CCG INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Weekly Funding Insight
Week Commencing 30th September 2024

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New Opportunities

Call Title:	DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ENGLISH ACCESS PROGRAM IN SRI LANKA
Programme:	**U.S. Mission to Sri Lanka**
Objective:	The Public Diplomacy Section (PDS) of the U.S. Embassy in Colombo announces an open competition to implement a program to carry out the design and implementation of the English Access Scholarship Program, 2025-2027. The English Access Scholarship Program aims to empower bright, talented, and economically disadvantaged students by developing their English language proficiency and fostering a deeper understanding of U.S.-Sri Lanka cross-cultural relations.
Eligible Activities:	The program emphasizes 21st century and global citizenship skills to build confidence and inspire public service in an increasingly interconnected world. In addition to English language abilities, these skills include critical and creative thinking, leadership, information technology, civic engagement, and media literacy. Actions must take place in Sri Lanka.
Eligible Applicants:	The following organizations are eligible to apply: Nonprofits that do not have a 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, other than institutions of higher education.
Total Budget:	**$156,000**
Deadline:	**21/10/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356433

Call Title:	KUMALIZA MAPHUNZIRO A SEKONDALE “COMPLETING SECONDARY EDUCATION” (THE KUMALIZA PROJECT)
Programme:	**Malawi USAID-Lilongwe**
Objective:	The Kumaliza Project will collaborate with service providers across sectors such as health, education, community development, and the private sector to map available services in each community and address any identified gaps.
Eligible Activities:	The project will integrate with cross-sectoral programming, gender and climate resilience efforts, and incorporate Positive Youth Development principles. Actions must take place in Malawi.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility for this NOFO is unrestricted.
Total Budget:	**$12,000,000**
Deadline:	**22/10/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356406

Call Title:	SANKORE CALL FOR PROPOSALS: STRENGTHENING INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY ACROSS WEST AFRICA
Programme: FCDO	
Objective:	The FCDO invites applications by 25 October 2024 for proposals to strengthen innovation and technology across West Africa. Sankore is a new £1.9 million Accountable Grant delivery mechanism that will strengthen innovation systems in Nigeria and Ghana.
Eligible Activities:	It will strengthen research commercialisation, innovation policy and support innovation system projects that align with national and regional priorities for science, technology and innovation. Named after a historical place of learning in West Africa, Sankore will be delivered under the Africa Technology and Innovation Partnerships (ATIP) programme. Actions must take place in Ghana and Nigeria.
Eligible Applicants:	They are seeking interest from organisations with: a lead implementing partner with the capacity to engage and coordinate a diverse range of downstream partners; a lead implementing partner that is a non-profit organisation (including UN agencies) based in Ghana or Nigeria and have deep understanding of local context; a legally registered entity in Nigeria or Ghana; proven experience working with public and private sector stakeholders for innovation systems strengthening and national policy influencing in Ghana and Nigeria.
Total Budget: €1,900,000	
Deadline: 25/10/2024	
More information and official documents:	https://www.gov.uk/international-development-funding/sankore-accountable-grant-early-market-engagement-event

Call Title:	USAID ACTING ON CLIMATE CHANGE TOGETHER
Programme: Zambia USAID-Lusaka	
Objective:	The goal of the Acting on Climate Change Together (ACCT) Activity is to reduce the adverse impacts of climate-related disasters on education for children, including children with disabilities (CwD). The activity will meaningfully engage communities, children, schools, disabled person organizations and provide opportunities to collaboratively develop and implement disability-inclusive climate programs and approaches.
Eligible Activities:	Objective 1: Develop and implement disability-inclusive school disaster risk mitigation plans Objective 2: Increase enrollment and participation of children with disabilities (CwD) into schools to benefit from the protective factors of school settings, especially during disasters Objective 3: To increase knowledge and climate action of children, including children with disabilities

	Actions must take place in Zambia.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility is unrestricted.
Total Budget:	**$3,400,000**
Deadline:	**28/10/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356420

Call Title:	**Supporting Community Outreach, Evidence-Based Nutrition and Behavioral Change Program (Rwanda)**
Programme:	**ENABEL**
Objective:	Enabel is seeking proposals to support Community Outreach, Evidence-Based Nutrition and Behavioural Change Programme in the Districts of Intervention. The intervention is towards ensuring sustainable production, increased per capita consumption and income generation from the fisheries aquaculture and horticulture value chains with a focus on women and youth. Objectives The general objective: To contribute to the transition towards socially and environmentally inclusive food systems with the development of the value chains in the aquaculture, fishery and horticultural sectors The specific objective: To support community outreach, evidence-based nutritional and behavioral change towards healthier eating habits in the districts of intervention of the Kwihaza project. Sectors or Themes Behaviour changes to address unhealthy food consumption habits.
Eligible Activities:	Target groups Communities in the specified districts in Rwanda including households, schools, health facilities, and markets. Outputs The expected outputs include; Output 1: The capacities of smallholder organizations, active in the targeted value chains, are enhanced to efficiently improve quality and quantity of produce, minimize post-harvest losses and improve access to local and regional markets; Output 2: SMEs and aspiring young entrepreneurs active at the different levels of the targeted value chains are strengthened to operate in an inclusive and sustainable way, create decent jobs and contribute to more sustainable food systems; and Output 3: A conducive environment for inclusive value chains development and sustainable food systems is strengthened. Expected Results Expected results are: A comprehensive assessment of nutritional habits in target districts of intervention is conducted.

	Based on nutritional habits assessment and behavioural science theories and practices, a behaviour change strategy is developed to address unhealthy food consumption among targeted communities The Behaviour change strategy is implemented through community outreach and engagement campaigns Eligible Activities The list below is indicative and not exhaustive. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of current nutritional habits, knowledge, and practices within the target community Analyse existing community engagement strategies and identify gaps or areas for improvement Develop a behaviour change strategy focused on improving food consumption habits and overall nutrition (focusing on fish, fishery products and avocados) Design and recommend interventions such as workshops, counselling, and incentive programs Create educational materials tailored to the needs of different demographic groups Develop and implement a community engagement plan to increase awareness, participation, and support for nutrition initiatives Facilitate community meetings, focus groups, and workshops to gather input and foster collaboration, with focus on players already mandated to deliver similar interventions (village kitchens, para-social workers, community health workers, religious institutions, among others) Build partnerships with local organizations, leaders, and influencers to support and promote nutrition program
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Applicant To be admissible for grants, the applicant must satisfy the following conditions: Be a legal person; and Be a private non-for-profit entity or a foundation or Organization Be established or legally represented in RWANDA Be responsible for preparing and managing the action as applicant and not be acting as an intermediary or a co-applicant.
Total Budget:	**€190,000 per project**
Deadline:	**29/10/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://www.enabel.be/grants/

Call Title:	**ADDENDUM FOR TRANSFORMATIVE PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE-RESILIENT WATER AND SANITATION INITIATIVE UNDER DIP-WASH**
Programme:	**India USAID-New Delhi**
Objective:	The purpose of the Diversifying Partnerships in WASH (DiP-WASH) Annual Program Statement (APS) is to engage a diverse range of partners, including new, nontraditional, and local actors on innovative and evidence-based approaches that address persistent challenges in water security, inclusive of drinking water, sanitation and hygiene, and that are not adequately addressed by other USAID investments, and that result in

	increasing the equitable availability and sustainable management of climate-resilient safe water and sanitation for underserved and marginalized communities and people in vulnerable situations.
Eligible Activities:	The overall goal of the Transformative Partnerships for Climate-Resilient Water and Sanitation Initiative is to strengthen and expand inclusive, climate-resilient, and low-emissions water security and sanitation through collaborative approaches to position India as a global leader in the water, sanitation, and hygiene sector. Actions must take place in India.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility is unrestricted.
Total Budget:	**$6,000,000**
Deadline:	**30/10/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/356426

Call Title:	**Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance**
Programme:	**Climate Policy Initiative**
Objective:	The Climate Policy Initiative is looking for proposals for innovative solutions to overcome barriers to climate investments in emerging markets and support the transition to a net-zero economy. The Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance identifies, develops, and launches innovative finance instruments that can drive billions in private investment to action on climate change and sustainable development. Bloomberg Philanthropies, the United Nations Development Programme, and the governments of Canada, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States fund the Lab's 2025 programs. Climate Policy Initiative serves as the Secretariat and analytical provider.
Eligible Activities:	Selected Lab ideas will receive a comprehensive support package that includes expert guidance, technical assistance, funder mapping, networking opportunities, and pilot implementation support. The Lab program is designed to accelerate innovative climate finance solutions in emerging markets. The Lab, an initiative of over 100 public and private investors and institutions, accelerates solutions to drive private investment at scale and support sustainable development goals in emerging markets. Created in 2014, the Lab has launched 68 instruments that collectively mobilized over USD 4 billion. Informational Webinars The Lab will host four informational webinars covering the Application process, Selection criteria, Priority areas for this cycle, Benefits of Lab support, Lab process. Global program: October 16, 12 PM EST. Regional programs (Africa, India, and The Philippines): October 16, 9 AM GMT. Brazil Program (in Portuguese): October 17, 3 PM BRT. Latin American and the Caribbean program (in Spanish): October 17, 12 PM EST.

