

CCG INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Weekly Funding Insight
Week Commencing 5th January 2026



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New Opportunities

Call Title:	Long-Term Vision for the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Biodiversity Hotspot
Programme: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	
Objective:	<p>The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, a global programme supporting civil society to safeguard biodiversity hotspots, is inviting proposals to develop a long-term strategic vision for investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands biodiversity hotspot.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>Strengthen the involvement and effectiveness of civil society in the conservation and management of globally important biodiversity, develop a long-term strategic vision for investment in the Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot leading to graduation from CEPF support, establish a financing plan for the hotspot with financial targets for identified Ecosystem-based Adaptation actions, support mainstreaming of Ecosystem-based Adaptation into public policy through four sets of policy targets, develop four private sector engagement strategies to support delivery of Ecosystem-based Adaptation, prepare a detailed civil society organization capacity building and organizational development plan with defined targets, and produce stakeholder consultation reports for each country.</p> <p>The Madagascar and Indian Ocean Islands Hotspot is recognized as one of the most biologically diverse and threatened ecoregions globally, with high vulnerability to climate change. CEPF investment in this hotspot focuses on Madagascar, a Least Developed Country, and three Small Island Developing States, namely the Comoros, Mauritius, and the Seychelles, whose coastal areas and offshore islands share common environmental and socio-economic characteristics. The assignment includes presenting and refining the draft vision through multi-stakeholder consultations and submitting the final document to the CEPF Secretariat and Working Group. The maximum budget available for this award is US\$ 280,000, with an anticipated implementation period from March to November 2026.</p> <p>The selected applicant will lead the development of a long-term vision that guides local civil society towards sustained conservation impact beyond CEPF funding. This process will include establishing an advisory group, reviewing relevant literature, and consulting a wide range of stakeholders across civil society, government, private sector, and donor communities in all four countries. The long-term vision will define clear criteria, targets, and milestones linked to CEPF graduation conditions, identify priority actions for CEPF and other stakeholders, and set out strategies for policy engagement, private sector partnerships, and civil society capacity building in Ecosystem-based Adaptation. Financial targets and a financing plan will support the implementation of the vision, alongside a proposed coordination structure for long-term delivery.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>CEPF will accept proposals from any qualified organization, including non-governmental organizations, private consulting firms, and universities. Government-owned enterprises or institutions are eligible only if they can demonstrate that they possess a legal personality independent of any government agency or actor, have the authority to apply for and receive private funds, and are not able to assert a claim of sovereign immunity.</p>

Total Budget:	\$500,000
Deadline:	26/01/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.cepf.net/grants/open-calls-for-proposals/2025-long-term-vision-madio-cfp

Call Title:	Second Call for Proposals for ReCIPE Big Research Grants
Programme:	Centre for Economic Policy Research
Objective:	<p>The Reducing Conflict and Improving Performance in the Economy programme invites applications to its second call for proposals for Big Research Grants. It supports high-quality research that deepens understanding of how conflict, economic growth, and public policy interact, with a strong focus on low- and middle-income countries where these dynamics are especially critical.</p> <p>The programme’s objective is to fund cutting-edge, quantitative research that meets the standards of leading academic journals while remaining directly relevant to policy debates. ReCIPE is particularly interested in research that explores how economic growth or stagnation influences conflict and fragility, how different growth patterns affect peace and instability, and how economic policies can be designed to reduce conflict risks.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>Supported research spans a wide range of thematic areas, including public policies for peace, private and public investment, institutions and democracy, geoeconomics, climate change and natural resources, information and conflict dynamics, ethnic diversity and nation-building, peacebuilding and reconstruction, and the links between gender, inequality, and conflict. Across all topics, the programme places strong emphasis on new data generation, gender equality and inclusion, and climate and environmental considerations.</p> <p>ReCIPE offers Big Research Grants of up to £100,000 to support ambitious projects that require more time and resources than smaller funding schemes. Applicants are expected to clearly justify the scale of funding requested and demonstrate why the research cannot be delivered through more compact grants.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Applications are welcomed from researchers worldwide, with strong encouragement for collaborative teams that bring together researchers from lower- and higher-income countries. Principal investigators are generally expected to hold a PhD or be enrolled in a PhD programme, although exceptional cases with strong research track records may be considered. The expertise and experience of the full research team are central to the assessment process. In view of the current political situation and the imposition of economic sanctions on various Russian entities by Western governments, they are not currently able to accept proposals for projects that include researchers or members of the research team who are based at Russian institutions.</p> <p>PhD students are eligible to apply for Big Research Grants, but given the scale of funding, they are encouraged to apply as part of a team with more senior co-investigators. This helps demonstrate feasibility and credibility. PhD students acting as principal investigators must also submit a letter of support from their supervisor shortly after the application deadline. Through this programme, ReCIPE aims to advance rigorous research that informs policy and contributes to more peaceful and resilient economies.</p>

