and results of both Interreg transnational and cross-border projects to current and emerging needs. Its goal is to maximise territorial and policy impact by reducing the effects of borders on flows and functional linkages among central European regions.
Budget:	--

TENDER CALLS

TENDER - Engagement and community management services	
	Call website
Deadline:	17. 4. 2025
Description:	<p>Through this call for tenders, EFSA and the other contracting Authorities aim at identifying an experienced partner to receive strategic advice and tactical support across the spectrum of their engagement actions.</p> <p>The successful tenderer will be required to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Deliver research-based strategic advice on fit-for-purpose engagement methods/tools/techniques and help implement such advice. Conceive and support end-to-end multiactivity participatory processes or single engagement activities and document their outcome.
Budget:	--

TENDER - Evolution of Galileo SAR-RLS beacons for maritime environment	
	Call website
Deadline:	2. 6. 2025
Description:	The overall objective of the call for tenders is to outsource the set-up a end-to-end system and service demonstration of the Search and Rescue/Galileo (SAR/Galileo) Return Link Service (RLS) Two Way Communication (TWC) services. As part of its set up, it includes the design and development of two prototypes of Second-Generation Beacon (SGB) for maritime applications-Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon (EPIRB), and of a demonstration platform.
Budget:	MAX: 1.000.000 EUR

EVENTS

Finding Balance: Mental Health Tools for Displaced Researchers

Online, April 24, 2025

[More information here](#)

Apply AI Strategy - Technical Workshop on Environment and Sustainability

Online, April 28, 2025

[More information here](#)

Horizon Europe Info Days - Cluster 5

Brussels / Online, May 6, 2025

[More information here](#)

EUDIS Defence Hackathon

Online, May 9–11, 2025

[More information here](#)

Cooperation, Legacy and Change: 25 Years of Interreg Alpine Space

Salzburg (Austria), May 12 – 14, 2025

[More information here](#)

Horizon Europe Info Days - Cluster 4

Online, May 13–14, 2025

[More information here](#)

#EULife25 Info Days

Online, May 13–15, 2025

[More information here](#)

European Defence Innovation Days 2025 (EDID25)

Kraków, May 14–16, 2025

[More information here](#)

LifeScience4EU Conference 2025

Kraków (Poland), May 15–16, 2025

[More information here](#)

European Coal in Transition: From an Industrial Legend to Cutting-Edge Research for the Future

Jastrzębie-Zdrój (Poland), May 15, 2025

[More information here](#)

Horizon Europe Info Days - Cluster 2

Online, May 15, 2025

[More information here](#)

Horizon Europe Research Infrastructures Info Day

Online, May 19, 2025

[More information here](#)

Horizon Europe Info Days - Cluster 6

Online, May 20–21, 2025

[More information here](#)

Horizon Europe Info Day - Cluster 1

Online, May 22, 2025

[More information here](#)

The EU Industry Days

Rzeszów (Poland), June 5–6, 2025

[More information here](#)

3rd European GREEN Conference - EGC 2025

Vodice (Croatia), June 10 – 13, 2025

[More information here](#)

NEWS

1. Weekly NIH Funding Opportunities and Notices

General Notices

- [Notice of Information to Revise the Scheduling Details for PA-25-212 "Innovation Corps \(I-Corps\) at NIH Program for NIH and CDC Translational Research \(Admin Supp Clinical Trial NOT Allowed\)"](#)
- [Notice of Early Termination of NOT-OD-24-117 "Notice of Information: Research Opportunities Centering the Health of Women Across the HIV Research Continuum"](#)

2. [The PRIMA 2025 call](#) is of interest to various scientific fields, and interdisciplinary approaches are recommended. The international project consortium must include at least four applicants from at least three participating countries.

Selected projects will be funded for a period of three years (i.e., 36 months).

Tentative timeline of the call:

- Application deadline: July 8, 2025
- Results and funding decisions: December 10, 2025
- Project funding start: 2026

3. Update of the "Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research" published,

The European Commission has updated the European Research Area Forum's "Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research" document. It aims to guide European researchers to embrace AI-technology in a responsible way. The document has been published in addition to last week's [AI Continent Action Plan](#), which included a call for evidence and a targeted questionnaire to help shape Europe's AI Strategy in science (see KoWi newsletter from 11 April). The latter foresees several activities to support the uptake of AI in science including a European AI Research Council which will take the form of a "Resource for AI Science in Europe (RAISE)".