Eligible Applicants:	Sectors Adaptation, mitigation, and sustainable agriculture and food systems.
Total Budget:	**Not given**
Deadline:	**07/11/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://www.climatepolicyinitiative.org/press-release/lab-to-open-2025-call-for-innovative-climate-finance-ideas-on-september-26/

Call Title:	**Next Generation Internet (NGI) Sargasso Project**
Programme:	**NGI Sargasso**
Objective:	Submissions are now open for the NGI Sargasso Project that focuses on strengthening EU cooperation and strategic partnerships with the USA and Canada in the Next Generation Internet. The project has been organized to support all Internet innovators in the areas of trust and Internet data sovereignty, trusted open search and discovery, and Internet Architecture and Decentralized Technologies. With NGI Sargasso, an international ecosystem will be created with the presence of the USA and Canada in order to promote the values of Europe beyond its borders, such as openness, inclusion, transparency, privacy, cooperation, and data protection. The mission is to catalyse transatlantic collaboration on the development and experimentation of new ideas, implementation of prototypes, and contribution to standards and open-source communities on technology trends with the potential to reshape tomorrow's Next Generation Internet technologies and services. Objectives NGI Sargasso aims to revolutionise the Next Generation Internet technologies, services, and standards, and contribute to the evolution of the Internet according to a human-centric approach of the internet commons. For the development of NGI Sargasso, it is crucial that the proposals presented start from close collaboration with entities from the USA and/or Canada. Through 5 open calls, NGI Sargasso aims to attract more than 300 applications (accumulated from the five open calls) and support up to 96 research initiatives. NGI Sargasso Knowledge Areas NGI Sargasso focuses on specific areas of knowledge critical to developing a more humancentric and sustainable internet. They believe that the internet should reflect the values and needs of individuals and communities, and that it should be equitable, accessible, and secure for everyone. To achieve this vision, NGI Sargasso prioritizes the following areas of knowledge: Trust: it is focused on improving trust in the online world, by making the internet more secure and protecting users' privacy. Data sovereignty: NGI is working towards giving users control over their personal data and ensuring that it is stored and processed in a secure manner. Digital identity: to create a digital identity framework that is trustworthy, secure, and interoperable, to make it easier for people to interact with the internet. Internet architecture and renovation: to renovate the existing internet architecture to make it more efficient, secure, and scalable, while also preserving existing investments and assets. Decentralised technologies: the use of decentralised technologies such as blockchain, to improve the security and privacy of the internet.

	Interoperability & Standardization: the NGI initiative aims to promote interoperability and standardisation, enabling seamless communication and data exchange across platforms and devices. This supports innovation, competition, and user empowerment in the digital economy. New Internet Commons: the creation of a new Internet Commons, a shared digital space where everyone can participate in the creation and exchange of digital content and services.
Eligible Activities:	NGI Sargasso Challenges NGI Sargasso has identified a set of challenges for this final cut-off date. There are 9 concrete challenges and an open one. Proposals should be directed towards one or more of those (including the open challenge for NGI). Sustainable Digital Infrastructure Across Continents Addressing environmental issues in digital networks, systems and infrastructure has emerged as a priority in both Europe, Canada and the USA, as increased complexity in systems may require additional resources. Sustainable maintenance, repair, and life-cycle management of digital technologies is included in this challenge. Knowledge Areas: Internet Architecture and Renovation, Energy Efficiency Harmonized Cross-Atlantic Digital Governance The need for a unified techno/legal framework for digital services across the Atlantic is gaining attention in both the EU, Canada, and the USA. This includes the development of efficient networks, interconnections, and consistent regulation of data and cloud services to facilitate cross-border data exchanges and services. Knowledge Areas: Internet Architecture and Renovation, Trust, Data Sovereignty Inclusive Public Digital Spaces for Global Community Engagement Inclusive and accessible public digital spaces are becoming a priority in Europe, the USA, and Canada. The challenge is to facilitate meaningful community engagement via these public platforms and ensure that all individuals, regardless of their language or abilities, have access. Knowledge Areas: Digital Identity, Trust, New Internet Commons Enhanced Data Security and Privacy in Transcontinental Perspective The improvement of data security measures and stronger protections for personal data are a shared concern in Europe and North America. A focus is on respecting individual's data sovereignty and privacy. Knowledge Areas: Trust, Data Sovereignty, Digital Identity Interoperability and Standardisation Across Borders Seamless interaction between systems and devices is essential for interconnected digital environments. Europe, the US, and Canada have a joint interest in establishing widely accepted technological standards and protocols. Knowledge Areas: Interoperability & Standardisation Next-Gen Cybersecurity and Generative AI Cybersecurity stands as a cornerstone of the Next Generation Internet (NGI). However, cyber threats are continuously evolving and becoming increasingly sophisticated. The recent advancements in Generative AI capabilities offer new threats and new opportunities in the area of cybersecurity. This challenge delves into the intersection of advanced cybersecurity and Generative Artificial Intelligence to tackle this ever-shifting landscape. Knowledge Areas: Trust, Decentralized Technology, Internet Architecture and Renovation, New Internet Common Next Generation Space Based Internet

	This challenge addresses issues regarding the integration of space-based networks to terrestrial networks such as: techniques to provide reliable high data rate internet connectivity to areas without or with minimal supporting terrestrial infrastructure; optimized transport protocols for satellite communications; integration of satellite communications and 5G/6G mobile technologies in a truly hybrid satellite/5G/6G network. Knowledge Area: Internet architecture and renovation, Interoperability & Standardization Redefining intelligence in a hyperconnected world In their hyperconnected world, where billions are online and data sensors abound, they must seize the opportunity presented by AI advancements to reshape how they confront modern challenges like sustainable cities and climate change. It's time for them to demonstrate that the synergy between human users, data sensors, and AI agents is the solution to today's societal challenges, all while safeguarding human rights. Knowledge Area: Trust, New Internet Commons, Internet Architecture and Renovation, Decentralised Technologies Internet Archiving Today's internet is an ever changing, constantly modified environment. Unlike physical media, it is very easy for information to get deleted and lost, seemingly forever. Being able to find information on or from websites that no longer exist or the history of changes to a site or page is very valuable. Such archiving could also be used as a safeguard against massive loss of data, for instance after a cyber-attack or an accidental issue. Setting standards, promoting efforts towards this goal and as well as defining best practices to ensure personal data protection and right to be forgotten in such archiving effort is a challenge for NGI. Knowledge Area: Trust, New Internet Commons, Internet Architecture and Renovation, Decentralised Technologies, Interoperability & Standardisation Open Challenge Open for any project that addresses an emerging issue related to the specified areas of knowledge. This challenge encourages innovative solutions in the fields of Trust, Data Sovereignty, Digital Identity, Internet Architecture and Renovation, Decentralised Technologies, Interoperability & Standardisation, and New Internet Commons across Europe, USA, and Canada. Knowledge Area: Trust, Data Sovereignty, Digital Identity, Internet Architecture and Renovation, Decentralised Technologies, Interoperability & Standardisation, New Internet Commons For large RTOs, research centres and Universities (not included in the SME Definition criteria from EC), the maximum amount of funding is up to €500.000 between all NGI Sargasso open calls. This is because several research groups from the same large organisation may wish to apply to one or more calls.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Eligible beneficiaries The European eligible entities by NGI Sargasso open call should be legally identified under the following categories of organisations: Universities, RTOs, and research centres: academic and research institutions with a focus on developing novel knowledge areas and technologies aligned with the focus of NGI Sargasso. It's important to note that within a department, multiple research groups exist, and while different groups from the same department can apply, it's crucial that individuals

	are not concurrently members of multiple research groups to ensure equitable allocation of resources and dedication to their respective research endeavours. NGOs and foundations: non-profit organizations and foundations that work under the NGI areas of knowledge and technologies. SMEs and startups: small and medium-sized enterprises and startups that focus on developing innovative solutions related to NGI Sargasso's areas of focus. Natural persons, mid-caps or large industries or corporations are not eligible for the purpose of the call.
Total Budget:	**€1,200,000**
Deadline:	**25/11/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://ngisargasso.eu/

