CCG INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Weekly Funding Insight
Week Commencing 16th February 2026

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New Opportunities

Call Title:	**CULTURE HELPS SOLIDARITY – FIRST CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR INDIVIDUAL GRANTS**
Programme:	**European Commission (EC) - CREA**
Objective:	Culture Helps Solidarity supports arts and culture professionals from Ukraine to sustain creativity, resilience, and community connection during and after the war. Running until 2028, it combines three grant schemes (individual grants, thematic project grants and collaboration grants) and a rich programme of mentoring, learning, and peer exchange. Culture Helps Solidarity is co-financed by the EU through Creative Europe and implemented by the European Cultural Foundation (Amsterdam) with Insha Osvita (Kyiv), zusa (Berlin), and the VETERANKA Movement (Kyiv).
Eligible Activities:	The Individual Grants provide direct, flexible support to Ukrainian cultural professionals who are working – often voluntarily – with displaced people and refugees, particularly vulnerable communities such as veterans, in Ukraine or in Creative Europe (CE) countries. These grants are designed to offer quick, accessible and humane assistance – not project implementation support – strengthening the personal wellbeing, resilience and mental health of those individuals, enabling them to continue their crucial cultural, community-based work in extremely challenging circumstances. Actions must take place in Ukraine and EU member states.
Eligible Applicants:	Individual grants are strictly dedicated to individuals, who: are aged 18 and above; reside in Ukraine or have fled from Ukraine to one of the Creative Europe countries; artists, cultural managers, or activists volunteers working with displaced persons in Ukraine, or with refugees from Ukraine in one of the Creative Europe countries, particularly veterans; submit a complete application form in either Ukrainian or English language.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 23/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/competitive-calls-cs/13181

Call Title:	**Request for Proposals: Science Grant Program**
Programme:	**EQT Foundation**
Objective:	The EQT Foundation has launched a new open call for proposals under its Science Grants Program to focus on critical mineral substitutes for the green transition. The program focuses on substitutes for critical minerals in energy storage and conversion, rare-earth-free magnets and machine designs, earth-abundant materials for solar, power electronics, and grid technologies, and circular substitutes achieved through recycling, reuse, and virtual substitution that reduce demand for virgin critical minerals.
Eligible Activities:	Clean energy technologies such as batteries, electric motors, power electronics, photovoltaics, and electrolyzers currently depend on a limited set of critical minerals. These materials often have concentrated supply chains and are

associated with environmental and social challenges, creating potential bottlenecks as demand for clean technologies increases.

By backing frontier science that can replace or significantly reduce the use of these materials while improving performance, cost, and sustainability, the program seeks to enable more resilient and scalable pathways for the green transition. The emphasis is on approaches that remain manufacturable and competitive as they move toward deployment.

Beyond funding, selected researchers will gain access to EQT's global network, including technical expertise, potential industry partners, and tailored commercialization and founder support to help bridge the gap between scientific discovery and scalable impact.

Applications closes on February 25, 2026, at 23:59 CET. Proposals will be evaluated by a panel of scientific, technical, and translational experts, with shortlisted applicants invited for interviews before final decisions are communicated.

Eligible Applicants:	The initiative will award catalytic, non-dilutive grants ranging from €25,000 to €100,000 to researchers affiliated with accredited nonprofit institutions worldwide who are developing bold scientific solutions with strong translational potential. The support is intended to accelerate laboratory-stage innovations toward real-world application.
Total Budget: €500,000	
Deadline: 25/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://eqtgroup.com/news/eqt-foundation-opens-applications-for-breakthrough-science-grants-to-reduce-dependence-on-critical-minerals-for-the-green-transition-2026-01-27

