

# CCG INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Weekly Funding Insight  
Week Commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2025



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|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>NEW OPPORTUNITIES</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>LEO FOUNDATION VISITING RESEARCHERS</b>  | <b>4</b>  |
| Programme: Leo Foundation   | 4         |
| Total Budget: €2,000,000  | 4         |
| Deadline: 01/10/2025  | 4         |
| <b>DIRECT AID PROGRAM (DAP) SERBIA, NORTH MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO</b>                              | <b>4</b>  |
| Programme: Australian Embassy in Serbia   | 4         |
| Total Budget: €100,000  | 5         |
| Deadline: 05/10/2025  | 5         |
| <b>ECHOING GREEN FELLOWSHIPS</b>  | <b>5</b>  |
| Programme: Echoing Green  | 5         |
| Total Budget: €100,000  | 5         |
| Deadline: 08/10/2025  | 5         |
| <b>CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS (SSP) 2026 IN THAILAND &amp; LAOS</b>                   | <b>5</b>  |
| Programme: Embassy of the Czech Republic in Thailand  | 5         |
| Total Budget: €100,000  | 6         |
| Deadline: 10/10/2025  | 6         |
| <b>BOOST x CEF: Green Urban Tech – Call for Urban Tech Solutions</b>                                | <b>6</b>  |
| Programme: United Nations Development Programme(UNDP)   | 6         |
| Total Budget: €100,000  | 7         |
| Deadline: 19/10/2025  | 7         |
| <b>Open Call: UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge</b>   | <b>7</b>  |
| Programme: United Nations Children's Fund   | 7         |
| Total Budget: €Not Available  | 8         |
| Deadline: 21/10/2025  | 8         |
| <b>COSMIC Open Call for AI and Data Solutions to Boost the Green Transition</b>                     | <b>8</b>  |
| Programme: COSMIC   | 9         |
| Total Budget: €500,000  | 9         |
| Deadline: 27/10/2025  | 9         |
| <b>National Competence Centres for High Performance Computing DIGITAL-JU-EUROHPC-2025-NCC-01-01</b> | <b>9</b>  |
| Programme: DIGITAL-JU-SIMPLE DIGITAL JU Simple Grants   | 9         |
| Total Budget: €20,000,000   | 11        |
| Deadline: 29/10/2025  | 11        |
| <b>Open Call: Ecosystem Partner for the IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge</b>                 | <b>11</b> |
| Programme: British Council  | 11        |
| Total Budget: €100,000  | 12        |
| Deadline: 31/10/2025  | 12        |
| <b>CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO-ALBANIA FOR 2021-2027</b>                          | <b>12</b> |
| Programme: European Commission (EC) - International Partnerships (IP)                               | 12        |

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>Total Budget: €7,480,000</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Deadline: 31/10/2025</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Entries open for CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Program</b>   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>Programme: CIFAR</b>   | <b>13</b> |
| <b>Total Budget: €100,000</b>   | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Deadline: 05/11/2025</b>   | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Cyber Resilience Boost: Supporting capacity building for cyber resilience of products TEST-CERT-CZ</b> | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Programme: Digital Europe</b>  | <b>14</b> |
| <b>Total Budget: €320,000</b>   | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Deadline: 18/11/2025</b>   | <b>15</b> |
| <b>DIGITAL-JU-CHIPS-2025-SG-SSOI</b>  | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Programme: DIGITAL-JU-SIMPLE DIGITAL JU Simple Grants</b>  | <b>15</b> |
| <b>Total Budget: €30,000,000</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Deadline: 20/11/2025</b>   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Melvin Yahr Parkinson's Disease Clinical Research Award</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Programme: Parkinson's Foundation</b>  | <b>16</b> |
| <b>Total Budget: €100,000</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Deadline: 12/01/2026</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Entries open for Maitri Scholarships Program (Australia and India)</b>                                 | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Programme: Centre for Australia-India Relations</b>  | <b>17</b> |
| <b>Total Budget: €500,000</b>   | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Deadline: 14/01/2026</b>   | <b>18</b> |
| <b>TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FROM UNVFVT</b>  | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Programme: United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)</b>                           | <b>18</b> |
| <b>Total Budget: €100,000</b>   | <b>19</b> |
| <b>Deadline: 01/03/2025</b>   | <b>19</b> |
| <b>LINK TO PREVIOUS FUNDING NEWSLETTERS</b>   | <b>19</b> |