Call Title:	**6G-BRICKS Project**
Programme:	**European Commission**
Objective:	Submissions are now open for the 6G-BRICKS (Building Reusable testbed Infrastructures for validating Cloud-to-device breaKthrough technologieS) project to offer a trusted, agile and evolvable 6G experimentation facility, federating two experimentation platforms in Belgium (KUL) and France (EUR) from previous 5G-PPP initiatives under a Core Site (ISI/ATH) acting as the facility entry point, and offering Public Cloud and experimentation services. 6G-BRICKS will adopt the trend of Software-Defined Infrastructures (SDI) and Software Networks that replace "black boxes" (e.g., physical network functions, such as firewalls) with their softwarised equivalents. This trend will be extended to the RAN via the O-RAN initiative, aiming to evolve O-RAN elements in the 6G era via the integration of breakthrough technologies. To this end, 6G-BRICKS will deliver the first open and programmable O-RAN Radio Unit (RU) for 6G networks, termed the OpenRU, based on an NI USRP-based platform. Moreover, 6G-BRICKS will integrate the RIS concept into the OAI. In addition, 6G-BRICKS will deliver breakthrough experimentation tools, going well beyond the current Testing as a Service (TaaS) capabilities of current initiatives, and allowing experiments also on devices via O-RAN compliant Extended Applications (xAPPs). Thus, the 6G-BRICKS experimentation facility aims to serve a dual role, both as a playground for testing advanced vertical applications and for validating and showcasing the clear benefits and capabilities of 6G breakthrough technologies and devices. Moreover, it will deliver and test new architecture principles, with multi-tenancy, disaggregated Operations Support Systems (OSS) and Deep Edge integration at the forefront.
Eligible Activities:	Project Tiers More specifically, the 6G-BRICKS facility will include the following architectural tiers: The Core Tier acts as the entry point to the experimentation facility, offering Public Cloud services to the 6G Sites. Mature frontend elements and experimentation engines will be leveraged and deployed at the Core Site from the 5GMediaHUB project, delivering DevOps Driven Testing as a Service functionality which allows test cases and validation testing workflows to be authored via standard DevOps tools. A unique testing tool based on Near-RT RIC will also be delivered for the first time, giving experimenters access to low-level RRM and RAN slicing capabilities via standardized

	xApps. Moreover, the Core Site will offer Business Support System (BSS) services to the 6G-BRICKS facility, allowing vertical application owners to upload their applications and Business Intents (SLOs). A disaggregated Management Plane, which consists of a set of Domain Manager Orchestrators (DMOs) for each Cloud, Edge, and Network orchestration domain. The DMO layer, deployed at each facility site, acts as a unified controllability framework aiming to provide the ability to enforce and propagate state-to-action mappings, automatically generating service objectives based on the SLOs (or business intents) submitted at the Business Layer. These actions are subsequently implemented by the infrastructure domain (e.g., RAN controller, SDN, VIM, etc.). Explainable AI mechanisms are leveraged for policy translation and unification. This breakthrough explainable architecture design supports end-to-end slicing, provides explainable feedback to experimenters for potential SLA breaches and facilitates a loose coupling with the Business Layer, avoiding bottlenecks. 6G Experimentation Platforms layer, where breakthrough 6G technologies are integrated into reusable, selfcontained modules with O-RAN interfaces to ensure the openness and reusability of the developed components. At the KUL site, a Distributed Cell-Free RAN is delivered, leveraging on the MARSAL baseline work and an O-RAN stack from ISRD. The EUR site builds on the 5G-EVE facility and the EUR OpenAirInterface ORAN stack, which will be integrated with a RIS platform from the RISE-6G project. In both sites, UE Farms will be deployed, i.e., a managed constellation of UE devices to be offered to experimenters, supporting Experimentation Plane System Portal Edge Node PaaS Core Node Edge Node RIS Controller RIS xApps Deep Edge OpenRU OpenRU OpenRU Cell Free APs verticals intents MEP Intent Engine Conflict Resolution Engine Security Orchestrator DMO X-Haul π-Edge CEC Manager SMO π-Edge CU MEO DMO SMO System Registry (xApps, Docker images) VPNaaS Zero Trust automation DU RIC DU CU RIC virtualization and service placement at the device level, termed the Deep Edge. The UE farm may include (i) 5G enabled remotely controlled smartphone devices or (ii) similarly spaced clusters of Single Board Computers (e.g., Raspberry PIs) and IoT devices. Innovation Areas Innovation Area 1: Network-controlled open RIS platform Innovation Area 2: Distributed CFmMIMO processing and synchronization Innovation Area 3: Multi-band and mmWave CFmMIMO Innovation Area 4: Communication and sensing: RIS and cell-free based approaches Innovation Area 5: Explainable AI and Machine Reasoning for Unified, Zero Touch Orchestration Innovation Area 6: Platform as a Service Abstraction for a self-synthesized compute continuum
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Beneficiaries must be consortia composed of up to 2 legal entities (SME and/or Big Company and/or RTO) acting as technology providers and/or application providers for use case implementation. All organizations have to be established in any of EU Member States and their Overseas Countries and Territories (OCT) or Horizon Europe Associated Country. 6G-BRICKS partners can NOT be involved in the grantees' projects, neither their affiliates nor employees – including persons working under employment contracts or contracts or similar to employment contracts and board members.

Total Budget:	**€120,000 per project**
Deadline:	**23/12/2024**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/8524

Call Title:	**MSCA for Researchers at Risk Project 2024**
Programme:	**European Commission**
Objective:	The European Commission is currently accepting applications to deliver the best possible solutions to the challenges faced by researchers. Building on the available results of past and on-going Researchers at Risk initiatives which have strengthened support structures across the EU and provided some form of guidance for researchers at risk, further support is envisaged for scaling up and moving towards more customised support for researchers at risk based on the needs already identified in the national and EU initiatives implemented so far. Lack of regular needs-based training and targeted networking activities remains a challenge for many researchers at risk in Europe without professional networks and direct sources of information addressing their specific needs.
Eligible Activities:	The support action should be aligned with the general objectives of the MSCA, in particular scientific excellence, skills and career development, inter-sectoral mobility, equal opportunities and inclusiveness, attractive working conditions, work/life balance, while fostering open science, innovation and entrepreneurship. This action will place a specific focus on training and networking activities for researchers, in line with the MSCA priorities and as a step further in providing sustainable and needs-based professional development support for researchers at risk across Europe. MSCA Support MSCA Support includes a set of activities organised through calls for proposals to promote, support and complement the MSCA implementation. They will cover: the exploitation of the MSCA contribution to EU policies and priorities; the facilitation of cooperation between MSCA National Contact Points (NCPs); the promotion of the MSCA at international level; the support to European and national initiatives and programmes in support of researchers at risk. Expected Impact Proposals under MSCA Support should contribute to some of the following expected impacts: Ensure a coordinated and strategic monitoring, assessment and dissemination of the MSCA results and best practices vis-à-vis relevant EU priorities (including EU Missions) and ERA objectives; Improve and further professionalise MSCA NCP services allowing a wider diffusion of the programme, lowering entry barriers for newcomers and increasing the overall quality of submitted proposals; Contribute to a more strategic international cooperation in MSCA in line with R&I mutual interests and EU external policies; Strengthen co-operation between European and national initiatives and programmes in support of researchers who are experiencing threats to their life, liberty, or research career, and those who are forced or have been forced to flee because of such threats. Expected Outcome

	Project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes: More targeted and customised support for researchers at risk at European, national and institutional level; Improved support to researchers at risk through the provision of policy recommendations, as well as advice and assistance on their implementation; A more sustainable and professionalised support network/structure/system for researchers at risk across Europe, facilitating access to funding and networking opportunities, creating level playing field for applicants to European and national R&I programmes, and raising the quality of submitted proposals; More synergies between initiatives supporting researchers at risk funded by EU programmes (such as Horizon Europe and Erasmus+) and national or institutional actors; Increased exposure of researchers at risk to the industry and to the non-academic sector notably through targeted networking events, professional training, mentoring and guidance; Greater awareness in Europe and beyond on why researchers are at risk and ways to support them.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met.
Total Budget:	**€Not available**
Deadline:	**14/01/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MSCA-2024-RR-01-01

