

CCG INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Weekly Funding Insight
Week Commencing 1st September 2025



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New Opportunities

Call Title:	Request for Proposals: AID4SME Combined AI and Data Technologies Grant Programme
Programme: AID4SME	
Objective:	<p>The AID4SME project opens a significant opportunity for SMEs and Start-ups to develop innovative combined AI and data solutions aimed at addressing large-scale industrial resource optimization challenges aligned with environmental sustainability and industry competitiveness goals.</p> <p>The focus areas for this initiative include Impact on Green Deal: Developing solutions that reduce energy consumption and enhance efficiency in industrial processes; creating solutions that minimize waste and promote sustainable manufacturing practices; as well as innovating ways to reduce carbon footprints and mitigate environmental damage. Impact on social benefits: Developing solutions that have a profound social impact by fostering inclusive growth and improving quality of life. It aims to create job opportunities, enhance workforce skills, and promote social equity. By addressing key societal challenges, the project contributes to building resilient communities and supports the overall well-being of the population. Impact on resource optimization: Developing solutions that maximize the efficient use of resources across various industries. This includes optimizing supply chains, reducing material waste, and improving resource allocation.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>AID4SME is a European Horizon Europe project designed to catalyze the development of AI and data-driven innovations in SMEs and Start-ups through competitive funding opportunities. It invites applications from SMEs and Start-ups to submit proposals addressing thirteen challenges categorized into data collection, creation of insights, decision support, and automation domains. Selected participants will receive grants of up to €150,000 per project with a funding rate of 70%, spanning a 14-month program that includes planning, development, testing, validation, and business development stages. In addition to financial support, participants will benefit from technical guidance, access to low and high Technology Readiness Level playgrounds for testing and validation, and integration into a Community of Practice that fosters collaboration and learning. The challenges represent key areas of innovation such as augmented sensing solutions to optimize manufacturing processes, advanced 2D/3D image analysis for predictive maintenance, digital twins for lifespan analysis and system decision support, and automation of energy management and industrial assembly tasks. The program aims for demonstrable impacts like waste reduction, energy consumption decrease, product quality improvement, and enhanced operational efficiency while promoting sustainable industrial transition and inclusive growth. Throughout the program, funded entities will submit progress reports and adhere to compliance requirements concerning intellectual property and scientific integrity.</p> <p>This open call is not only an enabling platform for SMEs to innovate but also fosters a European-wide ecosystem for sustainable industrial transformation driven by AI and data technologies. The initiative offers a chance to contribute to meaningful environmental and societal benefits while enhancing market competitiveness and technological advancement.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Applicants must meet eligibility criteria including SME status under EU definitions, legal establishment in eligible countries, and alignment with project objectives

	and challenges. A rigorous evaluation process will select around 13 projects for funding based on innovation, impact, project planning, and team expertise.
Total Budget: €500,000	
Deadline: 11/09/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://aid4sme.eu/open-call-1/

Call Title:	ERC PROOF OF CONCEPT GRANT
Programme: European Commission (EC) - Horizon Europe	
Objective:	The ERC Proof of Concept Grants aim to maximise the value of the excellent research that the ERC funds, by funding further work (i.e. activities which were not scheduled to be funded by the original ERC frontier research grant) to verify the innovation potential of ideas arising from ERC funded projects. The objective is to provide funds to enable ERC-funded ideas to be brought to a pre-demonstration stage where potential commercialisation or societal opportunities have been identified.
Eligible Activities:	The ERC Proof of Concept call aims at supporting ERC grant-holders to establish the innovation potential of their idea during the pre-demonstration phase. This would help among others: (1) establishing viability, technical issues and overall direction; (2) clarifying IPR position and strategy; (3) providing feedback for budgeting and other forms of commercial discussion; (4) providing connections to later stage funding; and (5) covering initial expenses for establishing a company. Actions must take place in EU member states or Horizon Associated Country.
Eligible Applicants:	The ERC actions are open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any EU Member State or H2020 Associated Country. Principal Investigators may be of any age and nationality and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application. ERC Principal Investigators do not have to be based full-time in Europe. The host institution must either be established in an EU Member State or Horizon Associated Country as a legal entity created under national law, or it may be an International European Interest Organisation (such as CERN, EMBL, etc.), the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) or any other entity created under EU law.
Total Budget: €30,000,000	
Deadline: 18/09/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERC-2025-POC