## New Opportunities

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| <b>Call Title:</b>                              | <b>LEO FOUNDATION VISITING RESEARCHERS</b>   |
| <b>Programme:</b>                               | <b>Leo Foundation</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>                               | The purpose of the LEO Foundation Visiting Researchers program is to stimulate a cohesive and agile skin research ecosystem by supporting temporary embedment of skin researchers in a foreign research environment with the aim of fostering genuine international collaborations and strengthening the exchange of knowledge, ideas, methodology, and technology between Danish and international skin research communities. |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b>                     | <p>The program is anchored in Denmark, i.e., an applicant from a Danish research institution can apply to visit a research institution abroad, or an applicant at an international research institution can apply to visit a Danish research institution.</p> <p>Actions can take place worldwide.</p>   |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Applicants must be at or above postdoc level. The LEO Foundation welcomes applicants from anywhere in the world.   |
| <b>Total Budget:</b>                            | <b>€2,000,000</b>  |
| <b>Deadline:</b>                                | <b>01/10/2025</b>  |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://leo-foundation.org/en/grants-and-awards/visiting-researchers/">https://leo-foundation.org/en/grants-and-awards/visiting-researchers/</a>  |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>DIRECT AID PROGRAM (DAP) SERBIA, NORTH MACEDONIA AND MONTENEGRO</b>   |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>Australian Embassy in Serbia</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | The Australian Embassy in Belgrade is pleased to announce a Call for project proposals that will be supported through our Direct Aid Program (DAP) in the financial year 2025-26. DAP is a flexible small grants program funded from Australia's aid budget and managed by the Australian Embassy in Belgrade.   |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>They welcome project proposals from capable non-profit and civil society organisations from Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro seeking funding for the activities addressing the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote human rights, freedom of media and freedom of expression and good governance</li> <li>• Promote gender equality and empowerment of women and girls</li> <li>• Support anti-smoking campaigns in primary and secondary schools</li> <li>• Support youth mental health</li> </ul> <p>Actions must take place in Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro.</p> |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b> | DAP is available to non-profit and civil society organisation, community groups and other entities engaged in development activities in Serbia, North Macedonia and Montenegro.  |

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| <b>Total Budget:</b>                            | <b>€100,000</b>   |
| <b>Deadline:</b>                                | <b>05/10/2025</b>   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://serbia.embassy.gov.au/">https://serbia.embassy.gov.au/</a> |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>                              | <b>ECHOING GREEN FELLOWSHIPS</b>  |
| <b>Programme:</b>                               | <b>Echoing Green</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>                               | Echoing Green supports bold leaders from all over the world who see possibility in the face of the most existential challenges of our day. Together, they strive to build a world that has yet to exist: a future free from racism and its far-reaching consequences where all people can thrive. This Fellowship is for people whose enterprises are at an early stage and who are experts on the challenge they've chosen to confront.  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b>                     | <p>They seek leaders who reflect the community they serve and bring deep knowledge of the issues into their work as they co-design solutions with and for their communities. They offer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Leadership Development: A comprehensive program to build and grow leadership skills and develop the strategies needed for ideas to thrive.</li> <li>• Wellness and Wellbeing Support: Ongoing support focuses on mental and emotional wellbeing along with self-care workshops designed specifically for the struggles of entrepreneurship.</li> </ul> <p>Actions can take place worldwide.</p> |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Eligible are individuals and organisations.   |
| <b>Total Budget:</b>                            | <b>€100,000</b>   |
| <b>Deadline:</b>                                | <b>08/10/2025</b>   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://echoinggreen.org/fellowship/apply/">https://echoinggreen.org/fellowship/apply/</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>CALL FOR PROPOSALS: SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS (SSP) 2026 IN THAILAND &amp; LAOS</b>  |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>Embassy of the Czech Republic in Thailand</b>   |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | They are pleased to launch a call for proposals for Small Scale Projects (SSPs) for the year 2025 managed by the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Bangkok. The projects can focus on various sectors – for example environment, agriculture, health, education, social services etc. |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>All projects should be based on the principle of sustainability – that is sustaining the benefits for the long term without an additional external support.</p> <p>Actions must take place in Thailand or Laos.</p>   |

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| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Only non-political and non-governmental organizations with legal personality in Thailand or Laos can submit an SSP proposal and implement it in the respective country, including: local non-governmental, community and not-for-profit organizations; local academic institutions working on local projects; international or regional non-governmental organizations working with local partners. |
| <b>Total Budget:</b>                            | <b>€100,000</b>   |
| <b>Deadline:</b>                                | <b>10/10/2025</b>   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://mzv.gov.cz/bangkok/en/news/call_small_scale_projects_2026.html">https://mzv.gov.cz/bangkok/en/news/call_small_scale_projects_2026.html</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>BOOST x CEF: Green Urban Tech – Call for Urban Tech Solutions</b>   |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>United Nations Development Programme(UNDP)</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | <p>The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the City Experiment Fund (CEF) have launched a call for tech and digitally-enabled solutions to help build greener, smarter, and more resilient cities across Europe and Central Asia. The initiative seeks solutions that address Turning Data into Green Decisions - solutions that turn real-time data into actionable insights for faster, fairer, and greener decisions in cities. Engaging Residents in the Green Transition - solutions that motivate and reward residents to adopt sustainable lifestyles and actively participate in the green transition. Building Green and Resilient Urban Systems - solutions that help reduce waste, restore ecosystems, and build resilience to climate risks.</p> <p>Cities worldwide face growing pressure to cut emissions, protect biodiversity, and create more livable urban spaces while digital technologies including AI and blockchain rapidly transform urban functions from mobility and waste systems to public services and citizen engagement. The green and digital transformations cannot happen in silos, requiring cities to team up with entrepreneurs, tech disruptors, and innovators.</p>   |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>The City Experiment Fund is a regional UNDP initiative that brings cities together to reimagine and shape sustainable urban development through strategic innovation and transformative solutions. It works with cities across Europe and Central Asia to drive sustainability, enable circular economy, improve quality of life, reshape urban systems, and foster resilience.</p> <p>BOOST has partnered with CEF to launch this call for urban tech solutions with applications closing on October 19, 2025. Solutions from around the world are invited to apply, provided they meet specific eligibility criteria.</p> <p>Selected solutions will demo during BOOST Discovery Days virtually on November 19-21, 2025, presenting directly to city representatives. Participants will be matched with cities facing real-world challenges aligned with their solutions and receive support to forge partnerships and co-develop prototypes, pilots or projects.</p> <p>The initiative offers up to US\$30,000 in funding to deploy solutions in CEF cities in 2026. All relevant solutions submitted will be featured in BOOST's open solutions directory, with standout solutions displayed in Urban Innovations article series and promoted across UNDP's channels.</p> |