Call Title:	**Horizon Europe Programme: Critical technologies for the Future Ocean Energy Farms**
Programme:	**European Commission (EC)**
Objective:	Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes: • Increased performance of ocean energy technologies with the focus on sustainability, operation and maintenance of ocean energy devices. • Improved knowledge on how to operate ocean energy devices, their availability, maintainability, reliability, survivability, and sustainability. • Reduction of LCOE.
Eligible Activities:	Scope: Projects are expected to address at least one of the following areas: • Components and systems used in ocean energy devices need to be resistant to corrosion and the heavy loads they are subject to. Develop new sustainable materials with improved fatigue, damping, stiffness, sustainability and bio-fouling management or other cost-reducing characteristics. Materials such as

	reinforced concrete, polymers, composites, and concrete-steel/composite-steel hybrids systems have demonstrated some advantages such as reduced costs. Demonstrating the potential benefits of these new sustainable materials in ocean energy converters, moorings and foundations whilst ensuring structural integrity, durability and circularity is required. • Advance the design of sustainable tailored mooring and connection of electrical or other power transmission systems for floating or subsea wave and tidal devices. Advance combined mooring and electrical connectors or hydraulic power transmission to reduce component cost and number of connection operations, included in systems for sharing an anchor between devices in arrays. Develop novel systems for safe and quick connection/disconnection that do not require large vessels and/or diving teams. • Instrumentation for condition monitoring and predictive maintenance of ocean energy devices. Apply recent advances in condition and structural health monitoring from other sectors to ocean energy – particularly those currently developed for offshore wind. Apply latest sensor technology to existing ocean energy deployments. Document and share experience on sensors performance and reliability, and methods for adapting them to the harsh ocean energy environment. Improve transmission or storage of data collected from sensors, such as underwater data transmission. • Artificial Intelligence (AI) in ocean energy technology development. Develop or apply advanced simulation of ocean energy systems. Use of big data with analysis of data streams, application of big data methods and machine learning, including artificial intelligence, or digital twin models for the design, installation, operation and decommissioning of ocean energy devices. • Improvements in the discrete technology areas should be developed holistically – e.g. work on monitoring instrumentation should be consistent with work on moorings & connections. The innovative technologies should not significantly harm the environment (DNSH principle), have low impact on ecosystem biodiversity and consider potential mitigation measures. Projects should use the precautionary principle to elaborate proposals for acceptable harm and what low impact on biodiversity mean. It is expected that key performance indicators are used based on international recognised metrics. Projects should demonstrate how improvements in the different technology topics can be applied to multiple different ocean energy devices – for example to a wide range of floating devices, or a wide range of sub-sea devices.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call/topic. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the following countries: The Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions:

	Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States: Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Curação (NL), French Polynesia (FR), French Southern and Antarctic Territories (FR), Greenland (DK), New Caledonia (FR), Saba (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL), St. Pierre and Miquelon (FR), Wallis and Futuna Islands (FR). Countries associated to Horizon Europe; Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo , Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom The following low- and middle-income countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt (Arab Republic), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine , Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, São Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam, Yemen Republic, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Legal entities which are established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding if provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, or if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority.
Total Budget:	**€12,000,000**
Deadline:	**04/02/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-04

Call Title:	**Demonstrations of Innovative Floating Wind Concepts (UK)**
Programme:	**European Commission (EC)**
Objective:	Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following expected outcomes: • Increased knowledge about design, construction, assembly and operation and maintenance of floating wind farms. • Improved overall constructability, reliability, installability, operability and maintainability of floating offshore wind systems.

	• Demonstrated efficient, low-cost and sustainable emerging technologies for floating wind turbines; reduction of the LCoE. • Reinforced European offshore wind turbine value chain and skills. • Data for future optimisation of industry scale commissioning of the floater, mooring and anchor system.
Eligible Activities:	Scope: The overall aim is to accelerate the cost-effective construction and deployment of floating wind farms, facilitating their rapid and sustainable deployment across Europe and lower their overall costs. Projects are expected to • Do the design optimisation of a full floating system, facilitate the execution of the project addressing space needs in ports, vessels, etc., supply chain development • Demonstrate innovative floating vertical or horizontal axis offshore wind energy platforms (4 MW or higher total capacity for horizontal and 2 MW or more for vertical axis) in real sea conditions for long periods of time (12-24 months), collect data for future improvement design of the concept, to accurate predict future floating wind energy production and providing valuable learnings regarding performance, reliability, availability, maintainability, survivability and environmental impact. The wind energy system should be grid connected. • Develop and implement pilot projects for floating wind by identifying the best existing practices and the remaining knowledge gaps. • Proposals are expected to address also industrial design and manufacturing processes, circularity of (critical) raw materials, scalability, installation methods, transport, operation & maintenance, supply chains and the related digital infrastructures. Projects are requested to demonstrate the technologies at sea while respecting existing environmental regulatory framework. Present an environmental monitoring plan to be implemented during the demonstration action. Data on environmental monitoring have to be shared with EMODNET, the IEA Wind Task 34 on the Environmental Impact of Wind Energy Projects, IEA Wind Task 49 on Floating Offshore Wind and IEA OES Environmental Task 4. The project has to include a clear go/no go moment ahead of entering the deployment phase. Before this go/no-go moment, the project has to deliver the detailed engineering plans, a techno-economic assessment, including key performance indicators based on international recognized metrics, a complete implementation plan and all needed permits for the deployment of the project and a plan to achieve certification by an independent certification body before the end of the action. The project proposal is expected to clearly demonstrate a proposed pathway to obtaining necessary permits for the demonstration actions and allow for appropriate timelines to achieve these. The project is expected also to demonstrate how it will get a financial close for the whole action. Independent experts will assess all deliverables and will advise for the go/no-go decision. Plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results for proposals submitted under this topic should include a strong business case and sound exploitation strategy, as outlined in the introduction to this Destination. The exploitation plans should include preliminary plans for scalability, commercialisation, and deployment (feasibility study,

	business plan) indicating the possible funding sources to be potentially used (in particular the Innovation Fund). The selected projects are expected to contribute to the BRIDGE initiative[1], actively participate to its activities and allocate up to 2% of their budgets to that end. Additional contributions to the 'Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation' (AIOTI) and other relevant activities (e.g. clusters of digital projects and coordinating actions) might be considered, when relevant. This R&I need is identified in the offshore renewable energy strategy (COM(2020) 741 final) that commits the Commission to 'develop new wind, ocean energy and solar floating technology designs, for example through Horizon Europe'.
Eligible Applicants:	Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organization) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been
Total Budget:	**€30,000,000**
Deadline:	**04/02/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-09

Call Title:	**Market Uptake Measures of Renewable Energy Systems**
Programme:	**European Commission (EC)**
Objective:	Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to at least two of the following expected outcomes: • Facilitate the wider uptake of renewable energy systems (RES) in the energy, industrial and residential sectors leading to an increased share of renewable energy in the final energy consumption by 2030 and beyond. • Contribute to provide open source validated tools and methodologies for policy makers and stakeholders for developing more informed RES policy and for analysing the market dynamics when including all renewable energies. • Contribute to the development of markets and respective financial frameworks that can operate in an efficiently and incentive-compatible manner while accommodating massive shares of renewables. • Improve social acceptability of renewable energy facilities and installations.
Eligible Activities:	Scope: The proposal is expected to develop solutions addressing at least 2 of the expected outcomes either for the entire renewable energy market or focusing on a specific energy sector, such as electricity, heating, cooling or renewable fuels. Proposals can also address issues within a specific geographical region such as urban and peri-urban areas. Issues related to acceptability of RES technologies due to ecologic, economic and social aspects are expected to be addressed. Self-consumption issues can be

	addressed too. International aspects, such as collaboration with third countries and promoting solution in new markets, can be addressed as well. The proposed solution can be developed to address a local challenge but needs to have wide potential for reapplication. The solution is expected to have a long-term viability and not be limited to an ad-hoc fix. The methodologies applied may be inspired by successful approaches already tested in other fields or contexts. For all actions, the consortia have to involve relevant stakeholders (e.g. businesses, public authorities, civil society organisations) and market actors who are committed to adopting/implementing the results. The complexity of these challenges and of the related market uptake barriers may call for multi-disciplinary approaches, which requires contributions from the social sciences and humanities. Where relevant, local, regional specificities, socio-economic, gender-related, spatial and environmental aspects will be considered from a life-cycle perspective. Proposals are encouraged to address social acceptability through the assessment of the environmental economic and social impacts associated with the development of these renewable energies and through the adequate involvement of stakeholders in decision-making processes. This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant effects for understanding and addressing societal barriers to the uptake of renewable energy systems. Where relevant, proposals are expected to also assess the legal, institutional, and political frameworks at local, national and European level and examine how, why and under what conditions these could act as a barrier or an enabler.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call/topic. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the following countries: The Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States: Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Curação (NL), French Polynesia (FR), French Southern and Antarctic Territories (FR), Greenland (DK), New Caledonia (FR), Saba (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL), St. Pierre and Miquelon (FR), Wallis and Futuna Islands (FR). Countries associated to Horizon Europe;

	Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo , Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom The following low- and middle-income countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt (Arab Republic), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine , Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, São Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam, Yemen Republic, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Legal entities which are established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding if provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, or if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority.
Total Budget:	**€8,000,000**
Deadline:	**04/02/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-10

Call Title:	**Rethinking Urban Spaces towards Climate Neutrality**
Programme:	**European Commission (EC)**
Objective:	Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes: • Development and implementation of solutions for a smart urban public space design and physical infrastructure planning and management across different areas related to the transport and integrated energy systems, which enable the integration of mobility services within the city and its street network and layout. • Mobility and/or energy solutions that respond to people's and cities' needs co-designed with local authorities, citizens, and stakeholders, tested and implemented in cities to achieve climate neutrality by 2030. • Raise awareness on the potential of this policy area to support urban public space revitalization and reallocation as well as more economically viable and resilient urban environments.