Call Title:	**Call for Innovation Studies for the Development of Generative AI Models**
Programme: Fortissimo Plus	
Objective:	The FFplus initiative has launched its second open call for innovation studies, aiming to support SMEs and start-ups in enhancing their capabilities in generative AI through access to large-scale HPC resources. The call targets innovation studies that address specific business challenges defined by the main participant SME, emphasizing the strategic use of HPC resources to advance generative AI applications and technologies. This initiative presents a unique opportunity for European SMEs and start-ups to accelerate their research and innovation in the generative AI sector, strengthen their competitive position, and explore new business models by leveraging advanced computational resources.
Eligible Activities:	This call focuses on facilitating and strengthening the technological development of European SMEs in the area of generative AI, supporting SMEs and start-ups proficient in generative AI, professional software development, and data processing to enhance their innovation potential by leveraging new generative AI models such as Large Language Models (LLMs), building on existing expertise, application domain, business models, and potential for expansion. The innovation studies are expected to use large-scale European HPC resources, including pre-

exascale and exascale supercomputers, to develop and customize generative AI models, including foundation and large language models.

The maximum duration of innovation studies is 10 months, with funding of up to €200,000 for a single SME applicant, and up to €300,000 for a consortium with multiple partners. Supporting participants are eligible for a maximum of €150,000 under this call, with engineering and technical activities as the only funded tasks. Business consultancy, marketing, administrative, and other non-technical activities are not eligible. The funding principle requires at least 50% of the funding to be allocated to the main participant, and SMEs cannot receive funding for both FFplus business experiments and innovation studies simultaneously.

Eligible Applicants:	Eligible participants include SMEs or start-ups as the main applicant, optionally supported by up to two additional organizations with clearly defined roles, with a maximum of three consortium partners per proposal. Only organizations established in EU Member States or in EEA countries and countries associated with the Digital Europe Programme are eligible to receive funding, and natural persons are not eligible. FFplus beneficiaries cannot participate in this call either as main or supporting participants.

Total Budget: €500,000	
Deadline: 25/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.ffplus-project.eu/en/open-call/innovation-studies/

Call Title:	EAST MELANESIAN ISLANDS
Programme: Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)	
Objective:	CEPF will institute and manage a six-year grants making program to support to civil society organizations to promote biodiversity conservation in the East Melanesian Islands (EMI) Biodiversity Hotspot. Program activities will take place in New Guinea Islands Region of Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu. The RIT will provide leadership support to carry out the investment strategy described in the ecosystem profile. CEPF expects the ecosystem profile to be approved by April 2026 for a grant-making budget of approximately US$8.0 million.
Eligible Activities:	CEPF seeks an organization or consortium to serve as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for a period of six years, from July 2026 to June 2032. During this period, it is anticipated that the RIT will support the development and oversight of a portfolio of approximately 100 grants to nongovernmental organizations, community-based organizations, academic institutions, private companies and other civil society organizations. Actions can take place in Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.
Eligible Applicants:	Nongovernment organizations and other civil society organizations with substantial experience in biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and/or capacity building may apply for funding.

Total Budget:	$1,000,000+
Deadline:	02/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.cepf.net/resources/calls-for-proposals/call-for-proposals-rit-emi-jan-2026

Call Title:	**RELOAD3**
Programme: UNDP	
Objective:	The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is implementing the ReLOaD3 Programme financed by the European Union, through the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance – Civil Society Facility. The Regional Programme on Local Democracy in the Western Balkans 3 (ReLOaD3) is a continuation of the EU-UNDP partnership and the previously supported initiatives, ReLOaD1 and ReLOaD2, which were implemented between 2017 and 2024.
Eligible Activities:	The ReLOaD3 program will run until January 2029 and aims to strengthen partnerships between local authorities and civil society by creating a more enabling environment for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). This is achieved through support for transparent public funding, a stimulating legal framework, and increased civic participation in the creation, implementation, and monitoring of public policies. The Municipality of Berovo and the ReLOaD3 program invite all civil society organizations to submit project proposals that are consistent with the development goals of the Municipality of Berovo and cover the following priority areas: • Local Economic Development and Tourism • Culture and Cultural Heritage • Social Protection and Human Rights • Environment, Energy Efficiency, and Climate Change • Youth and Sport Actions must take place in North Macedonia. The program includes five municipalities: Aerodrom, Berovo, Kavadarci, Centar, and Štip.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible are civil society organizations.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 05/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.undp.org/north-macedonia/publications/public-call-civil-society-organizations-submit-project-proposals-within-regional-programme-local-democracy-western-1