Total Budget:	£500,000
Deadline:	27/01/2026
More information and official documents:	https://cepr.org/second-call-proposals-recipe-big-research-grants-brg

Call Title:	Educational Grants for Urothelial Cancer Projects
Programme:	Pfizer
Objective:	The Astellas and Pfizer via the “Pfizer-Astellas Alliance” are collaborating to offer a new grant opportunity seeking proposals for independent medical education initiatives that bring awareness and knowledge to healthcare professionals regarding current medical education gaps in the locally advanced/metastatic urothelial cancer (la/mUC) and the rapidly evolving muscle invasive bladder cancer (MIBC) treatment landscapes.
Eligible Activities:	These grants aim to help healthcare professionals quickly adopt emerging data, including new treatment approaches such as Enfortumab Vedotin-based combinations, into clinical practice. Projects are encouraged to address the educational needs for locally advanced or metastatic urothelial carcinoma (la/mUC) and muscle-invasive bladder cancer (MIBC), taking into account regional differences in treatment access, sequencing norms, and local guideline adoption. The geographic scope for applications is broad, prioritizing regions including Europe, Canada, China, the Middle East, Russia, Turkey, Latin America, Asia-Pacific countries, Australia, and Taiwan. Applications that provide educational content in multiple languages are particularly welcomed. However, due to local laws and regulations, applications from Japan and South Korea cannot be accepted. Grants are available in the range of \$10,000 to \$200,000 per individual project, with a total estimated budget of \$750,000. Awarded amounts can cover direct costs, institutional overhead (capped at 22%), and indirect costs, allowing organizations to fully support educational initiatives and ensure quality delivery.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants include medical, nursing, allied health, and pharmacy professional schools, healthcare institutions, professional organizations, medical societies, and medical education companies. Only organizations, not individuals or independent physician groups, may apply. For collaborative projects involving multiple departments or institutions, all entities must have a meaningful role, with one organization acting as the primary lead. Applicants must be project or program leads, or authorized designees, employed or contracted by the requesting organization. The organization must be legally able to receive award funding directly from Astellas Pharma Global Development. Projects that offer continuing education credit must be submitted by an accredited organization. This funding opportunity provides a platform for healthcare organizations to advance professional education in urothelial cancer, promote best practices, and help clinicians worldwide adapt to evolving treatment landscapes.
Total Budget:	\$500,000
Deadline:	31/01/2026
More information and official documents:	https://cdn.pfizer.com/pfizercom/2025-12/2025-ONC-EX-US-UROTHELIALCANCER-IME_0.pdf?VersionId=DpfpEV5gwsR8v5vgXP25wLbRvOmnh_mA

Call Title:	Funding available for CSOs as Actors of Good Governance and Development in Sierra Leone
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	The European Commission is now accepting grant applications to strengthen local Civil Society Organisations' (CSOs engagement as actors of good governance and development at country level through increased enabling environment, stronger participation in policy and decision making in Sierra Leone. Special support will be given to women's and youth-led CSOs to help them strengthen their capacity and impact.
Eligible Activities:	<p>The program focuses on three key areas. The first targets plastic waste management, aiming to build partnerships between CSOs and the private sector to prevent, collect, sort, and recycle plastic, while creating green job opportunities for youth and women. The second area is the development of organic waste value chains, supporting the production of compost, biogas, and organic fertilizers with strong involvement from youth-led enterprises and private sector actors. The third area seeks to establish a Youth Sounding Board, giving young people a platform to influence development initiatives and make EU cooperation more participatory and relevant.</p> <p>The total indicative budget for this program is EUR 4,702,000. Lot I and Lot II have been allocated EUR 2,101,000 each, while Lot III has EUR 500,000. Grant sizes vary by area, with Lot I and II ranging from €1,800,000 to €2,101,000, and Lot III ranging from €300,000 to €500,000. The planned duration for projects in Lots I and II is between 36 and 60 months, while Lot III projects are expected to run between 18 and 24 months.</p> <p>This program represents a unique chance for local CSOs to strengthen their influence in policymaking, contribute to sustainable development, and create tangible environmental and social impacts in Sierra Leone. It is an opportunity for young leaders, women's organizations, and environmentally focused groups to take an active role in shaping a more sustainable and inclusive future.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	To qualify, organizations must be legal, non-profit entities established either in Sierra Leone or in a European Union member state. International organizations are also eligible under certain conditions. Applicants must be directly responsible for managing their projects and, for some areas, must partner with local organizations to ensure meaningful engagement on the ground.
Total Budget:	€4,702,000
Deadline:	10/02/2026
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/185127PROSPECTSEN

Call Title:	TDF Project Preparation Grant Program
Programme:	Standards and Trade Development Facility
Objective:	The Standards and Trade Development Facility provides Project Preparation Grants to support the development of technically sound and sustainable projects that address sanitary and phytosanitary capacity building needs linked to trade.