	• Improvement of public health with better local air quality, reducing the urban overheating and pollutant emissions (air and noise), with better conditions and infrastructure for active modes and increased liveability. • Improve overall urban public space connectivity and the accessibility of different urban districts/neighbourhoods/industrial districts by integrating/embedding multimodality and shared services within the street/urban public space layout and infrastructure. • More efficient and fair use of urban space through the dynamic management of space in general and of the curb side in particular, according to varying needs and functions, and with the help of digital tools. • Contribution to a better use of vehicles (in particular public transport and active modes for passengers and for urban logistics), better use of car parking spaces for other usages, prioritising modes and shared mobility services which have the smallest impact on the public domain and environment. • Reducing the pressure on public space thanks to reduced parking needs and integration of off-street space use in the overall public space concept. • Creation of smart energy and/or transport services management in cities thanks to digitalisation and consumer awareness related to smart charging and energy demand response. • Improving the planning of green infrastructures/green city zones, enhancing their capability to increase human restoration and well-being. • Better preparedness of citizens and urban planners to shift from fossil to renewable energy and energy system integration to allow electrifying mobility, in ways that optimise the use of public space and budgets.
Eligible Activities:	Scope: With our cities being overly populated and dense, the scarcity of urban public space requires smart urban design, planning, management and prioritisation in urban space allocation to different uses, amenities, and services. From the reallocation of the urban public space to more sustainable forms of transport and energy generation and use, intermodal hubs, and interchanges to the dynamic management of the street profile and curb side, and the integration of suburban/peripheral areas in the general urban fabric and patterns, current and future research should aim to make urban public spaces more liveable while enabling better a connectivity, accessibility, social interaction, inclusion and transit in the context of a changing climate. Concepts like the “15-minute city” and “superblocks” are gaining momentum and have an enormous potential in shaping the urban planning and design practice and the mobility services based on the principle of proximity. This is supporting the efficient and green mobility goals, the transport and energy policies, the Sustainable and Smart Mobility Strategy and the new EU Urban Mobility Framework. Considering the optimisation of urban public spaces, aspects related to air quality and urban climate must be considered by designing strategies based on new technologies and green infrastructures/green city zones. The proposal should address the question on how to deal with limited urban public space and conflicting demands for it between transport and other users, considering social and climate goals and the need to shift towards more energy efficient and sustainable modes of transport, decarbonisation of the heating and cooling infrastructures.

	Each proposal should envisage pilot demonstrations in at least three cities (lead cities) situated each in a different Member State or Associated Country including both urban and sub-urban areas. Proposals should provide the necessary evidence of the cities' commitment to test and implement the co-designed solutions. To foster replicability and up-taking of the outcomes, each proposal should also engage at least three replication/follower cities with the development of local replication plans. The size and characteristics of the cities should be considered. Each proposal should include at least one city of the 112 selected ones for the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities for the lead cities and one for the replication/follower cities. The pilots should involve a co-design process with the stakeholders concerned by the re-design of the urban space. The pilots should involve public and private local energy, mobility and industrial stakeholders as well as civil society to identify integrated, locally supported and space-saving solutions and related pre-conditions (incentives, participatory methods, etc.) in a change management process to gain public acceptance by information, participation and consideration of groups that were so far disadvantaged by existing conditions. Demonstrations should be 'digital by default' and use Local Digital Twins and, where possible, Mobility Data Spaces as tools for optimizing traffic, improving mobility services, monitoring environmental benefits in air and noise, and modelling a better use of urban space. Activities and pilot demonstrations of technological nature of the proposed solutions in operational environment are expected to be at minimum TRL 7 by the end of the project. Proposals should address the following two areas of intervention: 1. Reallocation of space and re-design of infrastructure This is a major game changer in cities in favour of more sustainable and efficient use of resources through integrated approaches that promote decarbonisation of different sectors notably sustainable modes of transport, buildings and industry and related services. By (re)designing and reallocating the urban public space to reflect the level of use of different transport modes, unsustainable transport, heating and cooling modes can be discouraged while sustainable ones incentivised. Smart urban public space design and management is also a key enabler for scaling-up new mobility services. First, it can help to develop more sustainable and accessible mobility services, with stations and hubs for shared devices and charging infrastructures, dedicated lanes for light and active modes, pick-up and drop-off zones, etc. Also, it can help to increase the acceptance of sustainable mobility services, by mitigating negative externalities caused by the inadequate use of urban space, such as illegal parking, and cluttering the sidewalks by e-scooters, advertising banners, traffic signals and others. The reallocation of space is also important to transform roads from mere transit spaces into public spaces with a higher socioeconomic value to people – a feature which has become extremely important for local recreation during the COVID-19 pandemic. The same applies to the planning and management of urban space to accommodate local clean and smart energy infrastructures to power the different uses of energy including mobility, buildings, commercial and industrial activities. One goal of the

	energy system integration would be to optimise the use of urban space and existing infrastructures to avoid unnecessary investments in distribution grids while increasing energy autonomy of the municipalities and reducing losses in transmission and distribution of energy. Moreover, planning and implementing simultaneously infrastructure projects can significantly reduce investment costs and space needs such as e.g. building an underground car park together with space for a geothermal heat pump or thermal heat storage. Four of the following research actions should be addressed to overcome these challenges either in the mobility (points 1 to 4) or energy area (points 5 to 8): • Develop integrated transport and urban planning tools and methods to coordinate sustainable mobility services and the design of future public realms, accounting also for their interrelations and impacts across different spatial and temporal scales. This should be linked to the Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP) of the cities. • For electromobility, foster research results from pilot projects on reallocation of use of transport infrastructure – or use of the single infrastructure for diverse types of vehicles, amenities (such as bi-directional charging points), and vehicles (e.g. after hours sharing of publicly accessible transport fleets) throughout the community of stakeholders at EU level. • Research solutions for the exploitation of legacy infrastructure and how it can contribute to the scaling of sustainable mobility services followed by projects and demonstrations that can help to better understand this space shift, and play a significant role in the design, piloting and roll-out and assessment of these new mobility services.; Past experiences with street space reallocation (e.g. temporary infrastructures under COVID-19) can serve as a basis. • Involvement of current service providers and infrastructure managers (e.g. parking service providers) in the urban space ecosystem to understand how current players can contribute to new mobility services, increased multimodality, electrification and integrated city logistics and citizens' mobility. • With regards to energy, support pilot projects to increase understanding and exploitation of the potential of road space allocation and smart distributed energy generation and green city zones/infrastructures in a systemic manner and monitoring their positive effects on human well-being. • Research opportunities for exploiting current infrastructures (e.g. buildings, grids, underground spaces) complemented by additional elements (e.g. access to data in real time, demand response, storage, smart charging, heat and energy storage) to facilitate local energy communities, virtual power plants and energy sharing while minimising the need for new infrastructures requiring space and facilitating multipurpose construction projects. This should also include the integration of thermal and electricity grids and storage to better manage and balance renewable electricity generation and demand. • Establish an integrated approach for designing and decarbonising the heating and cooling networks (including distributed installations and small-scale networks and related storage) in cities and urban areas in synchronisation with planning of new housing, major renovations or industrial development related to major heat consuming or waste heat generating facilities. • Explore ways of using/optimising green and blue infrastructures to city and street scale for improving urban climate, reduce the energy demand and in view of emission free transport.

	2. Dynamic curb-side management and use Smart management of urban space and existing infrastructure includes their dynamic use, when considering curb space, changing its role and function in time, depending on parameters, functions and needs in relation to commuting peak hours, deliveries, public transport priority, market days, nightlife, etc. Dynamic space management is already being explored in some cities and represents an opportunity for further integration in mobility plans with the support of smart technologies, Intelligent Transport Systems, Local Digital Twins and Mobility Data Spaces, AI based autonomous optimal control and management systems. As the rise of new shared mobility services such as ride hailing, micromobility and the growth in urban goods delivery (even more so with the recent exponential growth of e-commerce) are challenging traditional ways of managing curb space, novel approaches are needed. Research on a shift away from curb use focused on street parking to a more flexible and dynamic allocation that for example includes pick-up and drop-off zones for passengers and freight or dedicated public transport lanes during peak hours, has also shown the potential to enhance and prioritise sustainable mobility services, and thus decrease the pressure on traffic thanks to an increased percentage of shared rides. To ensure the implementation of these innovative approaches, R&I could support by developing: • Tools and guidelines to ensure the implementation of innovative approaches of dynamic space and curb use, resulting from tests and pilots of flexible allocation of curb side functions, including pick-up and drop-off zones for passengers and freight. • New models of fee calculation (e.g. trip purpose, space demand (size) of each vehicle using the public domain, etc.) and financial model for the use of public space in cities in view of reaching public policy goals including climate neutrality. • To increase impact and coherence, project(s) should maximise coordination with leading European associations and initiatives in this domain, e.g. Living-In.EU, the New European Bauhaus, Covenant of Mayors, the EIT KIC Culture and Creativity, the EIT Urban Mobility, the CIVITAS initiative, the 2Zero partnership and EU co-funded projects in the domain of Technologies for Smart Communities. Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform is essential, and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date.
Eligible Applicants:	Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met.