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|   | The programme provides curated matchmaking clinics, partnership acceleration support, funding opportunities for deployment, and visibility through knowledge sharing platforms. City partners include Stepanavan and Tashir in Armenia, Pristina and Obiliq in Kosovo, Podgorica and Pljevlja in Montenegro, Gostivar and Kavadarci in North Macedonia, and Kovel and Nizhyn in Ukraine.   |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Applicants must be legally registered businesses, civil society organizations, or academic institutions presenting solutions beyond the idea stage that have been piloted, implemented or validated with users. They must demonstrate readiness to facilitate adaptation of their solutions in secondary cities in Armenia, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Kosovo, and Ukraine, though prior experience in these countries is advantageous but not required. |
| <b>Total Budget: €100,000</b>                   |  |
| <b>Deadline: 19/10/2025</b>                     |  |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://boostimpact.org/challenges/green-urban-tech/">https://boostimpact.org/challenges/green-urban-tech/</a>  |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>Open Call: UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge</b>   |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>United Nations Children's Fund</b>   |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | The UNICEF Climate Innovation Challenge invites early and growth stage frontier tech start-ups from emerging economies to develop scalable solutions that safeguard children's health and strengthen the resilience of the systems they rely on.  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | The focus areas for this challenge include solutions that protect children from climate-related health risks, such as tools for air quality monitoring to protect children from respiratory illness, solutions to detect, prevent, and reduce children's exposure to lead pollution in air, water, soil, and food, digital platforms to support community engagement and reporting of climate-related health issues; emission reductions; and waste management, integrated platforms that combine climate (environmental, meteorological, demographic) and health data, leveraging AI and geospatial technologies to predict and manage health risks, platforms for frontline health workers and community leaders to understand, interpret, and respond to climate-health data, innovations focused on climate-sensitive infectious diseases, including heat-related impacts, priority disease areas may include water-borne (cholera), vector-borne (malaria), food-borne and soil-borne infections, as well as antimicrobial resistance linked to climate change, widely impacting children, smart heat and humidity monitoring and adaptation solutions for child-critical environments, such as homes, schools and health facilities, low-cost cooling technologies, including for schools, homes and health facilities; AI and data-driven systems and delivery models that predict, detect, and mitigate climate risks, such as community-level early warning systems for early risk mitigation, and predictive platforms for emergency response, frontier tech enabled analysis and scenario modelling for climate-related risks, blockchain-based verification and validation of real-world climate events and service delivery, tools for anticipatory action for climate-sensitive resource allocation and resilient infrastructure planning that integrate climate hazards with social and health datasets, |

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|   | <p>parametric insurance platforms and innovative financing mechanisms that provide rapid protection for children and communities against climate disasters, blockchain-based solutions to increase energy resilience, including financing for renewable energy or clean energy alternatives, and community energy networks to power clean water systems and food storage facilities, such as peer-to-peer energy trading networks.</p> <p>UNICEF, in collaboration with the India Health Fund (IHF) and the Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership (CISL), is calling for solutions from emerging markets to drive impactful climate adaptation and innovation. Selected start-ups will receive mentorship and technical assistance to enhance investment readiness and potential for future funding, including ten hours of technical mentoring across open source, business development, frontier technology, software development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). Additional support will guide start-ups through the UNICEF Venture Fund sourcing and selection process while highlighting investable solutions that demonstrate public good and market opportunity.</p> <p>The challenge seeks solutions that address challenges to accelerate results for children, are optimized for low-resource environments such as areas with low connectivity or limited mobile access, focus on reducing inequalities while delivering results for diverse users and communities, and can operate in multiple languages, including local and less commonly used languages. All solutions are expected to leverage advanced technologies while maintaining strict data protection and safeguarding standards to ensure privacy and wellbeing, and to contribute to resilient, sustainable systems supporting health and mental health initiatives.</p> <p>UNICEF operates in 190 countries and territories, dedicated to protecting children's rights and improving their lives through innovative approaches that leverage technology, data solutions, and scalable programs. The UNICEF Venture Fund specifically invests in early-stage, open-source frontier technologies such as blockchain, AI, machine learning, and augmented or virtual reality, aiming to shape markets and guide emerging technologies for the benefit of children worldwide.</p> |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Eligible companies must be private for-profit entities registered in a UNICEF programme country, have a working prototype or minimum viable product, be open source or willing to become open source, demonstrate potential to positively impact vulnerable children, and generate measurable, publicly exposed real-time data. The deadline to apply is 21 October 2025.  |
| <b>Total Budget: €Not Available</b>             |  |
| <b>Deadline: 21/10/2025</b>                     |  |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://www.unicef.org/innovation/unicef-climate-innovation-challenge">https://www.unicef.org/innovation/unicef-climate-innovation-challenge</a>  |