Eligible Activities:	Application of an SPS-related capacity evaluation tool, Preparation of feasibility studies, Preparation of project proposals for consideration by the STDF or other donors, Implementation of the standards, guidelines and recommendations of Codex Alimentarius for food safety, the International Plant Protection Convention for plant health, and the World Organization for Animal Health for animal health. Project Preparation Grants provide funding of up to US\$ 50,000 to support preparatory activities that lead to the design of effective SPS capacity building projects. These grants are intended to help applicants develop robust and sustainable project concepts that respond to specific SPS-related trade challenges. Grants may support the application of internationally recognized SPS capacity evaluation and prioritization tools, including tools developed by FAO, WHO, WAOH, IPPC, and the STDF. These activities help identify gaps, assess needs, and prioritize investments that can strengthen national or regional SPS systems. Funding can also be used to prepare feasibility studies that assess the potential impact and economic viability of proposed interventions by examining expected costs and benefits. In addition, Project Preparation Grants may be used to formulate project proposals for submission to the STDF or other potential donors, without the requirement to fully define expected results or detailed activities.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants include public sector entities responsible for SPS measures or policy, private sector entities such as legally registered farmers' organizations and trade or industry associations, non-profit non-governmental organizations with SPS expertise operating in beneficiary countries, and STDF partner organizations. Collaboration between public and private sectors is encouraged to enhance impact and sustainability.
Total Budget:	\$100,000
Deadline:	01/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://standardsfacility.org/project/apply

Call Title:	STDF Project Grant Program
Programme:	Standards and Trade Development Facility
Objective:	The Standards and Trade Development Facility offer a Project Grants significant opportunity for countries and organizations seeking to strengthen food safety, animal health, and plant health systems in line with international sanitary and phytosanitary requirements.
Eligible Activities:	The grants are aimed at practical, results-focused projects that improve compliance with global SPS standards and enhance trade performance. Supported initiatives are expected to respond to clearly identified risks or capacity gaps that have a direct impact on exports and regional or international trade opportunities. Applicants are required to demonstrate commitment by contributing to the project from their own resources. This contribution may be financial or provided in-kind through staff time, facilities, equipment, or other existing assets. The level of contribution depends on the country's income classification, ensuring that support is tailored while encouraging national ownership of the project.

	<p>Funding from the STDF can be combined with resources from other partners, and applications that already have partial funding secured are encouraged. A clear and detailed budget is a core requirement of the application. Applicants must specify the amount requested from the STDF, the beneficiary's own contribution to the project, any funding committed by other sources, and the total project value. The STDF contribution may cover up to a maximum of US\$1,000,000, depending on eligibility and project scope.</p> <p>The grants can support a wide range of project costs, including technical expertise, travel, training activities, and limited essential equipment. Operational expenses, communication activities, and contingency costs may also be included, provided they directly contribute to achieving project objectives.</p> <p>Projects must also allocate resources for communication, monitoring, evaluation, and learning. This ensures transparency, stakeholder engagement, and accountability, while allowing lessons learned to inform future SPS capacity-building efforts. Overall, Project Grants provide a valuable pathway for strengthening SPS systems and improving participation in international trade.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants include public sector institutions responsible for SPS measures, private sector organizations such as producer or trade associations, non-profit organizations with SPS expertise, and STDF partner institutions. Collaboration between public and private actors is strongly encouraged to ensure sustainability and practical impact.
Total Budget:	€1,000,000
Deadline:	01/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://standardsfacility.org/project/apply

Call Title:	Open Call for Residency Hosts 2025-26
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	<p>The European Commission is seeking grant applications to support legal entities interested in hosting artists and cultural professionals for structured residency projects.</p> <p>The program aims to encourage artistic mobility, creative collaboration, and professional development while enabling host organizations to implement impactful cultural initiatives.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The application process is divided into two phases. In the first phase, applicants submit a detailed description of the residency project along with the required legal and organizational documents. Applicants selected at this stage may proceed to the second phase, where they select the artists and cultural professionals who will participate as residents and complete the final application.</p> <p>Residency projects must pursue at least two key objectives. These include exploring new artistic ideas and concepts, connecting through professional networking and audience engagement, creating new artistic or cultural works, and contributing to societal transformation aligned with the New European Bauhaus values and principles.</p> <p>Residencies can last between 21 and 90 days and are categorized as short-term, medium-term, or long-term based on their duration. Funding is provided through a</p>