Call Title:	EUIPO Intellectual Property Awareness Raising Activities Program
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Programme: European Union Intellectual Property Office	
Objective:	The European Union Intellectual Property Office has launched the 2025 call for proposals under Grant Reference GR/002/25, aimed at boosting intellectual property awareness among youth across the European Union. This initiative invites creative organisations to design and deliver engaging educational activities to inspire individuals aged 14 to 25 about the value of IP, the risks of piracy and counterfeiting, and how innovation can be protected.
Eligible Activities:	The call seeks projects that leverage existing EUIPO materials to reach young audiences through modern formats—think campaigns, competitions, events, infused with infotainment and digital storytelling. These activities are expected to cross borders, extending into multiple EU Member States, and to engage partners such as influencers, media outlets, or educational bodies to amplify their reach. The maximum duration for projects is 12 months. A total budget of €150,000 is set aside to fund these initiatives, with grants ranging between €30,000 and €75,000 available to eligible organisations, including non-profits, public bodies, and private entities registered within the EU for at least two years. The goal is to embed IP awareness into a sustainable framework—projects should not just shine briefly, but integrate long-term IP education into the fabric of participating organisations. Applicants will need to demonstrate a clear methodology, measurable performance, and creative strategies for lasting impact. This is a timely opportunity for educational organisations and cultural institutions to mobilise impactful IP-awareness campaigns that resonate with the digital fluency and creative spirit of young Europeans.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants must be public or private bodies, or non-profit private entities, registered in one of the 27 EU Member States for more than two years. However, public entities that already receive funds or support from the Office through other programmes targeting the same objectives are not eligible to apply. This excludes national and regional IP offices, as well as international organisations.
Total Budget: €150,000	
Deadline: 19/09/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.euipo.europa.eu/en/about-us/the-office/procurement-and-grants/euipo-grants/grants-02-2025

Call Title:	Call for Proposals: Submissions open for Climate Resilient Agriculture (India)
Programme: Ignite Life Science Foundation	
Objective:	The Ignite Life Science Foundation is issuing a call for proposals to address the national priority of making Indian agriculture globally competitive and resilient through novel and innovative strategies and solutions. The five areas of focus are: Integrated Climate Resilience Breeding; Sustainable Soil, Water, and Carbon Management for Climate Mitigation; Research based Climate-Adaptive Mechanization and Precision Agriculture - Tools, Techniques, Apps and Digital Advisory Systems; Agro-ecology and Diversified Farming Systems for Nutrition and Resilience; and Predicting, Preventing, and Managing Climate-Induced Pest and Disease Outbreaks.

Eligible Activities:	<p>Climate change presents a significant challenge to India's agricultural sector, with erratic weather patterns and new pest and disease profiles. The problems are compounded by the decline in soil, water, and air quality. This call for proposals seeks to bridge the gap between discovery research and translational research by fostering interdisciplinary collaboration and engaging all stakeholders from the start of the project. The process is a multi-phase exercise, starting with an initial Letter of Interest (LoI). Up to two winning proposals will be selected for support. The project has a duration of three years, with a possible two-year extension upon review. The funding is up to Rs. 1 Crore per year. The proposals should demonstrate multidisciplinary and inter-institutional collaboration, with clear objectives, deliverables, and a stated impact. The LoI must include a research program outline, a statement on the group's expertise, and an impact assessment across social, environmental, health, and economic dimensions.</p> <p>For the Letter of Intent (LoI), a team must include several key components. You must also provide clear evidence of pre-submission consortium discussions for the work packages and how they will be integrated. The names and contact information of all involved Principal Investigators (PIs) and the research organizations must be provided, clearly indicating the primary applicant, secondary applicants, and collaborators. The Proposed Research Programme section, which has a 1,000-word limit, must outline the research question, hypothesis, a brief methodology, the proposal's novelty, its deliverables, and its importance for Indian agriculture. Additionally, the expertise of the group must be detailed in a separate section of 200 words. The impact of the proposed work on social, environmental, health, farmer/agri-centric, and economic dimensions must also be described, with each dimension having a 250-word limit.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Scientists or teams of scientists who can bring in other specialties and expertise for interdisciplinary work are eligible to apply. This includes interdisciplinary and multi-institutional consortia from any combination of academic institutions, public research bodies, and private entities. This includes Central, State, Private, and Deemed Universities, National Institutes, ICRISAT, State Agricultural Universities (SAUs), Public-funded research organizations and labs, and Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs). Rural Innovation Centres and Incubators, Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs), Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), and NGOs working in sustainable agriculture, natural farming, and climate resilience are also eligible. Municipal bodies engaged in urban agriculture and nutrition, agri-tech and climate-tech innovators, startups, and SMEs can also apply.</p>
Total Budget: €500,000	
Deadline: 28/09/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7366702144349036545