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| <b>Call Title:</b> | <b>COSMIC Open Call for AI and Data Solutions to Boost the Green Transition</b> |
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| <b>Programme: COSMIC</b>                        |   |
| <b>Objective:</b>                               | The COSMIC 1st Open Call invites SMEs and startups to develop AI- and data-driven solutions for energy resource optimization, contributing to Europe's sustainable future.  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b>                     | <p>The call targets challenges in energy resource optimization, including but not limited to: Carbon footprint integration: Combining energy and waste data for environmental insights. Community engagement and reporting: Delivering personalized analytics and benchmarking for end users and community managers. Optimizing the uptake of smart appliances and meters: Driving consumer research of AI in energy efficiency. Waste sorting assistance: Utilizing computer vision to streamline waste classification .</p> <p>The COSMIC project is funded by the European Union under Grant Agreement no. 101189676 and aligns with the European Green Deal objectives. A total of €4.05 million will be distributed through two open calls, with this first call allocating €3 million to select up to 20 beneficiaries. Each selected project can receive up to €150,000 in lump-sum funding to develop, test, and validate their solutions. Selected participants will join a 10-month support programme, structured into four stages: technical mentoring and proof-of-concept design, solution development and alpha testing, pilot testing in controlled and real-world environments, and business support for market readiness. Beyond financial support, beneficiaries will collaborate with COSMIC's Core Technical and Social Facilitators and integrate their solutions into large-scale pilots across six European countries.</p> |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Applicants must be SMEs or startups established in EU Member States, Overseas Countries and Territories, or Horizon Europe Associated Countries. Proposals should clearly demonstrate alignment with COSMIC's objectives, technological or societal readiness, scalability, and potential for measurable impact.  |
| <b>Total Budget: €500,000</b>                   |   |
| <b>Deadline: 27/10/2025</b>                     |   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://cosmic-horizon.eu/opencalls">https://cosmic-horizon.eu/opencalls</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>   | <b>National Competence Centres for High Performance Computing DIGITAL-JU-EUROHPC-2025-NCC-01-01</b>  |
| <b>Programme: DIGITAL-JU-SIMPLE DIGITAL JU Simple Grants</b> |  |
| <b>Objective:</b>  | <p>Objective:</p> <p>The objective of this call is to strengthen the European HPC ecosystem by supporting existing, or establishing up to one new, National Competence Centre (NCC) for HPC in as many EuroHPC JU Participating States as possible. NCCs will be a focal point of HPC in the respective country and will provide a wide range of HPC services and training to industry (in particular to SMEs), academia and public administrations, facilitating tailored and modular solutions for a wide variety of HPC users. The NCCs should connect relevant stakeholders to other national and European initiatives in the area of HPC to provide the best possible support for HPC to the local communities.</p> |

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|                             | <p>SMEs and start-ups will be central to the NCC's activities. Academic institutions and stakeholders may be addressed only to a limited extent and most of the resources of the NCC will be dedicated to support local SMEs, industry and public services.</p>  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p><b>Scope:</b><br/>The action should set up and operate, or further develop where already existing, one NCC for HPC in each country in a maximum number of EuroHPC JU Participating States. The NCCs represent the focal point of national competences in HPC and provide leading-edge knowledge to enable the development of innovative solutions in their country, taking into account national HPC needs and requirements emanating from different user communities (industry, academia, public administrations) and application domains.</p> <p>The NCCs focus on activities where local support is most effective such as local communication, training and consultation services to support the specific needs of the relevant national and local communities. They provide a flexible and modular portfolio of HPC services, taking into account the degree of maturity of the national HPC ecosystem and in close coordination and collaboration with the other NCCs to achieve the highest possible impact and the widest possible spread of knowledge. NCCs will support stakeholders from other regions and countries that need their expertise through the NCC network in a coordinated way by the complementary Coordination and Support Action.</p>  |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b> | <p>The main eligibility criteria are:</p> <p>Type of applicant (Beneficiaries / Entities)<br/>Must be a legal entity (public or private).<br/>Natural persons are not eligible, except self-employed persons / sole traders if the entity does not have legal personality distinct from that person.<br/>International organisations normally not eligible, unless they qualify as "International organisations of European interest" per the definition in the Digital Europe Regulation.</p> <p>Where they must be located<br/>The entity must be established in an eligible country. Eligible countries are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EU Member States (including overseas countries/territories)</li> <li>Non-EU countries that are part of the European Economic Area (EEA), or countries associated to the Digital Europe Programme, or in negotiation for association so long as such association enters into force before grant signature.</li> </ol> <p>Consortium composition<br/>For the NCC-01-01 topic, there are additional constraints on how the proposal must be structured:<br/>Must be a consortium (i.e. more than one entity), specifically at least 3 independent entities (beneficiaries) from 3 different eligible countries.<br/>Entities must be independent (i.e. not affiliated in certain ways) for counting toward this minimum.<br/>Mandate by national competent authority (for NCCs in each country)<br/>The entities applying must be "mandated by the competent national authorities to host a National Competence Centre (NCC) for HPC" in their respective country.<br/>Minimum capacity and operational / financial requirements</p> |