Total Budget:	**€28,000,000**
Deadline:	**04/02/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01-01

Call Title:	**Funding available to support Activities of the SET Plan Key Action Area Renewable Fuels and Bioenergy**
Programme:	**European Commission (EC)**
Objective:	Expected Outcome: Engagement of stakeholders is pivotal in the transition to a clean energy system and the achievement of the zero-emissions target. Project results are expected to contribute to both of the following outcomes: • Consolidation of strong and sustainable networks in the technology area of renewable fuels & bioenergy covered through the Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan and its integrated roadmap. • Cooperation among ETIPs or similar stakeholders fora, support to existing SET Plan Implementation Plan and advancement towards more interconnected activities, both in terms of contents and implementation mechanisms.
Eligible Activities:	Scope: In 2015, the launch of the Energy Union saw the SET Plan incorporated as the Energy Union's fifth pillar on 'Research, Innovation and Competitiveness'. Through the Communication "Towards an Integrated Strategic Energy Technology (SET) Plan", the Integrated SET Plan set ambitious R&I targets which remain relevant and essential in the new context of the European Green Deal and the Recovery Plan for Europe. Proposals should address the following SET Plan sector: renewable fuels & bioenergy. They should take into consideration the coordination needs of the sector and the emerging policy priorities for their implementation, as well as the coordination with other initiatives/projects, to avoid overlaps. Proposals will support the update and the execution/realisation of the Implementation Plan launched in 2018 by the Implementation Working Group (IWG) in renewable fuels and bioenergy, taking into account the DNSH (do-not-significant-harm-principle). This IWG needs to update the targets included in its implementation plan to comply with the new policy framework of the European Green Deal and the Fit For 55 implementing legislative package, and in particular the targets of the Renewable Energy Directive, the REFuelEU Aviation and the FuelEU Maritime for 2030 and 2050, as well as the targets of the ETS for transport and buildings. Other EU policies and legislation such as the REPowerEU Plan, the Net-Zero Industry Act and the Recovery and Resilience Facility, the Clean Energy Transition Partnership and the European Research Area in the field of Energy should be also addressed. Proposals should count on the participation of research organisations and/or companies (industry) committed in principle to execute all or some of the SET Plan

	related R&I activities specified in the Implementation Plan. In this sense, proposals shall detail, to the extent possible, the financial contributions from public and private funding sources at national level needed for the execution of the R&I activities and explain which processes or mechanisms will be put in place to execute and monitor the R&I activities. They should generate and provide input to national and EU policy initiatives, like the National Energy and Climate Plans, the Recovery and Resilience Plans, the Cohesion policy and the Regional Development policy funds, the support to REPowerEU funds, the Agricultural Fund for Rural Development, the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform, the Net-Zero Europe Platform, and possible emerging initiatives of Common European Interest in the sector, taking into account biodiversity. Proposals shall support the monitoring of the renewable fuels and bioenergy sector development, collecting and analysing data of projects in the area, industrial scale plants, industry's perspectives and SET Plan countries' policies and strategic plans, such as the National Energy and Climate Plans and the Recovery and Resilience Plans, as well as the information on financing sources and instruments. They should create databases and information tools for project developers. They should assist the IWG renewable fuels and bioenergy to its annual report to the SET Plan through SETIS Information System on the progress of the execution of the implementation plan. Furthermore, proposals should develop a dissemination and exploitation strategy and implement dissemination and networking activities with other existing ETIPs and IWGs (e.g. joint workshops, thematic conferences, webinar series, regular exchanges, etc.). This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH disciplines and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, to produce meaningful and significant effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities. Proposals submitted under this topic are encouraged to include actions designed to facilitate cooperation, across Europe, with other projects and to ensure the accessibility and reusability of data produced during the project. The indicative project duration is 3 years.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call/topic. To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the following countries: The Member States of the European Union, including their outermost regions: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden. The Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States:

	Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Curação (NL), French Polynesia (FR), French Southern and Antarctic Territories (FR), Greenland (DK), New Caledonia (FR), Saba (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL), St. Pierre and Miquelon (FR), Wallis and Futuna Islands (FR). Countries associated to Horizon Europe; Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo , Moldova, Montenegro, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, United Kingdom The following low- and middle-income countries: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Congo (Democratic Republic), Congo (Republic), Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt (Arab Republic), El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Korea (Democratic People's Republic), Kyrgyz Republic, Lao (People's Democratic Republic), Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia (Federated States), Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Niue, Pakistan, Palau, Palestine , Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Rwanda, Samoa, São Tomé and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic), Vietnam, Yemen Republic, Zambia, Zimbabwe.
Total Budget:	**€8,000,000**
Deadline:	**03/02/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2024-D3-02-13

Call Title:	**Zero-pollution Cities**
Programme:	**European Commission (EC)**
Objective:	Expected Outcome: Projects are expected to contribute to the following outcomes: • Methods for more precisely assessing exposure to air, water, soil and/or noise pollution, health impacts and public information at regional and/or local level; • Methods for better assessing exposure of vulnerable groups (including due to socio-economic context) to air, water, soil and/or noise pollution at regional and/or local level, enabling more precise evidence to inform health impact assessments; • Improved and comparable assessment of mortality and morbidity impacts of air, water, soil and/or noise pollution at regional and/or local level[1]; • Improved understanding of the role of behavioural economics, psychology and organizational behaviour to design measures oriented to lower pollution in urban environments;

	• Improved understanding of the correlation between improving environmental quality of urban spaces and human health and wellbeing; • Methods for determining the sources of air pollutants at urban level so that local authorities, stakeholders and citizens know the proportion of the pollutant emissions attributable to urban transport, heating etc. • Comparative analysis of selected successful pollution reduction/abatement strategies at local level and identify key factors underlying such successes and their replication potential.
Eligible Activities:	Scope: Cities are concerned by various types of pollution, including air, water, soil and noise pollution, and their negative impacts on human health and the environment. Many of these pollutants emanate from the same sources as greenhouse gas emissions being tackled in the context of the EU Mission Climate-Neutral Smart Cities, so it is clear there are potential environmental co-benefits from reducing GHG emissions.[2] Designing effective policies to protect city dwellers from pollution depends on solid evidence as well as on cooperation and communication between and with policy makers and citizens. Due to resource constraints, city administrations may often need to prioritise between different actions on different forms of pollution – and for this a solid risk-based evidence-base of the exposure to, impacts of and measures against pollution will allow to arrive at more informed and cost-effective local measures. These measures are often closely connected and affected by energy policy choices demonstrating the benefits of holistic approaches in for instance the planning, budgeting and assessment of costs and benefits in environmental, energy and climate policies at local level. More informed, coherent and targeted local measures will help European cities to deliver environmental co-benefits under the EU Mission for Climate-Neutral, Smart Cities, comply with or exceed EU legislative standards for air and water quality, and supporting the delivery of environmental objectives such as the targets of the EU Zero Pollution Action Plan and commitments under the Green City Accord. Applicants should propose projects that deliver better and innovative local measures against pollution through, among others, improved knowledge on the exposures of citizens to pollution and improved health impact assessments and strategies to reduce health impacts related to air, water, soil and/or noise pollution. Where technological solutions are proposed, these are expected to reach up to TRL 5 by the end of the project. In order to address these needs, individual projects must address at least two of the following areas: Improved health impact assessments to highlight and attempt to monetize the (co-)benefits and socio-economic impacts of zero pollution measures, in combination with climate neutrality policies, contributing to better ex-ante cost-benefit analysis and increasing public acceptance of measures. Measurement and modelling methods for more precisely assessing exposure and risk-based health impacts at regional and/or local level (should deliver results that can be communicated to the wider public as well).