Call Title:	GLOBAL SPORT IMPACT FUND (GSIF)
Programme:	GLOBAL SPORT IMPACT FUND (GSIF)
Objective:	This call for expressions of interest aims to identify a first pool of eligible, promising, and technically feasible projects that may constitute the initial

	investment pipeline of the GSIF. To be considered, projects must demonstrate a credible revenue-generation model, even if supported by patient or concessional financing structures. While the Fund maintains a strong impact-first orientation, it will only support projects that present a realistic capacity to repay the financing provided, aligned with their operational model and context. Initiatives relying exclusively on grant-based income models will not be eligible for financing through the GSIF's core investment instruments.
Eligible Activities:	<p>The purpose of the EOI is to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare a high-quality project pipeline ahead of the Fund's first closing • Identify investment-ready opportunities or projects needing targeted technical structuring • Build confidence and transparency with future investors and partners • Accelerate the future deployment phase of the Fund (post-closing) <p>The project must be located in, or significantly benefit, emerging or developing economies, with particular emphasis on Africa, Latin America, and South/Southeast Asia.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	The Fund embraces the principles of blended finance, aiming to crowd in public, philanthropic, and private capital toward high-impact sport-for-development projects. As such, a wide range of institutional applicants may be eligible, provided they meet the Fund's criteria for impact alignment, financial sustainability, and governance.
Total Budget: € Between EUR 500,000 & EUR 1.5 million or Between EUR 1.5 million & EUR 5 million	
Deadline: 30/09/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://gsif.coalition-sport.org/

Call Title:	RFPs: Coastal Ecosystems for People and Planet Fund
Programme:	National Geographic Society
Objective:	<p>The Lindblad Expeditions-National Geographic (LEX-NG) Fund is a competitive call for applications that seeks to fund ambitious projects focused on the conservation, restoration, or research of blue forests and is aimed at supporting inspirational and passionate project leaders.</p> <p>This presents a powerful opportunity for strengthening and centering the voices of communities who are part of the expedition journeys; They will support projects that center the needs, interests and knowledge of communities and local partners; This funding opportunity will prioritize blue forests in National Geographic-Lindblad Expeditions (NG-LEX) destinations.</p>
Eligible Activities:	The LEX-NG Fund will support new projects that focus on our planet's critical blue forest coastal ecosystems. These ecosystems, which include mangroves, salt marshes, kelp forests, and seagrass meadows, help protect coastal areas, provide food sources, improve water quality, and act as carbon sinks. Despite their importance, blue forests are in critical decline due to climate change and human activity. The National Geographic Society and Lindblad Expeditions are looking for