	<p>fixed-amount payment system, meaning grants are awarded regardless of actual expenses. The total residency grant is calculated based on the residency length, the number of residents, and any applicable top-ups. The maximum grant amount is €55,000, or up to €60,000 when accessibility support is included.</p> <p>The financial support includes a hosting allowance of €50 per day, per resident, to cover implementation costs such as accommodation, equipment, mentoring, and related expenses. Each resident also receives a daily allowance of €30 per day to support living costs such as food and local transportation throughout the residency period. Travel costs are covered through a travel allowance of €400 for distances under 5,000 kilometers and €800 for distances of 5,000 kilometers or more.</p> <p>Additional financial top-ups are available for residents who meet specific conditions. A green mobility top-up of €400 per resident is available for those traveling by means other than air when the travel distance is 600 kilometers or more. A top-up of €175 per resident applies to those legally residing in or traveling to overseas countries and territories or outermost regions. Residents who require a visa to enter the host country may receive a visa top-up of €120. A family top-up of €200 per child is available for residents with children under 18 years old at the time of the residency.</p> <p>This opportunity enables host organizations to support creative exchange, strengthen cultural collaboration across borders, and deliver well-resourced residency projects that benefit both artists and host communities.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>The call is open to legal entities such as non-profit organizations, NGOs, public bodies, foundations, companies, and self-employed professionals. Applicants must be registered and based in a Creative Europe country, including overseas countries and territories and outermost regions. Eligible entities may be newly established or well established, must be active in sectors such as architecture, cultural heritage, design and fashion design, literature, music, performing arts, or visual arts, and must have the capacity to host international artists and cultural professionals.</p> <p>Creative Europe countries include all 27 European Union Member States as well as Albania, Armenia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Georgia, Iceland, Kosovo, Liechtenstein, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, and Ukraine. The program also covers the European Union’s Overseas Countries and Territories and Outermost Regions, including places such as Greenland; multiple French overseas territories; the Azores and Madeira; the Canary Islands; and several Caribbean territories linked to the Netherlands.</p>
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 16/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://culture.ec.europa.eu/culture-moves-europe/call-for-residency-hosts-2025-2026

Call Title:	Call for Global Gateway Early-Stage Investment Mechanism
Programme: European Commission (EC)	
Objective:	The European Commission (EC) is launching a call for proposals under the Global Gateway initiative to support strategic and promising infrastructure projects in

	partner countries, enabling EU companies to advance projects from planning and feasibility stages to implementation and financing.
Eligible Activities:	<p>The focus areas and objectives of this programme include using EU know-how, experience, and technology to de-risk early-stage infrastructure projects, promote EU policy frameworks and standards, increase EU private sector investment in partner countries, enhance the quality and bankability of infrastructure projects in transport, artificial intelligence, energy, and urban development, facilitate sustainable infrastructure aligned with partner countries' priorities and EU strategic interests, and generate development impact through job creation, regional integration, and socio-economic development. Priority considerations include alignment with SDGs and EU policies, alignment with beneficiary countries' strategic priorities, strengthening EU industry presence, local engagement, knowledge transfer, sustainability in line with EU and international standards, financial viability, and the multiplying effect for EU industry in relevant sectors.</p> <p>The call for proposals has a total indicative budget of EUR 40,583,770, allocated across five lots: Transport with EUR 7,800,000, Artificial Intelligence with EUR 4,000,000, Energy with EUR 14,283,770, Urban Development with EUR 4,500,000, and the Railway sector in Latin America and the Caribbean with EUR 10,000,000. Each grant requested under this programme must range between EUR 500,000 and EUR 2,000,000.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants for this programme include legal persons that are private or public bodies, including startups, small and medium-sized enterprises, large companies with internationalization projects, consortia of enterprises, joint ventures in partnership with national or local public promoters, government-linked companies, and, for Artificial Intelligence projects, research institutions and universities. Applicants are encouraged to submit proposals that fully leverage EU expertise and demonstrate clear potential for development impact, sustainability, and financial viability.
Total Budget: €40,583,770	
Deadline: 16/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/184659PROSPECTSEN