	More precise evidence on exposure, notably of vulnerable population groups, and making health impact assessments easily comparable. Exploration of the effectiveness of dynamic abatement strategies by monitoring changes in pollution levels, complemented by citizen science / observations. All projects are required to: Develop methods and tools that can swiftly be deployed and used by cities and regional authorities. Once implemented they should help policy makers prioritise actions, and address social aspects of zero pollution policies, Support implementation of zero pollution policies by overcoming barriers to behavioural change which natural science and evidence alone cannot overcome. New approaches to address these barriers should be explored from the angles of behavioural economics, psychology, communication and organisational behaviour, with a view to inform effective local and regional zero pollution policies. Project(s) funded under this topic should involve at least two cities. Ideally at least one city in each project should be a city selected for the EU Mission Climate-Neutral Smart Cities and/or a city signatory to the EU Green City Accord (these can be the same city). To increase impact and coherence, project(s) should maximise coordination and complementarity with the 'Climate-Neutral Smart cities' Mission platform. Collaboration with the Cities Mission Platform is essential, and projects must ensure that appropriate provisions for activities and resources aimed at enforcing this collaboration are included in the work plan of the proposal. The collaboration with the Mission Platform must be formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding to be concluded as soon as possible after the project starting date. Synergies should also be explored and, as appropriate, pursued with other relevant initiatives, such as the European Green Capital / Leaf Awards, European Urban Initiative, the Covenant of Mayors Europe and the New European Bauhaus. Work performed or underway in other Horizon funded projects should also be considered, to the extent feasible, to avoid overlaps or contradictory conclusions. Cooperation with various stakeholders is recommended, for example, with health experts to professionally assess the impact of environmental influences on human health.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met.
Total Budget:	**€20,000,000**
Deadline:	**11/02/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01-02

Call Title:	**Integrated Peri-urban Areas in the transition towards Climate Neutrality**

Programme: European Commission (EC)	
Objective:	Expected Outcome: Project results are expected to contribute to the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities Mission's objective of climate neutrality in at least 2 of the 4 domains listed below (Mobility, Energy, Industry, Governance) and give all the following outcomes in the selected domains by the end of the project: Mobility: • Increase accessibility and connectivity of peri-urban areas by providing inclusive, suitable and affordable alternatives with: • 30% increase of sustainable transport modes, providing diversity of the transport offer, especially with regards to ensuring mass-transit, including among others energy-efficient shared and/or on-demand mobility services • 20% reduction of GHG emissions • 20% Improvement of air quality and noise reduction • 30% Reduction of urban road congestion whilst increasing the accessibility for both passengers and freight, and the reliability, predictability and efficiency of travel times and transport operations • 30% reduction of human health effects due to exposure to transport pollution • Improved transport peri-urban network performance (demand and supply) and transport connectivity through enhanced interoperability and multimodality; • Improved access to/from commercial and health services, educational establishments, businesses, leisure and recreational facilities for the inhabitants of peri-urban areas; • Inclusive mobility solutions that respond to the needs of all peri-urban inhabitants, irrespective of their age, gender, economic or social status, which are co-designed with all the relevant stakeholders (including, local and regional authorities, settled populations, in-migrants, transient workers, developers, entrepreneurs, etc.), and then tested and implemented in the identified peri-urban areas, which could have a geographical coverage that goes as far as the full functional urban area; • Improved safety particularly for vulnerable road users; • Optimize and improve the use of the existent infrastructure (following the principle of re-use and circularity); • Integrated land-use and transport planning models and policies, which could have a geographical coverage that goes as far as the full functional urban area. Energy: • Improved and decarbonized energy grids with economic & social benefits to peri-urban areas thanks to the vicinity of the city; • Business models, and technological solutions and/or guidance for setting up local energy communities, with RES and energy storage infrastructure co-financed by peri-urban dwellers, industrial actors and proceeds from energy sales or ancillary service provision (e.g. storage) to the city grid and/or heating and cooling networks. Together with electricity sharing leading to reduction of electricity prices for the community members, counter energy poverty, reduce fossil fuel use and facilitate sustainable mobility; • Business models and/or guidance for energy generation (biomethane, electricity, biofuels) from agricultural waste, second generation bioenergy

	crops and technologies such as ground mounted solar or agrivoltaics in rural dominated peri-urban areas. They should include also thermal storage systems (seasonal STES, shorter term UTES etc) and thermal energy generation technologies (e.g. solar thermal, geothermal, etc.) for heating and cooling. Industry: • Reduction of GHG emissions (CO2, methane from waste/wastewater, fluorinated gas, refrigerants) in industries located in peri-urban areas, supporting the 55% reduction goal for 2030; • 25% improved energy efficiency in industrial processes; • 30% increase in deployment of strategic net-zero technologies, such as solar (PV and thermal, wind, hydrogen, batteries and storage (incl. thermal energy storage), heat pumps and geothermal energy, electrolysers and fuel cells, biogas/biomethane, carbon capture and storage (CCS), and grid technologies, notably for energy-intensive industries located in peri-urban areas; • Reinforce the green transition of industry, through Local Green Deals, i.e., mutual agreements between city authorities and local businesses and industry and citizens associations to support the territorial sustainability agenda in the peri-urban areas; • 25% enhanced recycling in industrial processes and materials reuse, including construction materials and demonstration and optimisation of recycling facilities for industries and processes located in peri-urban areas. Governance: • Capacity building (such as training courses and awareness raising activities) among local authorities, users and mobility systems providers, energy and industry stakeholders to accelerate the take-up of shared, smart and zero emission solutions and to implement their monitoring and evaluation; • Support the development of planning and implementation skills, policy implementation/infrastructure investment impact assessment and funding aspects; • Better integration of peri-urban areas into the current spatial/land-use/transport/landscape planning; • Integration of development strategies with planning and regulatory documentations across different administrative levels/scales/territorial units, at least from local level to regional level).
Eligible Activities:	Scope: Peri-urban areas lie at the periphery of cities. They are the interface between rural and urban environments and are often the subject of high pressure from the urban core which results in an un-controlled and uneven urban expansion towards the rural territory often triggering environmental degradation. While dispersed and heterogenous in terms of land-occupancy, density and services and amenities distribution, the peri-urban territory integrates mutual inter-dependences within the urban-rural continuum. These can be associated with people (inwards and outwards migration or socio-demographic change) as well as with linkages and flows between a variety of rural and urban related functions and activities (ranging from industrial and recycling manufacturing, agriculture production and food processing, sanitation, waste disposal, drinking water provisions, to housing – including slums and gated communities – transport and associated infrastructure, large-scale commercial sites,

	and large recreational areas such as parks or forests), which juxtapose, collide and mesh in unintended and unplanned ways. Peri-urban areas are also the subject of weaker governance structures and limited institutional capacity, which in return limits the capacity to regulate economic activities and land-use and land coverage and makes it difficult to implement effective and integrated local, regional, and functional urban area wide policies and programs. This is particularly challenging in areas that straddle multiple jurisdictions, such as urban-rural fringe. This topic aims to foster the integration of green and smart mobility, energy, industry and governance solutions and measures within the current peri-urban development and planning practice to reduce these areas GHG emissions and to improve their liveability. Proposals, depending on chosen domains, should investigate a sustainable and decarbonised development of the peri-urban areas by shifting from fossil fuels to sustainable energy sources in mobility, energy or industry domains supported by adequate governance structures and practices based on a sustainable land-use planning and an urban expansion which integrates environmental considerations and determinants. In addition, proposals should provide European demonstration-type examples on how to sustainably integrate climate-neutral, green, and smart solutions and measures into the peri-urban/urban development and the existing transport, energy, and industrial infrastructures, to achieve long-term decarbonization impacts and necessary climate resilience. Activities and pilot demonstrations of technological nature of the proposed solutions in operational environment are expected to be at minimum TRL 7 by the end of the project. Positive, long-term impacts on social cohesion, economic development, and public perception – resulting in behavioural change and policy change – should be fostered and anticipated. Proposals, depending on selected domains should: Explore particular characteristics of peri-urban areas that are distinct from rural and urban ones and analyse relevant urban-rural dynamics such as continuous and frequent land-use and functional changes, poor and inaccessible transport infrastructure, scattered and unevenly distributed day-to-day services and amenities. Explore models of urban/peri-urban development and planning containing the above-mentioned dynamics (e.g., expansion model, densification model, green-belts and green-corridors model) aimed at overcoming the sustainability, decarbonisation and local climate (e.g. heat islands) challenges of the urban-rural fringe while ensuring co-creation with and engagement of the relevant stakeholders (including citizens and communities). Focus on domains that are particularly pertinent in achieving progress in sustainable development, such as: Mobility and transport with extensive use of personal cars with combustion engines, poor and scattered infrastructure, and lack of sustainable transport options. Transport related emissions that are exacerbated by intensive commuter flows generated by peri-urban areas. City focused solutions that are not adapted to peri-urban areas and challenges often exceeding organizational, financial and knowledge capacities of local authorities. Proposals should analyse and explore how peri-urban generated traffic impacts the transport flows (for both goods and people) and its contribution to the total CO2/emissions of the entire urbanized territory.