	<p>innovative new projects to reverse these trends. The RFP will support projects with a primary discipline of Science, and applications for storytelling and education projects will not be considered.</p> <p>You may apply for a Level I Grant if you are working to establish yourself in your field, hope to gain experience leading projects, are interested in joining the National Geographic Explorer community, and have not yet received a grant from the National Geographic Society; this level is designed for those earlier in their career. If you are more established, have previously received a grant from the National Geographic Society, or need a higher level of funding, you may apply for a Level II Grant; prior receipt of a grant is not required for this level. Projects funded at Level I must be completed within one year of receiving funding, while Level II projects have a two-year completion timeframe. Extensions may be granted in extenuating circumstances on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Applicants are encouraged to design projects for communities where they have existing connections or a track record of work. If you do not have existing connections in a proposed location, you should include local collaborators. The application and all required reporting must be completed in English. Application materials must be complete enough for the reviewers to assess your skills, experience, and project idea. Strong applications will include an achievable goal and meaningful collaboration with local stakeholders at every stage of the project. The National Geographic Society will also host a one-hour informational webinar about the RFP on Tuesday, August 26, from 9 am to 10 am EDT to answer applicant questions. Additional office hours will be held on September 8, from 11 am to 12 pm EDT, and on Monday, September 22, from 6 pm to 7 pm EDT, where applicants can sign up for ten-minute one-on-one blocks.</p> <p>Candidates must submit their application through the National Geographic Society website. The RFP opens in August 2025 and closes on October 3, 2025, at 11:59 PM EDT (October 4 at 3:59 AM UTC). Awards are expected to be announced in December 2025.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Applicants should be passionate and knowledgeable about their project's subject matter. There are no minimum academic or experiential requirements. Applicants are encouraged to design projects to be implemented in communities where they have existing connections or a track record of work, or they should include local collaborators. To be eligible, a project must primarily focus on the conservation, restoration, or research of blue forests, have a primary discipline of Science, and an Ocean focus area. While projects in NG-LEX destinations are preferred, those in other regions will also be considered. Candidates must be over 18 years old and willing to provide project information to be shared with travellers.</p>
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 03/10/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.nationalgeographic.org/society/grants-and-investments/rfp-coastal-ecosystems/

Call Title:

Call for Applications: TWAS Visiting Expert Programme

Programme: The World Academy of Sciences	
Objective:	The World Academy of Sciences has launched its TWAS Visiting Expert Programme to provide institutions and research groups in developing countries, especially the Least Developed Countries and those with limited outside contacts, with opportunities to establish long-term links with world leaders in areas of science other than mathematics and physics, and help develop capacity-building in their country.
Eligible Activities:	<p>Under the programme, prospective host institutions can invite internationally renowned experts with a minimum degree of a PhD to collaborate in research and training. The visit should have a minimum stay of two weeks and a maximum of four weeks at the host institution. The visiting expert is expected to interact closely with faculty and students to strengthen existing activities and/or establish new lines of research. The expert can also deliver lectures, supervise students, and discuss future collaborative partnerships. The program particularly welcomes nominations from women.</p> <p>TWAS will provide the visiting expert with the most direct economy-class, round-trip travel, while the host institution is expected to cover local expenses. Upon completion of the visit, both the visiting expert and the host institution must provide comprehensive reports outlining the visit's impact on the educational and research programmes of the host institution.</p> <p>The following documentation must be uploaded: a brief CV of the Visiting Expert (maximum 10 pages) and a list of publications; a letter from the Visiting Expert detailing the research and teaching program he/she could assist with; and a supporting statement from the head of the host institution. Applicants may apply for only one programme per calendar year in the TWAS and OWSD portfolio.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Only persons who have attained international recognition in their fields of science will be considered for support.</p> <p>Institutions interested in the programme must complete an online application form.</p>
Total Budget: €Not Available	
Deadline: 06/10/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://twas.org/opportunity/twas-visiting-expert-programme

Call Title:	ERC STARTING GRANT
Programme: European Commission (EC) - HORIZON	
Objective:	The ERC Starting Grants are designed to support excellent Principal Investigators at the career stage at which they are starting their own independent research team or programme.
Eligible Activities:	<p>Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their research proposal.</p> <p>Actions must take place in EU member states or Associated Country.</p>

Eligible Applicants:	The ERC actions are open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any EU Member State or Horizon Associated Country. Principal Investigators may be of any age and nationality and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application. The host institution must engage and host the Principal Investigator for at least the duration of the project, as defined in the grant agreement.
Total Budget:	€1.5m max per project
Deadline:	14/10/2025
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERC-2026-STG