Call Title:	AI-Driven Forecasting for Grid Optimization and Consumer Energy Sharing
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	The European Commission is seeking grant applications to advance AI-driven solutions for energy communities and distributed systems to optimize self-consumption and enhance societal engagement.
Eligible Activities:	The focus areas of this opportunity include developing and testing AI-driven forecasting algorithms that use machine learning to optimize the value of collective self-consumption through energy sharing for communities and citizens, upscaling AI tools and models for grid balancing and forecasting to ensure

	<p>consumer participation in a distributed energy system, analyzing social interactions with advanced methods such as game-theoretic models to highlight the role of active consumers and communities, deepening understanding of the needs and concerns of diverse social groups to increase beneficial societal uptake and build trust, and improving operation and maintenance of the grid and distributed assets.</p> <p>The call supports innovations in machine learning forecasting that optimize bidirectional energy transfers and flexibility services, enabling energy communities and jointly acting customers to become active participants in the energy system. Projects are expected to reduce burdens on distribution system operators and residual suppliers while promoting a decentralized, resilient, and digitalized European energy landscape. AI-driven solutions are intended to optimize self-consumption and reduce energy costs for consumers, ensuring technological advancement aligns with societal needs. The total Horizon Europe budget for this topic is EUR 12,000,000, with individual project contributions around EUR 6,000,000.</p> <p>As a Societal-Readiness pilot, proposals must adopt an interdisciplinary approach and integrate social sciences and humanities expertise to meaningfully address societal concerns. SSH experts are expected to support the socio-technological interface, facilitating the design of project objectives that enhance societal readiness and ensure active consideration of social impacts alongside technological development.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, is eligible to participate, including legal entities from non-associated third countries and international organisations, such as international European research organisations, whether or not they are eligible for funding, provided that the conditions set out in the Horizon Europe Regulation and any additional requirements specified in the relevant call or topic are met, and for the purposes of participation, a legal entity is defined as any natural or legal person recognised under national law, European Union law, or international law, possessing legal personality and the capacity to exercise rights and be subject to obligations in its own name, as well as entities that do not have legal personality.
Total Budget: €12,000,000	
Deadline: 31/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2026-03-D3-22

Call Title:	Long-Lifetime and Sustainable Silicon PV Modules with Recyclable Ag and In-Free Design
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	The European Commission is inviting grant proposals to develop photovoltaic (PV) energy systems with improved sustainability, longer lifetimes, and reduced environmental impact.
Eligible Activities:	The focus is on silicon-based solar cells and modules, aiming to reduce the use of Critical Raw Materials, incorporate recycled materials, and enable recyclability and

	<p>repairability. The expected outcomes include ultra-low carbon footprint PV cells and modules with lifetime extension, designs free from silver or indium that allow recyclability and repairability, support for a resilient and competitive European economic base, and reduction of strategic dependencies on critical raw materials and components. The projects are also expected to strengthen the implementation of solar energy joint research and innovation initiatives.</p> <p>The total budget for this call is EUR 15,000,000, with individual contributions expected around EUR 5,000,000. Proposals should focus on extending module lifetimes up to 40 years with resilience to extreme weather, developing cell and module architectures using recycled content and free from harmful substances without compromising quality, creating designs that improve recyclability and repairability, and developing adapted testing methodologies and recycling standards. Technical solutions for on-site PV module repair should be provided, alongside analysis of the environmental benefits of recycling precious metals.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, is eligible to participate, including legal entities from non-associated third countries and international organisations, such as international European research organisations, whether or not they are eligible for funding, provided that the conditions set out in the Horizon Europe Regulation and any additional requirements specified in the relevant call or topic are met, and for the purposes of participation, a legal entity is defined as any natural or legal person recognised under national law, European Union law, or international law, possessing legal personality and the capacity to exercise rights and be subject to obligations in its own name, as well as entities that do not have legal personality.</p>
Total Budget: €15,000,000	
Deadline: 31/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2026-03-D3-12

Call Title:	Hybrid AI-Control Framework for Grid-Scale Energy Storage
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	<p>The European Commission is seeking grant applications to develop advanced energy solutions that combine renewable technologies, smart grid systems, and artificial intelligence to optimize energy storage, improve grid efficiency, and support Europe's journey toward decarbonization and climate neutrality.</p> <p>The European Union is advancing its clean energy and digital transformation agenda through a new initiative aimed at creating a more sustainable, secure, and competitive energy supply between 2026 and 2027. The initiative focuses on developing integrated energy solutions that combine renewable energy technologies, smart energy systems, and advanced digital tools to enhance grid resilience, optimize energy storage, and support the green transition.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The initiative also supports accelerated deployment of carbon capture, use, and storage (CCUS) technologies, as well as carbon dioxide removal for negative emissions, contributing to comprehensive decarbonization strategies. Funding for</p>