Call Title:	**Startup Challenges to Drive AI, Cybersecurity, and Home Platform Innovation**
Programme: VivaTech	
Objective:	Orange, in partnership with VivaTech, is launching startup challenges to accelerate innovation in AI, cybersecurity, and home platform services, empowering startups to create impactful solutions for businesses and consumers.

	Focus areas include accelerating AI adoption for businesses of all sizes through the Live Intelligence ecosystem, developing secure and next-generation cybersecurity and post-quantum cryptography solutions, and creating innovative services for the Livebox prplOS home platform. Other priorities cover SMB and enterprise operations, customer and employee experiences, legal and industrial processes, legacy IT automation, connectivity, IoT, security, safety, privacy, entertainment, and broadband service improvements.
Eligible Activities:	Through the Live Intelligence ecosystem, Orange enables businesses to leverage generative AI via a secure SaaS platform supporting multiple large language models. Startups are invited to develop AI agents or applications for a dedicated AI store, addressing software engineering, contracts, industrial maintenance, and legacy IT automation. Solutions will be evaluated for robustness, sovereignty, strategic alignment, and business potential, with finalists gaining opportunities to collaborate with Orange and showcase innovations through VivaTech's global innovation network. In cybersecurity, Orange combines AI expertise with advanced protection strategies to secure networks and prepare for post-quantum cryptography. Startups are encouraged to develop real-time monitoring, AI-assisted penetration testing, secure governance of AI agents, automated cryptographic inventory, and cryptographic agility, all adhering to international standards for compliance and interoperability. The Livebox prplOS platform allows startups to create local, standalone, or hybrid applications that enhance connectivity, privacy, entertainment, elderly care, and customer support for consumers and SOHO markets. These solutions highlight the advantages of low-latency, on-device, or hybrid execution, with a strong focus on user-friendly interfaces and practical use cases.
Eligible Applicants:	Selected startups will gain global exposure through Orange's Open Innovation acceleration facilities, access to technical and business support, and potential strategic distribution agreements across Europe and the MEA region. Evaluation focuses on market differentiation, execution performance, business potential, and team quality, all in alignment with VivaTech's mission to identify and support high-impact, innovative startups.
Total Budget: €Not Available	
Deadline: 09/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://vivatech.com/challenges/orange-2026

Call Title:	CORAL LOCAL INNOVATION PROGRAM (CLIP) 2026
Programme:	**Coral Research & Development Accelerator Platform (CORDAP)**
Objective:	The Coral Local Innovation Program (CLIP) is a Small Grants Program from CORDAP that aims to support innovative research and development (R&D) projects that address local, affordable solutions to coral conservation and restoration challenges in developing countries. These projects are expected to have the potential for scalability and replication in other contexts. The program also places a strong emphasis on capacity development in developing nations.

| Eligible Activities: | This call was specifically designed to fund researchers and teams from LMICs, but supporting partners and collaborators can be from non-LMIC nations. Importantly, the panel of reviewers of this call is composed entirely of coral experts from developing nations.

Actions can take place in various countries from the OECD DAC list. |
|---|---|
| Eligible Applicants: | Eligible Organizations: Not-for-profits, for-profits, higher education institutions, research institutes, and government organizations. Organizations must be legally eligible to receive international funding and provide evidence of existence through at least two years of annual reports. |

Total Budget:	€100,000
Deadline:	10/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://cordap.org/clip-award/

