

International collaboration - calls 2025

CZP3 Politechnika Śląska
Contact: czp3@polsl.pl

Table of content

1. Horizon Europe.....	4
1.1 Pillar I – Excellent Science.....	4
1.1.1 European Research Council	4
1.1.2 Marie Skłodowska – Curie Actions.....	4
1.1.3 Research Infrastructures.	5
1.2. Pillar II - Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness.....	5
1.2.1 Health	6
1.2.2 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society	6
1.2.3 Civil security and Society.....	6
1.2.4 Digital, Industry and Space.....	7
1.2.5 Climate, Energy and Mobility	7
1.2.6 Food, bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.....	7
Missions	7
European Partnerships	8
1.3 Pillar III – Innovative Europe	9
1.3.1 European Innovation Council (EIC)	9
1.3.2 European Innovation Ecosystems	10
1.3.3 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)	10
1.4 Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area.	11
1.4.1 Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence	11
1.4.2 Strengthening the European Research Area.....	11
2. EURATOM – Euratom Research and Training Programme	12
3. The European Defence Fund	13
4. EU4HEALTH (EU4H)	13
5. Research Fund for Coal and Steel.....	14
7 . CEI – Central European Initiative	14
8.NCBR The National Centre for Technology and Development – international calls funded nationally	16
9.NCN National Science Centre – international calls funded nationally.....	17

Ladies and Gentlemen!

Poland has built world-class research facilities in recent years under the structural funds. Now there is nothing left to do, but to reach for more funds for research activities and to create innovations on an international scale that will benefit our society. To finance these ambitious, often very large projects, it is worthwhile to undertake cooperation between science and industry not only on a national scale, but also with foreign partners.

That's why we are giving you a brief guide to the public sources of funding for research activities available to Polish partners, both scientific and industrial.

You often ask whether the implementation of such projects pays off and we, based on years of experience based on observation of already implemented projects, answer - YES.

YES, because international projects are:

- a possibility to create interesting innovative solutions*
- additional funds for reagents, materials, equipment, publications, patents, travel, staff salaries, etc.*
- career and personal development*
- wide contacts often resulting in further invitations for cooperation*
- points in periodic evaluation of employees*
- points in the evaluation of the unit affecting the amount of subsidies for the unit*
- prestige resulting from participation in an international project building further contacts with stakeholders of the entire innovation process*
- an interesting, unique and addictive experience.*

We hope that you will find these materials useful.

1. Horizon Europe

1.1 Pillar I – Excellent Science

1.1.1 European Research Council

European Research Council funds frontier research conducted by excellent scientists (Principal Investigators/PI) and their teams. Projects are financed up to 100% of eligible costs and can be from any field of research. Research must be conducted in a public or private research organization (Host Institution/HI). It could be the HI where the applicant already works, or any other HI located in one of the EU Member States or Associated Countries.

Work Programme **ERC 2026** [here](#).

Topic	Opening	Deadline	Budget (mIn EUR)
Starting Grants			
<u>ERC-2026-STG</u> Researchers of any nationality with 2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD	9.07.2025	14.10.2025	705
Consolidator Grants			
<u>ERC-2025-COG</u> Researchers of any nationality with 7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD	25.09.2025	13.01.2026	673
Advanced grants			
<u>ERC-2026-ADG</u> Active researchers who have a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years.	25.09.2025	28.08.2026	747
Synergy grants			
<u>ERC-2026-SYG</u> A group of two to maximum four Principal Investigators (PIs) working together and bringing different skills and resources to tackle ambitious research problems	10.07.2025	5.11.2025	500

1.1.2 Marie Skłodowska – Curie Actions

The main objective of the MSCA grants is to equip European researchers with new knowledge and skills by granting them international and intersectoral mobility and training at the best research centers in the world. Activities are also focused on strengthening human capital in the European Research Area and promoting public access to the results of internationally collaborative projects. MSCA's offerings include:

- ✓ MSCA Doctoral Networks - doctoral networks aimed at training creative and entrepreneurial doctoral students capable of facing current and future challenges and transforming knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit,
- ✓ MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships – postdoctoral fellowships which were created to increase the potential of researchers seeking to acquire new skills through advanced training and international, interdisciplinary and intersectoral mobility,

- ✓ MSCA Staff Exchanges – promoting innovative international, intersectoral and interdisciplinary research and innovation teamwork through the exchange of scientific, administrative and technical staff and the sharing of knowledge and ideas along the innovation chain,
- ✓ MSCA Choose Europe for Science - The pilot action supports projects in which academic and non-academic organisations recruit postdoctoral researchers, with a view to offering longer-term employment beyond the project period,
- ✓ MSCA COFUND – co-funds new or existing PhD programs and fellowship programs for experienced researchers at the national, regional or international level to spread MSCA best practices,
- ✓ MSCA and Citizens - aim to bring research and scientists closer to the general public, increase awareness of research activities but also public appreciation of science, demonstrate the role and impact of scientists' work on citizens' daily lives, and increase young people's interest in research and scientific careers.