- [ERA Forum's Stakeholder document "Living Guidelines on the Responsible Use of Generative AI in Research"](#)

4. ERA Scoreboard and Dashboard 2024

On 15 April, the European Commission released the new European Research Area (ERA) Scoreboard and Dashboard. These tools are part of the [ERA Monitoring Mechanism](#), which tracks the progress made by EU member states and countries associated with Horizon Europe towards the key objectives outlined in the ERA, as defined in the [Pact for Research and Innovation](#). The 2024 ERA Scoreboard and Dashboard presents data covering the period from 2010 to 2022.

At the EU level, the [Scoreboard](#) indicates that key progress was made, for example, in the areas of research and development (R&D) and investment, open science, gender equality, and global engagement. Key challenges were identified, for example, in the areas of environmentally related government R&D, scientific leadership, long-term research and innovation commitments, and most notably in the area of public R&D expenditures financed by the private sector, which is showing a decline across nearly all member- and associated states.

The complementary [ERA Dashboard](#) provides a more detailed view of progress made at the national level. It highlights persistent asymmetries between Member States, varying by policy priority. Despite these asymmetries, positive trends can be observed in many member states. For example, Czechia, Romania, and Germany are the countries with the highest growth rates in shares of open access publications.

5. RC Advanced Grant 2025 call.

The ERC intends to increase the **category of additional funding** available to project recipients who relocate to Europe because of receiving an ERC grant. Currently, it is possible to apply for up to **1 million euros** in additional funding for establishing a laboratory or research team, provided it is scientifically justified. The ERC now plans to increase this amount to **up to 2 million euros**. This does **not** imply any advantage in the evaluation process or special treatment—only that the total funding amount for an approved ERC project may be higher. It is likely that this change will remain in effect for future ERC calls as well. This could serve as an additional incentive to attract top researchers currently working outside of Europe.

PUBLISHED PLANS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

European Commission published plans (calls for evidence) areas of European policy:

- [European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control - evaluation](#)
- [Cities - new policy agenda](#)

The European Commission has opened public consultations in the following areas:

- [The EU Cybersecurity Act](#)
- [Sustainable imports of fishery products under the EU Autonomous Tariff Quota Regulation](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [European Digital Innovation Hubs Network's activities and customers: State of play report 2024](#)
- [Analysis of the generative AI landscape in the European public sector](#)
- [Doing resilience better, with less: The cornerstone of the EU's eastern policy needs rethinking](#)
- [ERTMS on-board deployment: Analysis of cost driver](#)
- [Disruptive innovation: Investing in healthcare transformation](#)
- [Transparency of EU funding granted to NGOs: Despite progress, the overview is still not reliable](#)
- [Systems for ensuring compliance of RRF spending with public procurement and state aid rules: Improving but still insufficient](#)
- [ERIC practical guidelines: Legal framework for a European Research Infrastructure Consortium](#)
- [Effective practices for literacy teaching: Analytical report](#)
- [EU emergency trust fund for Africa: 2024 annual report](#)
- [Artificial intelligence in science: Promises or perils for creativity?](#)

- [European defence readiness](#)
- [Fusion Expert Group opinion paper: Towards the EU fusion strategy](#)

RECTORS' FORUM MEMBERS NEWS

1. PUBLIC UNIVERSITY "KADRI ZEKA" – ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Public University "Kadri Zeka" in Gjilan, Kosovo, is pleased to announce the **Open Call for Papers** for its **Annual Conference**, which will be held on **02–03 June 2025** under the main theme: **"Technology, Science and Education: Paths to an Intelligent Society."** This important academic event will feature six thematic sessions (EduDay Conference, Justice Conference, Economics Conference, DiGiDay Conference, MathDay Conference, SocialScience Conference) that encourage interdisciplinary research and promote collaboration toward building a more intelligent, innovative, and sustainable society. For more information and the open call, please visit: <https://conference2025.uni-gjilan.net/home>.

2. UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA – YOUNG RESEARCHES, deadline: April 15, 2025

The University of Ljubljana is looking for motivated [young researchers](#) to join our university under the supervision of renowned mentors. The University of Ljubljana offers 135 funded Ph.D. positions that provide full salary and benefits for Ph.D. students. With 22 Ph.D. degree programmes and more than 2.200 Ph.D. students, the University of Ljubljana is the largest research institution in Slovenia. Young Researchers positions are fully funded. The University of Ljubljana provides the students with a challenging training environment, world-class research facilities, a collaborative environment, working in the international community, excellent career opportunities, and a clear mentoring system. Ljubljana offers not only a highly recognized research area but also enjoys an excellent reputation of being among the top 10 safest countries. With a Master's degree and excellent English skills candidates are welcome to apply to Young Researcher positions. Further information: <https://www.uni-lj.si/en/research/young-researchers>. We would be very grateful if you could distribute this offer between your students and academic staff. In the attachment, you can also find an information poster which you can use for informing prospective candidates.