Call Title:	Grants for Advancing Education on Emerging Data and Unmet Needs in High-Risk NMIBC
Programme:	PFIZER
Objective:	<p>Pfizer has announced a new global grant opportunity titled Emerging Data and Unmet Needs in Patients with High-Risk Non-Muscle Invasive Bladder Cancer (NMIBC), designed to support independent medical education that addresses critical gaps in care.</p> <p>With a primary focus on genitourinary and bladder cancer, this initiative encourages innovative educational projects that go beyond current practices to improve patient outcomes.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The program emphasizes areas of high unmet need such as understanding the burden and impact of disease recurrence, complications arising from existing treatment pathways, and how new data is reshaping the treatment paradigm. Proposals are expected to explore patient management in high-risk NMIBC, particularly around clinical risk stratification, patient identification and selection, and the safe and effective integration of PD-(L)1 inhibitor therapies. A central goal is to foster shared decision-making between urology and medical oncology, ensuring that treatment decisions are collaborative and patient-centered. Unlike clinical research projects, this grant does not aim to support studies evaluating the efficacy of therapeutic or diagnostic agents. Instead, it is specifically intended for projects that deliver impactful education, build awareness of emerging data, and highlight best practices for the integration of novel therapies into clinical practice. By focusing on education and practice improvement, the program aims to drive meaningful change in how clinicians manage high-risk NMIBC.</p> <p>The geographic scope prioritizes Europe, though proposals with global relevance are welcomed. Eligible applicants include medical, nursing, pharmacy, and allied health schools; healthcare institutions of all sizes; professional organizations and medical societies; and medical education companies with a healthcare improvement mission. Independent medical practices are not eligible. For multi-institution collaborations, each entity must have a clear role, with the lead requesting organization serving as the primary grant recipient. For continuing education projects, the lead applicant must also hold appropriate accreditation.</p>

	Pfizer has allocated \$250,000 for this initiative, with individual projects considered for funding between \$50,000 and \$250,000. Projects may run for up to 12 months. Selected projects are anticipated to launch in January 2026.
Eligible Applicants:	This opportunity offers healthcare institutions, educators, and professional societies the chance to design impactful initiatives that bridge knowledge gaps, empower collaborative decision-making, and transform clinical practice for patients with high-risk NMIBC. By focusing on education and actionable insights, the program aims to ensure that emerging therapies are integrated into care in ways that truly benefit patients.
Total Budget: €250,000	
Deadline: 14/10/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://cdn.pfizer.com/pfizercom/2025-08/2025-ONC-Global-NMIBCUnmetNeeds-IME.pdf?VersionId=258FJYa.E0onPtXi2104qdfBgJUdrllR

Call Title:	IGNACIO H. DE LARRAMENDI RESEARCH GRANTS
Programme:	Fundación MAPFRE
Objective:	In 2025, Fundación MAPFRE will award research grants amounting to a total of €265,000 to financially support research projects in the following areas: (1) Strategies for habit change: prevention of obesity and the promotion of physical activity; (2) Patient education; (3) Physical injury assessment: assessment of the consequences of an event (traumatic or accidental, medical negligence, aggression or illness) on the person's health and its impact on the essential activities of ordinary life and other specific activities of personal development (moral damage, loss of quality of life); (4) Health management: clinical quality and safety; (5) Longevity and quality of life.
Eligible Activities:	Research related to insurance and social protection must be aimed at addressing the challenges of the 21st Century within the following themes: (1) Insurance; (2) Social protection: economy of aging, senior economy, silver economy. Actions can take place worldwide.
Eligible Applicants:	The grants are open to any academic and professional researcher and research teams wishing to run research programs, independently or as part of the universities, hospitals, companies or research centres to which they are affiliated.
Total Budget: €265,000	
Deadline: 20/10/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.fundacionmapfre.org/en/awards-aids/ignacio-larramendi-research-grants/

Call Title:	EMPOWERING CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOS) IN MAURITIUS AND SEYCHELLES
Programme:	European Commission (EC) - International Partnerships (IP)
Objective:	The global objective of this call is to contribute to the development of an inclusive, participatory, empowered Civil Society and democratic space in Mauritius and Seychelles, and of an inclusive and open dialogue with and between civil society organisations.
Eligible Activities:	<p>The specific objectives of this call is to strengthen Civil Society Organisation's engagement and impact in the following priorities identified for this Call for Proposal:</p> <p>Priority 1: Fight against and prevention of drug abuse (with focus on children/youth and women).</p> <p>Priority 2: Addressing violence and abuse against women and children.</p> <p>Priority 3: Addressing environmental issues with a focus on coastal erosion and biodiversity loss.</p> <p>Actions must take place in Mauritius and Seychelles.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	In order to be eligible for a grant, the lead applicant must: (1) be a legal person and (2) be non-profit-making and (3) be a specific type of organisation such as: non-governmental organisation and (4) be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.
Total Budget:	€2,360,000
Deadline:	21/10/2025
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/184705PROSPECTSEN