	<p>these Horizon Innovation Actions amounts to approximately €14 million, with around €7 million allocated for specific innovation actions under this destination. Projects under this initiative are expected to develop and validate systems that integrate grid-scale energy storage with hybrid artificial intelligence control mechanisms within a digital twin framework. These systems will enable proactive and adaptive management of storage and flexibility assets, optimize energy dispatch, enhance integration with electricity markets, and improve resilience even during extreme events. Real-time management, scalable cross-border integration, and field demonstrations will ensure that these innovations can serve as blueprints for EU-wide deployment.</p> <p>The expected outcomes include optimized energy storage operations that reduce costs, extend asset lifespans, increase market revenues, and boost the uptake of renewable energy. By enhancing grid efficiency, cost-effectiveness, and reliability, these projects aim to lower energy costs for consumers while supporting decarbonization. The initiative also emphasizes digital and AI-driven solutions to facilitate better integration of renewable energy, improve system flexibility, and enhance overall grid resilience.</p> <p>This program aligns with key European strategic priorities, including the green and digital transitions, and contributes to the EU's climate neutrality goals. Activities will focus on renewable energy, energy systems, grids and storage, and carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS). By providing advanced and competitive renewable energy technologies, the initiative strengthens European industries, technology providers, and researchers, while also delivering socioeconomic and environmental benefits to citizens and local communities.</p> <p>Energy producers will gain access to efficient, competitive, and resilient renewable energy solutions, while industries benefit from enhanced export potential and technological innovation. Consumers, including hard-to-reach groups, will experience more equitable and resilient energy markets, reduced energy poverty, and opportunities for upskilling and participation in energy communities.</p> <p>Meanwhile, advanced solutions for grid-scale storage and system integration will support the EU's binding renewable energy targets for 2030 and the long-term goal of full decarbonization by 2050.</p> <p>Through the combination of renewable energy technologies, AI-driven digital twins, and scalable storage solutions, this initiative aims to transform the European energy system into one that is more sustainable, resilient, and competitive, paving the way for a cleaner and smarter energy future.</p>
<p>Eligible Applicants:</p>	<p>Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, is eligible to participate, including legal entities from non-associated third countries and international organisations, such as international European research organisations, whether or not they are eligible for funding, provided that the conditions set out in the Horizon Europe Regulation and any additional requirements specified in the relevant call or topic are met, and for the purposes of participation, a legal entity is defined as any natural or legal person recognised under national law, European Union law, or international law, possessing legal personality and the capacity to exercise rights and be subject to obligations in its own name, as well as entities that do not have legal personality.</p>

Total Budget:	€14,000,000
Deadline:	31/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2026-03-D3-20

Call Title:	MSCA COFUND for Doctoral Candidates or Postdoctoral Researchers
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	<p>The European Commission aims to spread the best practices of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions by supporting international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as international and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career.</p> <p>The aim of the action is to spread the best practices of the MSCA including international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary research training, as well as international and cross-sectoral mobility of researchers at all stages of their career, deeper and more diverse set of research-related and transferable skills and competences, improved employability and career prospects both within academia and beyond, new mind-sets and approaches to R&I work forged through international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary experience, enhanced networking and communication capacities with scientific peers as well as with the general public that will increase and broaden the research and innovation impact, enhanced quality and sustainability of research training, increased global attractiveness, visibility and reputation of the participating organisation(s), stronger R&I capacity and output among participating organisations, increased contribution of the participating organisations to the local, regional and/or national socio-economic ecosystems, and regular feedback of research results into teaching and education at participating organisations.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The action supports new or existing doctoral and postdoctoral programmes that enhance human resources in research and innovation at regional, national, or international level through co-funding under MSCA COFUND. Proposed programmes may be completely open to all research disciplines or may focus on specific disciplines, particularly when aligned with national or regional Research and Innovation Strategies for Smart Specialisation, while still allowing reasonable flexibility for researchers to define their research topics. with an indicative budget of EUR 105.46 million (TBC).</p> <p>Doctoral programmes supported under this action provide research training leading to the award of a doctoral degree in at least one EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country and are based on the EU Principles on Innovative Doctoral Training. These programmes are expected to include substantial training modules addressing transferable skills, including digital skills such as generative AI, and to foster Open Science, knowledge valorisation, research integrity, and where applicable innovation and entrepreneurship, while encouraging international, cross-sectoral, and interdisciplinary mobility.</p> <p>Postdoctoral programmes fund advanced research training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral researchers, focusing on transferable skills, digital competences, Open Science practices, knowledge valorisation, innovation, entrepreneurship, and good scientific conduct. These programmes</p>