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|   | <p>Must have operational &amp; financial capacity to carry out the proposed NCC activities.</p> <p>Legal Entity Validation required via the EU registries / participant register.</p> <p>Funding rate / budget constraints</p> <p>Funding rate for this topic is 50% of eligible costs.</p> <p>Maximum grant amount for an NCC in this topic is up to €20 million per project</p> |
| <b>Total Budget: €20,000,000</b>                |   |
| <b>Deadline: 29/10/2025</b>                     |   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-JU-EUROHPC-2025-NCC-01-01">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-JU-EUROHPC-2025-NCC-01-01</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>                | <b>Open Call: Ecosystem Partner for the IAU Enterprise and Innovation Challenge</b>   |
| <b>Programme: British Council</b> |   |
| <b>Objective:</b>                 | The British Council has launched the Innovation for African Universities (IAU) Enterprise and Innovation Challenge – Ecosystem Partner grant call to strengthen higher education and innovation ecosystems through a structured capacity-building programme.  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b>       | <p>They help to strengthen higher education and TVET in five core areas: Enabling research – supporting research, knowledge and innovation collaborations to address local and global challenges and promote inclusive growth; Internationalising higher education and TVET – supporting systems, institutions and individuals to benefit from internationalisation, including enabling transnational education and system alignment; Strengthening systems and institutions – improving the quality and efficiency of higher education and TVET institutions and systems; Enhancing learner outcomes – addressing the qualities of the global graduate, including soft skills, employability and community outcomes; Increasing equality, diversity and inclusion – making higher education and TVET more accessible, equitable and accountable</p> <p>Each team, composed of five students, is developing ventures in digital enterprises, green enterprises, social enterprises, or combinations of these areas. The selected partner will be responsible for conducting baseline SWOT analyses, creating tailored support frameworks for each project, building student capacity, and enhancing the commercialisation potential of the ventures.</p> <p>The maximum value of the grant is £60,000, and only one award will be made under this call. Applications must be jointly developed by one UK lead institution and one lead institution from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, or South Africa. Eligible UK leads include higher education providers with degree-awarding powers, not-for-profit research institutions, or organisations active in the TVET/FE system, while eligible African leads include higher education providers, not-for-profit research organisations, and TVET/FE institutions. Associated partners from academia, civil society, industry, and government may be included, but for-profit non-education organisations cannot receive grant funds beyond travel costs.</p> |