Call Title:	ICPO Research Call for “AI-driven advancements in Precision Oncology”
Programme:	International Centers for Precision Oncology Foundation
Objective:	The International Centers for Precision Oncology Foundation has launched a new research call to advance precision oncology by integrating artificial intelligence. The objective is to support the development of methodologies for curating and standardizing theranostics datasets, both imaging and non-imaging, by producing a structured database framework and annotation approach.
Eligible Activities:	<p>This call focuses on the creation of data models, curation standards, and maintenance methods, without the collection or sharing of data at this stage. Any indication relevant to theranostics can be included.</p> <p>High-quality, standardized dataset frameworks are essential for training and testing AI-based prediction models. The ICPO's role in this process is to orchestrate it, providing funding and Scientific Advisory Board (SAB) guidance without owning or holding any data. Data and rights remain with the grant recipients' centers. This</p>

	<p>initiative addresses current funding gaps around annotation methodologies and reference standards.</p> <p>The expected outcomes are methodologies that enable automated structuring and annotation of unstructured theranostics data, including provisions for maintenance. Additionally, a theranostics-specific structured format or framework that is fully annotated, standardized, and transferable between centers is expected, with transparent access for ICPO partners and collaborators. Grant recipients in the first year must deliver such a structured format.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Applications are invited exclusively from academic institutions. The maximum funding available per project is €100,000. The Principal Investigator must hold a relevant PhD degree or be an MD. The application requires a detailed research proposal, a letter of intent or cover letter, and a current Curriculum Vitae of the PI. The deadline for applications is November 1st, 2025. Note that no hardware may be funded under this call.</p>
Total Budget: €500,000	
Deadline: 01/11/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.icpo.foundation/icpo-research/ai-call-for-applications/

Call Title:	SMART ERA 1st Open Call for Pilots Add-ons for Rural Innovation
Programme: Smart Era	
Objective:	<p>The SMART ERA project is launching its 1st Open Call for Pilots Add-ons to select up to 11 Technology/Solution Providers to develop innovative solutions addressing the socio-economic and environmental challenges in six designated rural pilot regions.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The focus areas include transforming rural areas through advanced technology and innovative solutions, enhancing sustainable development and growth in technology, governance, business, society, and policymaking, and revitalizing rural communities by combating depopulation and creating resilient, vibrant societies. The objectives primarily revolve around deploying innovative solutions aligned with the identified regional challenges, including developing smart innovation packages, supporting the socio-economic fabric with technology-driven applications, and fostering ecological, economic, and social sustainability within the pilot regions.</p> <p>Each selected technology provider will receive up to €60,000 and participate in a nine-month support program that includes mentoring and stages focused on onboarding and deploying their solutions in the pilot areas. The program is designed to ensure technological advancement from an initial TRL of 4 to at least 6 upon completion. The six pilot regions span Italy, Spain, Finland, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Slovenia, Croatia, and Bulgaria, each with unique challenges ranging from agrifood production tracing, pasture ecosystem monitoring, AI-based tourism and micro-farming management, smart economy service platforms, rural entrepreneurial support with AI tools, agro-tourism sector digital platforms, personalized tourism experience platforms, mobility on demand applications,</p>

	digital health support systems for rural GPs, and map-based tourism information platforms. Proposals must demonstrate alignment with the SMART ERA goals, including the use of robust security and data privacy measures compliant with GDPR, the adoption of open-source and OpenAPI standards where applicable, and the potential for replication across other European regions. Multilingual interfaces, user-friendly designs for local stakeholders and end-users, and sustainable post-project maintenance plans are mandatory. The evaluation process is rigorous, involving eligibility checks, scoring based on excellence, impact, and implementation, and final selection through pitching and consensus meetings.
Eligible Applicants:	The SMART ERA project emphasizes collaboration with local stakeholders, integration with existing data sources, and compliance with European Union policies such as the Green Deal and Europe's Digital Decade. The selected projects are expected to contribute to regional and EU standards for social innovation, environmental impact, and economic resilience in rural areas. The total duration of the support program is approximately nine months starting from March 2026, with milestone-based payments structured to incentivize timely and high-quality deliverables.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 04/11/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://smartera-project.eu/open-calls/