Call Title:	**Indo-Burma**
Programme:	**Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)**
Objective:	CEPF is designed to safeguard Earth's biologically richest and most threatened regions: biodiversity hotspots. CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, Fondation Hans Wilsdorf, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Canada, the Government of Japan and the World Bank. In the Indo-Burma Hotspot, it is also supported by Margaret A. Cargill Philanthropies. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in biodiversity conservation. The Indo-Burma Hotspot comprises all non-marine parts of Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, plus parts of southern China.
Eligible Activities:	The current call for LOIs is limited to projects that address one or more of Strategic Directions 3 and 6 and Investment Priority 9.1. Another call will be launched in the second half of 2026, covering Strategic Directions 1 and 2 and Investment Priorities 9.2, 9.3 and 9.4. Future calls will be announced on CEPF and IUCN's website and social media.

Actions must take place in Cambodia, China, Lao PDR, Thailand and Vietnam. |
| Eligible Applicants: | Please note that this call is restricted to applications from local civil society organizations, which are defined as independent organizations headquartered in one of the six countries of the Indo-Burma Hotspot. |

Total Budget:	€1,000,000
Deadline:	16/03/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.cepf.net/grants/open-calls-for-proposals/2026-first-call-for-letters-of-inquiry-indo-burma-phase-iv

Call Title:	**Small Business Champions 2026: AI-Powered Solutions for MSME International Trade**

Programme:	International Chamber of Commerce
Objective:	The International Chamber of Commerce (ICC), the International Trade Centre (ITC), the WTO MSME Group, and the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) are inviting innovative proposals that help micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) use artificial intelligence (AI) to enhance their participation in international trade.
Eligible Activities:	This year's Small Business Champions Competition is focused on the transformational power of AI in global trade and aims to empower small businesses to optimize supply chains, reduce costs, and overcome trade barriers. AI-driven tools are now able to provide real-time analytics, track shipments, anticipate disruptions, and enhance compliance capabilities, enabling small businesses to navigate complex and evolving market conditions more effectively. The competition seeks projects that harness AI to streamline supply chains and reduce transaction costs, while also supporting small businesses to compete more effectively on the global stage. Proposals may include AI-powered solutions that facilitate international trade, or training programs, workshops, or campaigns that teach small businesses how to use AI to enhance their capability to trade internationally. Other proposals with a clear link to small businesses, international trade, and artificial intelligence are also welcome. Raise awareness among businesses and policymakers of the diversity and opportunities for AI tools to support MSME international trade, showcase new approaches and solutions that help MSMEs adopt AI for global commerce, and promote inclusive participation of small businesses in international markets through accessible and effective AI-enabled trade support. The main award for the winning proposal is an invitation from ITU to participate in the AI for Good Global Summit on 8 July 2026. The winner will join a fireside chat with competition organizers to discuss the use of AI to support international trade. This also includes a Speaker Summit pass, providing the opportunity to attend all sessions, network with global AI and trade experts, and showcase the winning initiative on an international stage. Training and mentoring opportunities will be discussed with each winner according to their needs, while winning submissions will be promoted by the ICC.
Eligible Applicants:	Applications are open to small businesses developing innovative AI solutions for MSMEs, industry associations, chambers of commerce, NGOs, or similar entities providing training or support services in AI and international trade, as well as partnerships involving any of these groups. The competition is seeking initiatives that help MSMEs harness the power of AI for trade or small businesses that are already using AI to enhance their operations and global competitiveness.
Total Budget: €Not Available	
Deadline: 16/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.intracen.org/news-and-events/news/call-for-proposals-small-business-champions-2026