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|   | The deadline for applications is 31 October 2025 at 17:00 GMT, with results expected by 15 November 2025. Contract signing will take place by 30 November 2025, and grant payments will run from November 2025 through June 2026.   |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | This call is seeking an experienced ecosystem partner in enterprise and innovation development to design and deliver a programme of mentoring and support for 16 student teams drawn from universities in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, and South Africa.  |
| <b>Total Budget: €100,000</b>                   |   |
| <b>Deadline: 31/10/2025</b>                     |   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://www.britishcouncil.org.za/programmes/education/innovation-african-universities/enterprise-innovation-challenge-ecosystem-partner">https://www.britishcouncil.org.za/programmes/education/innovation-african-universities/enterprise-innovation-challenge-ecosystem-partner</a> |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>                              | <b>CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION PROGRAMME MONTENEGRO-ALBANIA FOR 2021-2027</b>  |
| <b>Programme:</b>                               | <b>European Commission (EC) - International Partnerships (IP)</b>   |
| <b>Objective:</b>                               | In line with the objectives specified in the programme document, the global objective of this call for proposals is: To promote good neighbourly relations, foster Union integration and contribute to social, economic and territorial development by improving the quality of life of the population in the programme cross-border area by tourism development based on cultural/natural heritage and by protecting the environment.  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b>                     | <p>As a result of a decision made by the JMC of the programme on 16 September 2024 out of the two thematic priorities of the programme document</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thematic Priority 2: Protecting the environment and promoting climate change adaptation and mitigation, risk prevention and management</li> <li>• Thematic Priority 5: Tourism and cultural and natural heritage</li> </ul> <p>Actions can take place in Montenegro and Albania.</p> |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | 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 directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action with the co-applicant(s) and affiliated entity(ies), not acting as an intermediary.   |
| <b>Total Budget: €7,480,000</b>                 |   |
| <b>Deadline: 31/10/2025</b>                     |   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/184545PROSPECTSEN">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/184545PROSPECTSEN</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b> | <b>Entries open for CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholars Program</b> |
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| <b>Programme: CIFAR</b>     |   |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | The CIFAR Global Scholars Program offers early-career researchers the opportunity to develop and lead high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary research, expand their professional networks and receive focused leadership training in their pivotal first years as independent investigators.  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>Focus: Fostering Novel Interdisciplinary Research, Developing and Broadening Networks, Strengthening Leadership Skills, Child &amp; Brain Development, CIFAR MacMillan Multiscale Human, Future Flourishing, Humanity's Urban Future, Learning in Machines &amp; Brains, Quantum Materials.</p> <p>The program offers an opportunity for early-career researchers from the natural, biomedical, and social sciences, as well as the humanities, to join one of CIFAR's interdisciplinary research programs and collaborate with leading global researchers on questions of critical importance to science and humanity. Scholars will become integral members of a CIFAR research program for two years, taking part in international meetings, sharing work-in-progress, and building collaborations that inspire innovative ideas and transform research directions. They will also gain access to a supportive community of peers and senior researchers, expanding their professional networks while engaging with leaders in government, industry, business, and civil society.</p> <p>The program is designed to strengthen essential leadership skills for early-career researchers who often begin independent roles without formal training in areas such as team leadership, trainee mentorship, science communication, and science advocacy. Scholars will have opportunities to put these skills into practice by organizing academic events, co-planning symposia, delivering public talks, and publishing thought pieces.</p> <p>Successful applicants will receive \$100,000 CAD in unrestricted research support, with flexibility to use the funds for research, teaching release, trainee support, travel, and other professional needs. They will also have the chance to apply for additional CIFAR seed funding to pursue high-risk, high-reward interdisciplinary collaborations.</p> <p>During the two-year term, Global Scholars are expected to attend program meetings twice a year, participate in the CIFAR Global Scholars Annual Meeting scheduled for June 9–11, 2026, join virtual leadership workshops, and engage with stakeholders to share the impact of their work.</p> |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b> | <p>Eligibility requires applicants to hold a PhD or equivalent, a full-time faculty or research position with principal investigator responsibilities, and to have started their first such position after July 1, 2021 but no later than December 31, 2025. The position must be secure through the full program term, April 1, 2026 to March 31, 2028. Applicants must also engage in research aligned with the themes of the recruiting CIFAR programs, be available for a virtual interview between March 24–26, 2026, and be able to attend international meetings.</p> <p>The selection process involves eligibility screening, program-level review based on inclusive research excellence, contribution to the program, and leadership potential, followed by virtual interviews with an independent selection committee. Applications for the 2026–2028 cohort of CIFAR Global Scholars are now open until November 5, 2025.</p>   |

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| <b>Total Budget:</b>                            | <b>€100,000</b>   |
| <b>Deadline:</b>                                | <b>05/11/2025</b>   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://cifar.ca/next-generation/global-scholars/#topskipToContent">https://cifar.ca/next-generation/global-scholars/#topskipToContent</a> |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>Cyber Resilience Boost: Supporting capacity building for cyber resilience of products TEST-CERT-CZ</b>  |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>Digital Europe</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | <p>The European Commission invites proposals to support capacity building in cybersecurity in line with the EU Cyber Resilience Act (CRA).</p> <p>The focus areas of this call include supporting the establishment and development of conformity assessment bodies (CABs); developing support tools and documentation for CRA self-assessment; increasing preparedness and awareness of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs); and promoting cooperation, standardization, and sharing of best practices in the cybersecurity field. This call aims to enhance cyber resilience of ICT products and services in the Czech Republic and across the EU by providing practical tools, educational activities, and fostering collaboration.</p>   |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>This funding opportunity is part of the Digital Europe Framework Programme project “Building Testing and Certification Capabilities in the Czech Republic” (TEST-CERT-CZ). It emphasizes strengthening professional infrastructure, tools, and knowledge capacities so organizations can comply with CRA requirements as manufacturers, importers, certification, and assessment bodies. Projects should focus on developing laboratories and certification bodies ready for accreditation, creating practical self-assessment documentation and tools, providing CRA-focused training for SMEs, and facilitating knowledge-sharing initiatives. The call supports measurable activities including training personnel, developing templates, pilot self-assessments for SMEs, and establishing community platforms. Eligible applicants include SMEs engaged or interested in cybersecurity services, entities developing conformity assessment bodies, training providers for certification processes, and consortia combining these actors. Projects must align with EU and national priorities, demonstrate feasibility, have clear implementation plans, and show potential for practical application and scalability. Funding is allocated up to approximately 2.5 million CZK per project, covering up to 50% of eligible costs, with an emphasis on cost-effectiveness and transparency.</p> |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b> | <p>Eligible applicants include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SMEs</li> <li>Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, especially those engaged (or interested) in cybersecurity services, or developing products with digital elements that will need to comply with CRA.</li> <li>Also SMEs who may be doing self-assessments or needing training/tools/documentation to comply.</li> <li>Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) or entities developing such bodies</li> <li>Bodies or organisations that perform or intend to perform conformity assessment (either in hardware/software) under CRA.</li> <li>Training Providers</li> </ul>  |