	Industry, accounting for 30% of CO2 emissions and often located in peri-urban areas, is capital in succeeding the transition towards a net zero economy. Proposals should analyse the contribution to the total emissions reduction, of improved energy efficiency measures in industrial processes located in peri-urban areas, as well as of the deployment of strategic net-zero technologies, such as solar, (PV and thermal), wind, hydrogen, batteries and storage (incl. thermal energy storage), heat pumps and geothermal energy, electrolysers and fuel cells, biogas/biomethane, carbon capture and storage, and grid technologies, as envisaged in the EU Net Zero Industry Act. Proposals should ramp up and facilitate public-private partnerships, notably the key role of Local Green Deals (LGDs). Circular economy: Peri-urban areas are key for setting up recycling facilities for materials, products and equipment and scaling up material reuse, such as Social Urban Mining and recycling infrastructure across different industries (e.g., online marketplaces to empower exchange for materials, or physical Materials Banks for construction and demolition materials). Proposals should explore, analyse and facilitate the deployment of innovative industrial recycling processes, industrial symbiosis and closed-loop systems, as well as supporting knowledge transfer through innovative practices; piloting local platforms for Social Urban Mining[1]; demonstrating recycling and re-use processes for building and public works materials, industrial waste, water and waste management; enabling material reuse; inducing circular practices, reuse of materials and behavioural change. Vulnerability of peri-urban areas to environmental damage as most of the urban wastes (solid and liquid) and pollutant activities are pushed in the peripheries. Electricity grids and heating/cooling solutions are suboptimal in some peri-urban areas. The often-low energy efficiency and individual fossil fuel or even solid fuel-based heating of the building stock exacerbates energy poverty in the absence of sufficient population density for district heating while the lower real estate prices hamper deep renovation. The opportunities of available space for i.e., clean energy production or electricity and thermal storage are not sufficiently exploited to increase living comfort, accelerate energy transition for the benefit of the local economy and nearby urban areas. Governance, as peri-urban areas can be beyond the legal authority of cities, nor are they considered as part of the rural administrative units. Therefore, the capacity to regulate economic activities (and thus land-use and land coverage) is weak. This results in the peri-urbanization being largely an unplanned process, informal and sometime illegal and often resulting in environmental hazards and degradation of natural resources. This also results in a scattered and uneven distribution of services, amenities, and resources across the peri-urban area. The weaker governance structures complicate also integrated planning and green procurement of energy, transport, and other services. Social and cultural characteristics of peri-urban areas that are gaining on heterogeneity with continuous social dynamics. In many (Central and Eastern) EU cities the peri-urban expansion was driven by the emergence of a stronger middle class. However, in more recent years there has been an increasingly heterogenous mix of occupants/actors with multiple and most often conflicting interests, including settled populations, populations living in gated estates, in-migrants, transient workers, emerging middle-class among others. This overall leads to heterogeneous communities and, in general, to a lack of social cohesion. The research actions should cover the following:

	Take stock of existing studies, analyse in a structured way, and provide a summary of measures contributing to climate neutrality in European peri-urban areas, identifying barriers. Establish co-designing process and engaging with the relevant stakeholders (such as: citizens, local authorities, mobility operators, service providers, energy companies, private businesses…) to ensure a successful uptake of solutions contributing to climate neutrality of peri-urban areas. Develop, test, and demonstrate scalable solutions in real life in at least two out of the four domains (Mobility, Energy, Industry, Governance) contributing to climate neutrality of peri-urban areas. Each proposal should involve stakeholders from at least three 'lead urban/peri-urban areas', and at least three 'replicator' urban/peri-urban areas. Each urban/peri-urban area should establish a living laboratory where, under real life-conditions, a set of complementary and reinforcing solutions, centred on two to four aspects from the ones presented above (mobility, energy, industry, and governance) should be developed, tested, and implemented in an integrated approach. The participating urban/peri-urban areas, which may have a geographical coverage that goes as far as the full functional urban area, should demonstrate their common interests, and outline how they will ensure a meaningful and close cooperation. The peri-urban areas should each be situated in different EU Member States or countries associated to Horizon Europe. Each proposal should at least include one urban area of the 112 selected ones for the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities. To allow for a thorough evaluation of the projects' outcomes, proposals are expected to provide measurable indicators to demonstrate how the tested solutions are contributing to the climate neutrality objectives of the Climate-neutral and Smart Cities Mission and participating peri-urban areas. These should be supported by clear baselines, quantified targets, and appropriate review processes for each participating urban area. The baselines for the expected outcomes should take into account expected technological developments and policy implementation. Projects are expected to collaborate with the established and widely applied process and impact evaluation framework (using both clear baselines and measurable impact indicators) as well as the corporate design, the dissemination and information exchange frameworks put in place by the Commission (e.g. the Mission Platform, the CIVITAS initiative, Scalable cities, New European Bauhaus Community, the European Urban Initiative of Cohesion Policy, etc.) and the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) of the EIT, such as, for example, EIT Urban Mobility, EIT Culture and Creativity or EIT Food, EU Mission Adaptation to Climate Change, and Driving Urban Transitions Partnership (DUT), depending on the area. They shall contribute to the development of the existing European knowledge base on the effectiveness and impacts resulting from the implementation of innovative, sustainable, green, and inclusive solutions in urban areas. Clear commitments and contributions to Europe-wide take-up during and beyond the project are expected, which could, for example, be in the form of follow-up actions funded by CEF, ELENA, or similar programmes. This topic requires the effective contribution of SSH (Social Sciences and Humanities) disciplines including ethics and the involvement of SSH experts, institutions as well as the inclusion of relevant SSH expertise, in order to produce meaningful and significant

	effects enhancing the societal impact of the related research activities. Inclusiveness of vulnerable populations (older people, children) as well as gender perspectives should be considered.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility Criteria Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation have been met.
Total Budget:	**€28,000,000**
Deadline:	**11/02/2025**
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-MISS-2024-CIT-01-04

Call Title:	**GLOBAL IMPACT CASH GRANTS**
Programme:	**Cisco Foundation**
Objective:	he Cisco Foundation was established in 1997 by Cisco. Cisco and the Cisco Foundation partner with non-profits, non-governmental organisations, and community-based organisations to carry out many of its Corporate Social Responsibility programs. Cisco invests in scalable and self-sustaining programs that use technology to meet some of society's biggest challenges. It deploys its expertise, technology, partnerships, and financial resources to help build thriving, prosperous communities that improve people's lives and support our business. Through the Global Impact Cash Grants, it offers an innovative approach to a significant social problem. The social investment programs focus on four areas where Cisco CSR can add the most value and make a significant and lasting impact investing in local communities to solve global challenges.
Eligible Activities:	Cisco welcomes applications for Global Impact Cash Grants from community partners around the world who share their vision and offer an innovative approach to a critical social challenge. They identify, incubate, and develop innovative solutions with the most impact. Global Impact Cash Grants go to nonprofits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that address a significant social problem. They are looking for programs that fit within our investment areas, serve the underserved, and leverage technology to improve the reach and efficiency of services. Cisco's cash and product grant programs help nonprofits apply digital technology to have the broadest impact in some of the most economically underserved parts of the world. They offer two funding streams: climate impact investing: for climate impact and regeneration for-profit investing nonprofit grant proposals: for climate, education, crisis response, and economic empowerment Actions can take place in various countries worldwide.

Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants are nonprofits and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that address a significant social problem.
Total Budget:	**$16,000,000**
Deadline:	**Ongoing**
More information and official documents:	https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/csr/community/nonprofits/global-impact-cash-grants.html

Call Title:	**TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM**
Programme:	**Cisco Foundation**
Objective:	Cisco donates their own technology to qualifying nonprofit organizations to help them realize significant gains in productivity, security, scalability, and cost efficiency. The program enables partners to make innovative use of networking and communications technology to create a measurable impact. The Cisco Technology Grant Program focuses on the same social investment areas as the cash grants: climate impact and regeneration; Cisco Crisis Response (which includes shelter, water, food, and disaster relief); economic empowerment; and education.
Eligible Activities:	Cisco offers two primary pathways for technology grants. For larger, more complex requests, use the customized process managed directly by Cisco. For smaller, more routine requests, use the simpler process managed by their partner TechSoup: Application Path 1: TGP Donations Managed by Cisco – To inquire about a larger or more complex TGP grant request from Cisco, use the TGP contact form to send them a message. Application Path 2: TGP Donations Managed by TechSoup – Since 2003, Cisco has partnered with TechSoup to provide smaller and more routine TGP donations in select countries (namely, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, UK, and US). Actions can take place in various countries worldwide.
Eligible Applicants:	Only registered non-profit (NPO) or non-governmental (NGO) organisations can apply.
Total Budget:	**$100,000 per applicant**
Deadline:	**Ongoing**
More information and official documents:	https://www.cisco.com/c/en/us/about/csr/community/nonprofits/technology-grant-program.html

Link to Previous Funding Newsletters

https://www.consultcormack.com/funding-newsletter

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