Call Title:	**European Training Foundation Launches Green Skills Award 2026**

Programme:	European Training Foundation
Objective:	The European Training Foundation has launched the Green Skills Award 2026 to identify and showcase initiatives that are driving meaningful change in the green transition across education, work, communities and digital spaces.
Eligible Activities:	The Green Skills Award recognises initiatives that help people develop green skills, contribute to a fair transition, support sustainability, promote resource efficiency, integrate sustainability into education and training, modernise skills for green jobs, support vulnerable groups, reshape job profiles, and make climate and sustainability knowledge accessible to wider audiences. The award is organised annually by the European Training Foundation and highlights completed initiatives that have already delivered concrete and verifiable results in the development and application of green skills. It aims to amplify impactful practices whose influence often remains local, by giving them an international platform. Each year, the award brings forward stories from schools embedding sustainability across curricula, vocational education and training providers translating decarbonisation into practical learning, employers integrating green skills into real work environments, social partners and non-governmental organisations supporting vulnerable workers, employment services opening pathways to fair green jobs, and creators engaging new audiences with sustainability content. Finalists and winners gain international visibility through European Training Foundation, European Commission and European External Action Service channels. Selected initiatives are professionally documented through storytelling films and promoted during major European Union events such as EU Green Week and the ETF Skills Summit, while also benefiting from networking and partnership opportunities with peers and policymakers. For the 2026 edition, a special #ForOurPlanet Prize will recognise exceptional initiatives focused on nature restoration and preservation, highlighting their contribution to sustainability and environmental protection.
Eligible Applicants:	Applications are open to a wide range of organisations and actors involved in developing or promoting green skills, including employers and SMEs, social partners and NGOs, vocational education and training providers, schools, employment services, and creators or influencers. Each category will have its own winner, and both local projects and national-level initiatives are eligible, provided they are completed and demonstrate measurable impact, originality, innovation, and scalability.
Total Budget: €Not Available	
Deadline: 27/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.etf.europa.eu/en/news-and-events/news/green-skills-award-2026-call-applications-now-open

Call Title:	Moonshots for Development Open Innovation Challenge
Programme:	Moonshots for Development (M4D)
Objective:	The Moonshots for Development Open Innovation Challenge invites innovators to pilot solutions that address the needs of smallholder farmers, rural communities, and indigenous populations through resilient food systems.

	The focus areas include four challenge tracks: Insurance, Agroecology, Digital Extension, and Fragility, with special interest in solutions using AI and geospatial analysis, and a strong emphasis on accessibility for rural households and context-appropriate technology.
Eligible Activities:	The Open Innovation Challenge is powered by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the IDB Lab, the CGIAR Accelerate for Impact Platform (A4IP), the European Space Agency (ESA), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the International Innovation Hub (IIH), and the European Institute of Innovation for Sustainability (EIIS). Through this initiative, innovators are invited to develop and pilot solutions that build resilient food systems across four thematic tracks: Insurance solutions for resilient food systems, reducing drivers of fragility, digital extension for accountable service delivery, and agroecology for productive and climate-resilient systems. The challenge also encourages cross-cutting approaches that strengthen the effectiveness and scalability of solutions, including geospatial analysis and AI for Good. The Challenge is particularly excited about solutions that center rural communities, ensuring that impact is accessible to smallholder farmers and rural households. Where solutions engage end-users directly, technology must be context appropriate, taking into account issues such as internet connectivity and feature phone prevalence. There is special interest in innovations that leverage geospatial analysis to advance solutions related to insurance, agroecology, digital extension, and fragility. Applicants are also encouraged to embed AI to accelerate data interpretation, enhance prediction and modeling, personalize advisory services, or otherwise enable proposed solutions.
Eligible Applicants:	Innovators are invited to apply for this transformative program, which offers up to $360,000 in funding and support, and provides a structured innovation journey designed to elevate ideas into scalable solutions. Teams selected for the program begin with a Phase 0 virtual bootcamp focused on business model development and receive a month of personalized mentorship to lay the foundation for success in later stages. Selected teams then progress to Phase 1, where startups can secure up to $10,000 USD and benefit from bespoke coaching and access to M4D resources and networks. Top teams advance to Phase 2, receiving up to $100,000 USD along with pilot and implementation support. Finalists in Phase 3 have the potential to earn up to $250,000 USD and receive comprehensive support to scale their enterprises. The program is open to teams with a validated business model and a functional product or service already deployed in a live environment.
Total Budget: $500,000	
Deadline: 30/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.m4d.org/openinnovationchallenge