Topic	Opening	Deadline	Budget (mln eur)
MSCA Choose Europe for Science 2025	01.10.2025	03.12.2025	22,5
European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2026-2027	17.06.2025	22.10.2025	16,25
MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025	28.05.2025	25.11.2025	597,8

1.1.3 Research Infrastructures.

Integrated and interconnected world-class research infrastructures, including e-infrastructures. The mechanism offers small and medium-sized businesses the opportunity to use research infrastructures free of charge. Special projects - Integrating Activities - provide the opportunity for free access to infrastructures - to conduct research in the best European laboratories using the best equipment. Project funds allow to cover the costs not only of the research itself, but also travel and stay in a foreign center (up to 3 months). The condition is to go to a country other than the country of current residence.

[Call 2025](#)

Access to infrastructures – transnational/virtual

Under this initiative, it is possible to travel to another country for a stay of 1 week to 3 months. The project covers the cost of research, travel, stay and access to e-infrastructure.

Offers are available on the RICH project website: http://www.rich2020.eu/tas_calls

1.2. Pillar II - Global challenges and European industrial competitiveness

Projects in pillar II are carried out by international consortia. The minimum composition of an international consortium (unless otherwise specified in a given call) is 3 units from 3 different member or associate countries and at least one must be from a member country.

The main project funding schemes are:

Research and innovation actions (RIA) — activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research as well as demonstration and validation activities (laboratory scale)

Innovation actions (IA) - activities focused on creating plans for new products, processes and services. Within IA, activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstration activities, piloting and validation (under real-world conditions), and market replication.

Coordination and support actions (CSA) — activities that contribute to the objectives of Horizon Europe. They generally exclude R&I activities.

The funding rates for the above mentioned actions are 100% of eligible costs (70% for for-profit organizations in case of IA). Indirect costs are 25% flat-rate of the total eligible direct costs.

More types of actions can be found [here](#).

The main objective of Pillar II is to find solutions for the biggest contemporary challenges Europe and the World have to face. The challenges have been divided into six areas called clusters:

1. **Health**
2. **Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society**
3. **Civil security and Society**
4. **Digital, Industry and Space**
5. **Climate, Energy and Mobility**
6. **Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment.**

Draft versions of some of the 2026-2027 Work Programmes can be found [here](#)

1.2.1 Health

Actions in cluster 1, according to [Work Programme 2025](#) focus on the following destinations:

- Staying healthy in a rapidly changing society
- Living and working in a health-promoting environment
- Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden
- Ensuring access to innovative, sustainable and high-quality health care
- Unlocking the full potential of new tools, technologies and digital solutions for a healthy society
- Maintaining an innovative, sustainable and globally competitive health industry

Current calls - [2025](#)

1.2.2 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society

Actions in cluster 2, according to [Work Programme 2025](#) focus on the following destinations:

- Democracy and governance
- European cultural heritage and the cultural and creative industries
- Social and economic transformations

Current calls - [2025](#)

1.2.3 Civil security and Society

Actions in cluster 3, according to [Work Programme 2025](#) focus on the following destinations:

- Better protect the EU and its citizens against Crime and Terrorism
- Effective management of EU external borders
- Increased Cybersecurity
- Resilient Infrastructure
- Disaster-Resilient Society for Europe
- Strengthened Security Research and Innovation

Current calls - [2025](#)

1.2.4 Digital, Industry and Space

Actions in cluster 4, according to [Work Programme 2025](#) focus on the following destinations:

- Climate neutral, circular and digitised production
- Increased autonomy in key strategic value chains for resilient industry
- World leading data and computing technologies
- Digital and emerging technologies for competitiveness and fit for the green deal
- Open strategic autonomy in developing, deploying and using global space-based infrastructures, services, applications and data
- A human-centred and ethical development of digital and industrial technologies

Current calls - [2025](#)