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|   | <p>Organisations that provide or will provide training for certification, conformity assessment, self-assessment under the CRA, or for SMEs or other stakeholders. Research/Academic / Public interest organisations?</p> <p>Where / Geographical and Legal eligibility</p> <p>Must be established in or legally based in eligible countries. Since this is under the Czech “national cascade node” (TEST-CERT-CZ), there is likely a requirement that the lead or at least the implementing entity is based in the Czech Republic or is recognised by national authorities.</p> <p>Legal entity status is required. Individuals (unless self-employed in certain cases) usually not eligible.</p> |
| <b>Total Budget: €320,000</b>                   |  |
| <b>Deadline: 18/11/2025</b>                     |  |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/11722">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/11722</a>  |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>DIGITAL-JU-CHIPS-2025-SG-SSOI</b>   |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>DIGITAL-JU-SIMPLE DIGITAL JU Simple Grants</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | <p>Expected Impact:</p> <p>Create a sustainable accelerator open to all European stakeholders, providing access to state-of-the-art sSOI technology and manufacturing capabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and standardize Process Design Kits based on validated sSOI substrate data, enabling designers to optimise their system-level architectures and meet the demands of next generation applications. These PDKs should support the transition to 7nm FD-SOI technology, ensuring readiness for high-volume manufacturing by 2030.</li> <li>• Expand the capabilities of sSOI substrates to industrial-scale wafer production, ensuring low defect densities and improved manufacturing yields that meet the rigorous standards of advanced semiconductor fabrication.</li> <li>• Drive the creation of intellectual property and strengthen Europe's production capacity in sSOI technologies, contributing to Europe's leadership in critical semiconductor markets.</li> <li>• With a particular focus on complementarity with the FD-SOI pilot line, foster collaborative development through synergies with other Chips JU pilot lines, enhancing the overall innovation capacity and technological leadership of Europe in semiconductor technologies,</li> <li>• Provide comprehensive training programs and skill development initiatives to equip European technologists and engineers with the expertise necessary for sSOI substrate integration and advanced semiconductor manufacturing</li> </ul> |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>Scope:</p> <p>The proposed accelerator should address all levels of the key technological steps required to bring sSOI substrates to industrial scale:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of industrial-grade sSOI substrates will focus on achieving low defect density, crucial for enhancing electron mobility and ensuring high-performance FD-SOI devices at the 7 nm node. This will involve refining strain</li> </ul>   |

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|   | <p>engineering techniques, particularly to introduce a uniform global strain that can balance the performance for strained NMOS and relaxed PMOS transistors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure compatibility with existing semiconductor manufacturing, the accelerator will refine process integration and optimisation. This includes improving epitaxial growth, wafer bonding, and defect reduction techniques to meet the requirements of advanced FD-SOI production processes.</li> </ul> <p>Finally, the accelerator will promote collaboration across the semiconductor ecosystem, working with other pilot lines, as well as connecting to the design platform and competence centres, among others.</p>  |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | <p>What Entities are Eligible</p> <p>From various country-level summaries and the call documentation:</p> <p>Types of entities:</p> <p>Businesses / companies (including large enterprises)</p> <p>SMEs (Small and Medium Enterprises)</p> <p>Research centres / Research institutions / Universities</p> <p>NGOs, non-profit organisations</p> <p>Semi-governmental organisations, state-owned enterprises in some Member States context</p> <p>Legal status: Must be a legal entity; public or private. Entities must have the capacity (financial, operational) to perform the proposed tasks.</p> <p>Geographic / National / Country Eligibility</p> <p>Entities must be established in eligible countries under the Chips JU Work Programme. Typically this includes the EU Member States, associated countries, Specific “national funding” or co-funding rules may apply depending on the participating State. For example, in Denmark, there are rules for national co-funding, and for Denmark, the funding to Danish partners has upper limits.</p> |
| <b>Total Budget: €30,000,000</b>                |   |
| <b>Deadline: 20/11/2025</b>                     |   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-JU-CHIPS-2025-SG-SSOI">https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/DIGITAL-JU-CHIPS-2025-SG-SSOI</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b> | <b>Melvin Yahr Parkinson’s Disease Clinical Research Award</b>   |
| <b>Programme:</b>  | <b>Parkinson's Foundation</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>  | <p>Entries are now open for the Melvin Yahr Parkinson’s Disease Clinical Research Award to foster clinical research into any aspect of Parkinson’s disease conducted by young investigators who are under-represented in current research.</p> <p>By recognising and honouring the exceptional contributions of young talented individuals, the award seeks to break down barriers and create a more inclusive and diverse healthcare community. It is expected that this initiative will spur innovation and promote the translation of cutting-edge scientific discoveries into efficient and practical health measures that will benefit people with Parkinson’s disease.</p> |