Call Title:	**Transform Your Startup with $3M in Funding and Expert Mentorship**

Programme:	CenterState
Objective:	CenterState offers startups an unparalleled opportunity to accelerate growth and innovation in the uncrewed systems, automation, and advanced air mobility space. Focus areas include UAS and robotics technology, pre-seed and seed stage startup development, mentorship and executive guidance, access to funding and workspace, strategic partnerships, revenue and MVP validation, and integration into the Central New York ecosystem.
Eligible Activities:	GENIUS NY is the world's largest accelerator for UAS and robotics, providing participants with $3 million in investment funding, industry mentorship, executive advisors, a comprehensive UAS ecosystem, targeted programming and workshops, free office space with full amenities, and recruiting and fundraising support. One winner receives $1 million, and four additional participants secure $500,000 investments, giving startups the financial boost needed to scale quickly. Participants gain free access to a state-of-the-art tech incubator, complete with a makerspace, hardware lab, and rooftop UAS testing facilities, fostering hands-on development and innovation. The program also connects startups to a tailored network of mentors, advisors, and industry experts to provide guidance in marketing, sales, web development, recruiting, manufacturing, and business operations. In addition to mentorship, GENIUS NY offers extensive networking opportunities with customers, corporate partners, manufacturing resources, and service providers to help startups grow. In-house design, fundraising support, and access to Syracuse University resources ensure participants can recruit top talent, enhance marketing strategies, and secure further funding. Programs and events, including workshops, keynote speeches, pitch coaching, investor demo days, and team-building activities such as bowling or Syracuse basketball games, keep teams engaged while fostering growth. Startups can also access the UAS Job Fund to secure grants aimed at job creation in New York, with funding dedicated to team expansion and operations. Participants benefit from $200,000 in in-kind support, which includes venture diligence preparation, manufacturing guidance, and access to platforms such as PitchBook, LivePlan, and GovSpend, as well as AWS credits and additional perks. Being part of the growing UAS ecosystem, participants collaborate with partners like NUAIR, the NY FAA Test Site, and GENIUS NY alumni, further strengthening strategic connections. GENIUS NY provides startups not only with funding but also with the infrastructure, mentorship, network, and strategic support to turn innovative ideas into successful businesses.
Eligible Applicants:	Ideal applicants are startups in uncrewed systems, automation, or advanced air mobility that are at pre-seed or seed stages, with domain expertise, a strong team, traction with paying customers, revenue or an MVP, and a compelling reason to locate in Central New York. Companies must be venture-backable, demonstrate high growth potential, comply with GENIUS NY's terms, commit to living full-time in Central New York during the program, communicate in English, and hold proper travel/work visas to operate in the United States.

Total Budget:	$3,000,000
Deadline:	17/05/2026
More information and official documents:	https://geniusny.com/applynow/

Call Title:	IF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE
Programme: iF	
Objective:	The iF SOCIAL IMPACT PRIZE aims to publish and support projects that contribute to our society. The best projects will be honored with a total prize money of €100,000. You are welcome to submit all projects that contribute to solving the most urgent challenges of our time and help to improve conditions – your CSR projects or your active support for a specific aspect of society.
Eligible Activities:	The size of the project does not really matter but the idea, the relevance of the problem, the target groups and the sustainable impact will be of interest to their online visitors. All submissions should be in line with the 15 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Actions can take place in various countries worldwide.
Eligible Applicants:	Companies, design studios, NGOs, foundations, social enterprises, public and other organizations are welcome to submit.