Call Title:	ERC SYNERGY GRANT
Programme:	European Commission (EC) - HORIZON
Objective:	The aim is to provide support for a small group of two to four Principal Investigators to jointly address ambitious research problems that could not be addressed by the individual Principal Investigators and their teams working alone. Synergy projects should enable substantial advances at the frontiers of knowledge, stemming, for example, from the cross-fertilization of scientific fields, from new productive lines of enquiry, or new methods and techniques, including unconventional approaches and investigations at the interface between established disciplines. The transformative research funded by Synergy Grants should have the potential of becoming a benchmark on a global scale.
Eligible Activities:	Principal Investigators must demonstrate the ground-breaking nature, ambition and feasibility of their scientific proposal. Principal Investigators must also demonstrate that their group can successfully bring together the scientific elements necessary to address the scope and complexity of the proposed research question. One of the Principal Investigators must be designated as the Corresponding Principal Investigator. At any one time, one Principal Investigator per Synergy Grant Group except the Corresponding one can be hosted or engaged by an institution outside of the EU or Associated Countries. Actions must take place in EU member states or Associated Country.

Eligible Applicants:	The ERC actions are open to researchers of any nationality who intend to conduct their research activity in any EU Member State or Horizon Associated Country. Principal Investigators may be of any age and nationality and may reside in any country in the world at the time of the application. The host institution must engage and host the Principal Investigator for at least the duration of the project, as defined in the grant agreement.
Total Budget:	€10m max per project
Deadline:	05/11/2025
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/ERC-2026-SyG

Call Title:	Collaborative Missions Programmes in Food Innovation
Programme:	European Institute of Innovation & Technology
Objective:	EIT Food, the world's largest food innovation community, is offering funding to support collaborative missions programmes aimed at addressing major societal challenges within the food system through systemic, impactful, and partnership-driven initiatives.
Eligible Activities:	<p>The focus areas of this funding opportunity are meeting societal challenges within the food system by delivering one or more Mission Targets, being problem-led with a clearly defined pathway to impact, building a portfolio of connected activities across relevant economic, industry, and social value chains, forging synergies between academia, vocational education and training, industry, NGOs, associations, and policy stakeholders, leading by organisations with the capability to scale and drive adoption of programme results, connecting to EIT Food infrastructure programmes and assets to scale impact, reducing skills gaps and cultivating workforce development in Agricultural Transitions, Food Biotechnology and Food Security, Risk and Resilience, building on a portfolio of previously funded innovations and supporting start-up community capabilities, creating and supporting platforms to address major barriers and opportunities related to Strategic Levers for food systems change, and producing and communicating insights to inform public affairs, fundraising, and strategic decision-making. The total funding allocated to this scheme from 2023 to 2025 is €30 million, with applicants able to request up to €1,000,000 per year for up to two years, covering no more than 70% of total programme costs, requiring a minimum co-funding of 30%. Funding durations of up to 24 months are encouraged, with the possibility of a 12-month performance-based extension. Eligible applicants include organisations from European Union Member States and Horizon Europe Associate Countries, and proposals must demonstrate pan-European impact and strategic fit.</p> <p>Applications are assessed through a multi-stage evaluation process, including eligibility checks, strategic alignment, technical evaluation by internal and external evaluators, and may include clarification panels for borderline scores. A quality threshold score of 3.5 out of 5 is required for selection. Selected projects enter an onboarding process before contracting and funding disbursement.</p>

	Funding is released in instalments tied to deliverables and milestones, with ongoing monitoring to ensure progress, impact achievement, and appropriate use of funds. EIT Food also requires impact measurement, communication plans, and may apply a Success Sharing Mechanism for commercial outcomes.
Eligible Applicants:	This funding opportunity invites proposals from consortia led by organisations capable of delivering high-impact outcomes through connected activities and workstreams across economic, industry, and social value chains. The programme types supported include co-funding open competitions, jointly funding programmes with other funders and NGOs, coordinating consortia across value chains to accelerate innovation impact, supporting knowledge exchange clusters, exploring innovative workforce development approaches, and addressing strategic sectoral issues.
Total Budget: €30,000,000	
Deadline: 11/12/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.eitfood.eu/open-calls/impact-funding-framework