	must apply open, transparent, and merit-based selection procedures with international peer review, offer regular selection rounds, and support international, cross-sectoral, and interdisciplinary mobility while allowing researchers to freely choose their research topic and host organisation.
Eligible Applicants:	The MSCA co-funding is provided as a COFUND allowance per researcher-month, and funding synergies with Cohesion Policy Funds and other European Union funding sources are strongly encouraged. Each recruited researcher must have a Career Development Plan jointly established with their supervisor at the start of recruitment, covering research objectives, training and career needs, transferable skills, teaching activities, publication planning, and participation in conferences and public engagement activities, with updates within 18 months.
Total Budget: €105,460,000	
Deadline: 08/04/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://marie-sklodowska-curie-actions.ec.europa.eu/calls/msca-cofund-2026

Call Title:	Business Partnership Challenge for Emerging and Developing Countries 2026
Programme:	Austrian Development Agency
Objective:	The Austrian Development Agency (ADA) has announced the Business Partnership Challenge 2026, a funding opportunity aimed at combating poverty, promoting peace, and protecting the environment.
Eligible Activities:	<p>This initiative supports projects that foster systemic and lasting change by strengthening institutional capacities, connecting local and international partners, and implementing international norms and standards. Projects are also expected to be inclusive, engaging multiple local stakeholders such as enterprises, civil society organizations, and public authorities to reach a wide range of beneficiaries. Innovative approaches, including digital solutions, are encouraged to address development challenges specific to partner countries.</p> <p>Eligible projects must contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and improve living conditions in countries of the Global South, particularly in least developed countries (LDCs). While contributions to any of the 17 SDGs are accepted, all projects are required to focus on SDG 8, which promotes decent jobs and income generation for local stakeholders, and SDG 9, which supports small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and entrepreneurs.</p> <p>A total of EUR 5,000,000 has been allocated for the Business Partnership Challenge 2026, with grants ranging from EUR 500,000 to EUR 1,000,000 per project. Applicants must contribute at least 50 percent of the total project costs in cash. Funding disbursements will be based on verified interim financial statements, accompanied by narrative reports demonstrating project progress and financial accountability. Projects must last between three and five years, allowing for significant and measurable impact.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants include enterprises and chambers engaged in development cooperation under Austria's Development Cooperation Act, as well as voluntary associations and non-profit foundations for which development cooperation is

	<p>part of their statutory purpose and activities. Applicants must be based in Austria, the European Economic Area, or Switzerland, have been in operation for at least three years, and possess the administrative, technical, and financial capacity to successfully implement the project.</p> <p>The Business Partnership Challenge 2026 offers an opportunity for organizations to drive innovative and inclusive development solutions while contributing to global sustainability goals, creating jobs, and strengthening local economies in the Global South.</p>
Total Budget:	€5,000,000
Deadline:	12/04/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.entwicklung.at/austrian-development-agency/calls-auftraege/calls-detail/business-partnership-challenge-2026

Call Title:	AI-Driven Digital Aircraft Design, Manufacturing and MRO
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	<p>The European Commission (EC) invites proposals to develop robust AI-assisted capabilities for digital aircraft design, manufacturing, operation, maintenance, and overhaul.</p> <p>The focus areas include AI-assisted digital aircraft design, redesign, and certification in collaboration with digital twins and virtual products, AI-assisted tools for requirement definition, validation, and verification, and AI-supported digital aircraft manufacturing, operation, condition monitoring, and maintenance activities.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>Proposals may address robust and accelerated training of AI capabilities, high-performance AI-assisted computing for multi-disciplinary design, protocols and standards for the aircraft manufacturing and MRO supply chain, accelerated experimental validation of machine learning algorithms, verifiable use of Generative AI and Large Language Models for regulated areas, AI-assisted prescriptive maintenance procedures, and human-in-the-loop AI-assisted maintenance assistance systems.</p> <p>The call is part of Horizon Research and Innovation Actions (RIA), with a total contribution of €10,000,000 and individual project funding around €5,000,000. The scope covers all aircraft components, including propulsion, aerostructures, systems, and their integration. Projects are expected to enhance efficiency, safety, circularity, and digital twin integration across the aircraft lifecycle.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>Any legal entity is eligible to participate, regardless of its place of establishment, including entities from non-associated third countries and international organisations such as international European research organisations, whether or not they are eligible for funding, provided that they meet the conditions set out in the Horizon Europe Regulation along with any additional requirements specified in the relevant call or topic.</p>