Total Budget:	€100,000
Deadline:	03/06/2026
More information and official documents:	https://ifdesign.com/en/if-social-impact-prize

Call Title:	Stimulating Innovative Research Grant Program
Programme: MERCK	
Objective:	The Merck has launched its Stimulating Innovative Research Grant Program to encourage innovation in key areas that will shape the future.
Eligible Activities:	The available focus areas for 2026 include in-vitro models and assays to identify novel therapies for neuroinflammatory diseases, artificial intelligence in cell culture media and process development, innovative approaches to economical remediation of contaminated high-volume materials, condensate-based high-sensitivity cell-free screening assays for the modulation of protein–protein interactions, and advancing molecule synthesis and discovery through access to Synthia® Retrosynthesis Software, training, and scientific interaction. Grants of up to 500,000 EUR per year for a maximum duration of three years are available under the programme, with individual funding limits and project durations defined for each focus area. Applications are open to scientists at all career stages who are affiliated with research-based institutions, universities, or companies, and applicants may apply for more than one grant.

	Deep-dive workshops form a key collaborative phase of the programme, during which shortlisted teams work with Merck managers and scientists to jointly refine and optimise their project proposals. Finalists are informed in October, and workshops are scheduled for November and December 2026, concluding with the selection of grant recipients. The final stage involves the research grant funding phase, during which Merck enters into bilateral collaboration agreements with successful applicants to enable project initiation and funding disbursement. Throughout the funding period, grant recipients engage in regular interactions with Merck scientists, reflecting the programme's emphasis on collaborative research and industry guidance.
Eligible Applicants:	The application process takes place in multiple stages, beginning with the submission of a non-confidential application. Proposals that pass the initial evaluation are invited to progress to the next stage, which involves submitting a full proposal under confidentiality and participating in a collaborative deep-dive workshop. All applicants are informed of the selection committee's decision.
Total Budget: €1,000,000	
Deadline: 31/08/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.merckgroup.com/en/research/open-innovation/research-grants.html

Call Title:	**DAN DAVID PRIZE 2027**
Programme: Dan David Foundation	
Objective:	The Dan David Prize recognizes and encourages innovative and interdisciplinary research that cuts across traditional boundaries and paradigms. It aims to foster universal values of excellence, creativity, justice, democracy and progress and to promote the scientific, technological and humanistic achievements that advance and improve the world. The Dan David Prize covers three time dimensions – Past, Present and Future – that represent realms of human achievement.
Eligible Activities:	Each year the International Board chooses one field within each time dimension. Following a review process by independent Review Committees comprised of renowned scholars and professionals, the International Board then chooses the laureates for each field. The Past refers to fields that expand knowledge of former times. The Present recognizes achievements that shape and enrich society today. Future focuses on breakthroughs that hold great promise for improvement of the world. Actions can take place worldwide.
Eligible Applicants:	The prizes are granted to individuals or institutions with proven, exceptional, distinct excellence in the sciences, arts, humanities, public service and business, that have made and continue to make an outstanding contribution to humanity on the basis of merit, without discrimination of gender, race, religion, nationality, or political affiliation.

Total Budget:	€3,000,000
Deadline:	31/10/2026
More information and official documents:	https://www.dandavidprize.org/

Call Title:	SMALL-SCALE PROJECTS FROM GERMAN EMBASSY NORTH MACEDONIA
Programme:	German Embassy Macedonia
Objective:	Micro-projects of the German Embassy in North Macedonia aim at promoting social and economic development and covering the basic needs of the most vulnerable groups.
Eligible Activities:	Examples of funded projects are: (1) water and sanitation – supply of drinking water, procurement of a microscope for the examination of water quality, construction or renovation of a simple fountain, a water catch basin, procurement of water meters; (2) agriculture and rural development – community gardens, livestock rearing, environmental protection, procurement of small machinery, solar dryers; (3) health – procurement of hospital equipment, improvement of sanitary sections, training of mothers of children with disability; (4) schools and education – procurement of books and teaching materials, classroom equipment. Actions must take place in North Macedonia.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible are local non-profit organisations (NGOs, self help groups, kindergartens, etc.).
Total Budget:	€100,000
Deadline:	Ongoing
More information and official documents:	https://skopje.diplo.de/mk-de/themen/wirtschaft/kleinstprojekte/1950376

Link to Previous Funding Newsletters
https://www.consultcormack.com/funding-newsletter

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