Call Title:	Screenplay Development Support for Feature and Animated Films
Programme: Netherlands Film Fund	
Objective:	The Netherlands Film Fund is offering opportunities for screenplay development of majority Dutch feature films and long animated films intended for cinema release. After a positive outcome from Pitch Filmidee, you can apply to the Netherlands Film Fund for the script development of a majority Dutch feature film or feature-length animated film, intended for cinema release.
Eligible Activities:	With this program, the Fund contributes to a varied and distinctive film offering for a diverse audience, with room for diverse narrative perspectives and genres, created by a balanced mix of experienced and emerging filmmakers. The contribution is intended for the development of the film idea into a screenplay at an advanced stage, in which the foundations of the screenplay – including the theme, structure of the narrative, internal consistency and the (main) characters – have been laid and the project is ready for a final in-depth phase. If, after this phase, the script is at an advanced stage and ready for final creative, technical, production, and business development, the producer can submit an application for the project development phase. The scheme focuses on the creative team, which consists of a producer, director and screenwriter. Applications for scenario development will be assessed according to the general assessment framework of Article 5 of the General Regulations. The following points will be taken into account: Has the vision regarding the film's target audience and positioning been sufficiently developed? Is it an original and distinctive film with courage and idiosyncrasy, that stimulates the imagination and tells relevant stories for the Dutch audience? Is the submitted film plan of substantive and cinematographic quality and does it contribute to a diverse, daring and relevant offering? Applications are accepted throughout the year and require projects to have received a positive outcome from Pitch Filmidee. In the case of adaptations,

	<p>applicants must possess valid rights to the original material. Additionally, projects must concern a majority Dutch production to qualify.</p> <p>The scheme encourages diverse and innovative storytelling, balancing the contributions of new and established filmmakers to ensure that Dutch cinema continues to resonate with audiences through original, high-quality narratives.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>This scheme is open to both producers and screenwriters under certain eligibility conditions. Independent production companies with at least two years of establishment in the Netherlands, the EU, EEA, or Switzerland, and with prior experience in producing a feature-length film, can apply as producers.</p> <p>Screenwriters with a previously released Dutch feature film or long animated film are also eligible to apply independently.</p>
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 31/12/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.filmfonds.nl/subsidies/subsidie/ontwikkeling-speelfilm-en-lange-animatiefilm

Call Title:	P4G CALL FOR PARTNERSHIPS APPLICATION
Programme:	P4G
Objective:	<p>P4G is now accepting applications for partnerships working on climate mitigation or adaptation solutions in the areas of food, energy and water. Partnerships must comprise at least one early-stage business and one nonprofit organization implementing in one of P4G's ODA-eligible partner countries: Colombia, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Kenya, South Africa and Vietnam. Applicants must provide services or products that contribute to poverty alleviation, gender equity and economic growth in one of the following sub-sectors: climate-smart agriculture, food loss and waste, water resilience, zero emission mobility and renewable energy.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>P4G will provide grant funding and technical assistance to help the early-stage business in the partnership become investment ready. To be considered for the next funding round, partnerships should submit their proposal by March 7, 2025. All applications must be submitted in English.</p> <p>The program is open to partnerships operating in P4G's ODA-eligible partner countries, which include Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Indonesia, and Vietnam.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>The eligibility criteria require partnerships to comprise at least one early-stage climate business and one NGO administrative partner. Applicants must demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the sectoral, policy, and regulatory environment in their country, along with skills in business, financial, social, environmental development, and grant management. The proposed climate business solution should be innovative and at a seed or post-seed financing stage with a clear path to commercialization or capital raising. Additionally, applicants must show their project's potential for climate, economic growth, poverty reduction, gender, and development impact, and adhere to responsible business conduct, including having an ESG plan or developing one.</p>

Total Budget:	€350,000 average
Deadline:	Ongoing
More information and official documents:	https://p4gpartnerships.org/p4g-call-partnership-applications

Link to Previous Funding Newsletters

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

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