Total Budget:	€10,000,000
Deadline:	14/04/2026
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2026-05-D5-07

Call Title:	Improving Climate and Weather Models for Africa
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	The European Commission is inviting grant applications to strengthen weather and climate modelling in Africa to support more effective adaptation, disaster risk management, and capacity building.
Eligible Activities:	<p>The project focuses on improving the quality and performance of weather and climate models tailored to Africa’s needs, enhancing the provision of weather predictions and climate projections to enable communities to respond to climate impacts, and bolstering African climate research to reduce reliance on external expertise, increase representation in international climate bodies, and contribute to global climate initiatives. Africa faces high vulnerability to climate change due to limited adaptive capacity, and despite global advancements in climate science, many benefits remain underutilized on the continent. This initiative seeks to address knowledge gaps in weather and climate modelling specific to Africa, improving the understanding and representation of regional, interregional, and continental climate dynamics. It aims to enhance model predictive skill and reduce uncertainties in rainfall and extreme weather events by leveraging observational data to advance process-based understanding across land, ocean, and atmospheric systems. Improved data collection, assimilation, and quality assurance, as well as integration of local and rescued historical datasets, are central to providing high-quality model inputs. Digital technologies, including AI and machine learning, as well as high-performance computing, are encouraged to support these objectives.</p> <p>Research efforts are expected to be conducted in close collaboration between African and European teams to ensure relevance, co-ownership, and acceptance of solutions by African stakeholders. Capacity building and knowledge exchange are essential to equip African researchers with the tools and expertise needed for sustainable progress. Strong partnerships with universities, research institutions, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, and African Regional Climate Centers will facilitate mutual learning and collaboration.</p> <p>The initiative also emphasizes synergies with other EU-supported programs in climate modelling and capacity development, such as Regional Centres of Excellence focused on the green transition. Facilitating access to European research infrastructures, including supercomputing resources and data repositories, will further strengthen institutional and regional climate expertise in Africa.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	Any legal entity is eligible to participate, regardless of its place of establishment, including entities from non-associated third countries and international organisations such as international European research organisations, whether or not they are eligible for funding, provided that they meet the conditions set out in



	the Horizon Europe Regulation along with any additional requirements specified in the relevant call or topic.
Total Budget:	€21,000,000
Deadline:	15/04/2026
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-CL5-2026-07-D1-05

Call Title:	Entries open for VinFuture Prize
Programme:	VinFuture Prize
Objective:	<p>The VinFuture Prize honors scientific research and breakthrough technological innovations that can make a significant difference in the daily lives of millions of people.</p> <p>The VinFuture Prizes include a US\$3 million Grand Prize and three US\$500,000 Special Prizes that honour breakthrough scientific and technological innovations with proven or potential real-world impact aligned with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals.</p>
Eligible Activities:	<p>The VinFuture Special Prize for Innovators with Outstanding Achievements in Emerging Fields recognises work in non-traditional and interdisciplinary areas where multiple disciplines merge to form new fields, such as Quantum Computing, Bioelectronics, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Robotics, Internet of Things, Biometrics, Quantum Biology and Bioengineering.</p> <p>The VinFuture Prize will partner with prestigious academic institutions and organizations around the globe to identify the most outstanding nominations that create meaningful change in the everyday lives of millions of people. No self-nominations are accepted and only nominations submitted in English through the official online nomination system will be considered.</p> <p>Both organizational or institutional nominators and individual nominators are eligible to submit nominations, including universities, research institutes, academies of science and technology, scientific associations, corporations, industries, innovation incubators and prominent individuals in relevant fields.</p> <p>The deadline for nomination submissions for the 2026 VinFuture Prizes is 2:00 PM, April 17th, 2026 (Vietnam Time, GMT +7). Nominations received after this deadline will be considered for the following year.</p>
Eligible Applicants:	<p>The awards are open to individual researchers or teams involved in developing scientifically validated solutions that have benefited or can benefit, millions of people globally, with special recognition for innovators from developing countries, women innovators and innovators working in emerging and interdisciplinary fields.</p> <p>The VinFuture Special Prize for Women Innovators is awarded only to women researchers or innovators, with no restriction on nationality, age, social status or economic background of the nominees, highlighting their significant contributions to science, technology and innovation.</p>

Total Budget: \$3,000,000	
Deadline: 17/04/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://vinfutureprize.org/vinfuture-prize-nomination/

Link to Previous Funding Newsletters

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

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