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| <b>Eligible Activities:</b>                     | <p>The goal of the award is to prepare young neurologists specializing in Parkinson's disease for a career in clinical research. Clinician scientists are uniquely positioned to be experts in both Parkinson's disease research and care.</p> <p>The level of support for this opportunity is a 1-year award for a total of \$50,000. These funds may be used to support research expenses such as salary support for additional trained personnel including research assistants or study coordinators, as well as equipment or consumables required for the research plan. Indirect costs are not permitted.</p>  |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | <p>Eligibility extends to early-stage investigators based at universities, research hospitals, or non-profit research institutions worldwide. Applicants should hold an MD degree and be specialized in neurology, psychiatry, physical medicine and rehabilitation, or related fields. Candidates must be either less than 35 years old or within 5 years of completing their residency program, whichever applies. Investigators from under-represented countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America are particularly encouraged to apply.</p> <p>The application requirements include a Research Plan of up to six pages describing specific aims, background or rationale, preliminary data if available, experimental design with a data analysis plan, and a discussion of potential pitfalls with mitigation approaches. Applicants must also provide a budget and justification, a biosketch in the NIH format, a Letter of Support from the Department Chair or Division Head outlining resources and facilities, and a Letter of Motivation describing how the award will support their practice or research career. Application closes on 12 January 2026.</p> |
| <b>Total Budget: €100,000</b>                   |   |
| <b>Deadline: 12/01/2026</b>                     |   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://www.parkinson.org/advancing-research/for-researchers/award-deadlines">https://www.parkinson.org/advancing-research/for-researchers/award-deadlines</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>Entries open for Maitri Scholarships Program (Australia and India)</b>  |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>Centre for Australia-India Relations</b>  |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | The Centre for Australia-India Relations is calling for proposals from Australian universities to bring postgraduate Indian students to Australia through Scholarships.  |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>The Maitri Scholarships Program will support high-performing Indian scholars to complete Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) studies in STEM-related fields that align to priorities outlined in A New Roadmap for Australia's Economic Engagement with India, which include Clean Energy, Agribusiness, Technology and IT, Resources and METS, Defence Industries, Space, and Health. These scholarships are designed to deepen educational links between the two nations and build stronger economic connections.</p> <p>The minimum grant amount for scholars undertaking a PhD is \$220,000 and the maximum is \$439,000. It is anticipated that most grants will fall between \$115,000 and \$380,000, though exceptions may apply. A separate range is also indicated, with the minimum being \$40,000 and the maximum \$300,000, with most expected</p> |

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|   | to be between \$100,000 and \$200,000. The Centre does not cover costs such as salaries, capital expenditure, equipment purchases, or expenses related to commercially viable activities or completed projects.   |
| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Applications can only be submitted by Australian universities that hold active registration with the Tertiary Education Quality Standards Agency and the Commonwealth Register of Institutions and Courses for Overseas Students. Universities will nominate potential scholars who meet the eligibility criteria, which include being an Indian citizen, a new enrolment at an Australian university, and holding a valid Student (subclass 500) visa for the scholarship duration. Applicants must also commit to events and activities organised by the Centre, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, or their university. Applications require supporting documents including an indicative budget with a timeline of expenditure, a project management plan, a risk management plan, the resume of the nominated scholar, letters of support from all partner organisations, and evidence of Vice Chancellor support where applicable. The deadline for submission of applications is 14 January 2026 at 5:00pm AEDT. |
| <b>Total Budget: €500,000</b>                   |   |
| <b>Deadline: 14/01/2026</b>                     |   |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://www.australiaindiacentre.org.au/our-programs/maitri-scholarships">https://www.australiaindiacentre.org.au/our-programs/maitri-scholarships</a>   |

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| <b>Call Title:</b>          | <b>TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING GRANTS FROM UNVFVT</b>   |
| <b>Programme:</b>           | <b>United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT)</b>   |
| <b>Objective:</b>           | The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture (UNVFVT) offers grants to civil society actors providing medical, psychological, social, economic, legal, humanitarian or other forms of assistance to victims of torture and members of their families. Eligible civil society actors include NGOs, specialised rehabilitation centres, associations of victims, foundations, and hospitals.   |
| <b>Eligible Activities:</b> | <p>The Fund is the largest Fund managed by OHCHR, contributing to projects implemented by civil society actors in more than 60 countries. It is administered by the United Nations Secretary-General on the advice of a Board of Trustees. The Board meets twice a year, in February on policy issues and October to award grants.</p> <p>Subject to availability of funds and on a competitive basis, the Fund also awards grants for projects seeking to organize training or capacity building activities for Organizations and other professionals that provide direct assistance to victims of torture. These projects may take the form of trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences, peer to peer training or staff exchanges. They are to be conducted primarily for the benefit of the professional staff of the applicant Organization.</p> <p>The Fund's global priority regions are Africa, Asia, Central Asia, and Eastern Europe.</p> |

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| <b>Eligible Applicants:</b>                     | Eligible are only nongovernmental entities with at least 2 years of experience in providing redress and rehabilitation to victims of torture and their family members, including NGOs, rehabilitation centres, foundations, association of victims, private and public hospitals, and legal clinics. |
| <b>Total Budget:</b>                            | <b>€100,000</b>  |
| <b>Deadline:</b>                                | <b>01/03/2025</b>  |
| <b>More information and official documents:</b> | <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/funding-and-budget/trust-funds/united-nations-voluntary-fund-victims-torture/how-apply-annual-grant">https://www.ohchr.org/en/about-us/funding-and-budget/trust-funds/united-nations-voluntary-fund-victims-torture/how-apply-annual-grant</a>            |

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