1.2.5 Climate, Energy and Mobility

Actions in cluster 5, according to [Work Programme 2025](#) focus on the following destinations:

- Climate sciences and responses for the transformation towards climate neutrality
- Cross-sectoral solutions for the climate transition
- Sustainable, secure and competitive energy supply
- Efficient, sustainable and inclusive energy use
- Clean and competitive solutions for all transport modes
- Safe, Resilient Transport and Smart Mobility services for passengers and goods

Current calls - [2025](#)

1.2.6 Food, bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Actions in cluster 6, according to [Work Programme 2025](#) focus on the following destinations:

- Biodiversity and ecosystem services
- Fair, healthy and environment-friendly food systems from primary production to consumption
- Circular economy and bioeconomy sectors
- Clean environment and zero pollution
- Land, ocean and water for climate action
- Resilient, inclusive, healthy and green rural, coastal and urban communities
- Innovative governance, environmental observations and digital solutions in support of the Green Deal

[Current calls - 2025](#)

Missions

A [mission](#) is a portfolio of actions across disciplines intended to achieve a bold and inspirational and measurable goal within a set timeframe, with impact for society and policy making as well as relevance for a significant part of the European population and wide range of European citizens. EC has designated [five mission areas](#):

1. **Cancer**
2. **Adaptation to Climate Change**
3. **Restore our Oceans and Waters**
4. **Climate Neutral and Smart Cities**
5. **Soil Deal for Europe**

As a cross-cluster issue, the [New European Bauhaus \(NEB\)](#) will support research and innovation leveraging the power of inclusiveness, sustainability, arts and culture to advance the green transition in neighbourhoods.

European Partnerships

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIPS are initiatives in which the EU, together with private and public partners, undertakes to support the development and implementation of the research and innovation agenda. Partners can represent industry, universities, research organizations, public interest organizations, civil society organizations, including foundations and NGOs.

Types of partnerships in Horizon Europe:

1. **Co-funded** European Partnerships [calls](#)
2. **Co-programmed** European Partnerships - [calls](#)
3. **Institutionalised** European Partnerships
 - [Innovative Health Initiative - Smart Networks and Services](#)
 - [EuroHPC International Cooperation](#)

More info on partnerships: [Partnerships — ERA-LEARN](#)

[Global Health EDCTP3](#) partnership

Established in 2021, the Global Health EDCTP3 programme is a partnership between the European Union, represented by the European Commission, and the EDCTP Association, representing the governments of 15 European and 30 sub-Saharan African countries.

1.3 Pillar III – Innovative Europe

Actions funded under Pillar III should lead to breakthrough discoveries which will create new markets and innovation-friendly ecosystems.

1.3.1 European Innovation Council (EIC)

Supporting innovations that are groundbreaking and have the potential to create markets.

Programmes:

- **Pathfinder** - cooperation projects carried out in consortia, at least 3 units from 3 different member or associate countries, TRL 1-4,
- **Transition** – projects for single participants or small consortia (max 5 participants), TRL 4-6, projects for use of Pathfinder or ERC PoC results,
- **Accelerator** – projects for single start-ups and SMEs (including spin-offs), individuals (intending to launch a start-up/ SME) and in some cases small mid-caps (fewer than 499 employees), TRL 5-9.
- **EIC Accelerator – STEP scaleup call** - Investment component of EUR 10 up to 30 million for scaling up strategic technologies for Europe.

These programmes have both OPEN (any topic) and CHALLENGES (top-down call topics) formats. The 2025 Work Programme is available [here](#)

	Opening	Deadline	Budget (mln EUR)
Pathfinder Open			
Pathfinder Challenges			120 (lump sum)
Biotech for Climate Resilient Crops and Plant-Based Biomanufacturing	24.07.2025	29.10.2025	up to EUR 4 million/project
Generative-AI based Agents to Revolutionize Medical Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer	24.07.2025	29.10.2025	
Towards autonomous robot collectives delivering collaborative tasks in dynamic unstructured construction environments	24.07.2025	29.10.2025	
Waste-to-value devices: Circular production of renewable fuels, chemicals and materials	24.07.2025	29.10.2025	
Accelerator OPEN		Cut-offs	
Accelerator 2025 - short application		18.12.2025	
Accelerator Challenges			
Acceleration of advanced materials development and upscaling along the value chain			
Transition OPEN			
HORIZON-EIC-2025-TRANSITIONOPEN			
Accelerator – STEP scale-up call			300
HORIZON-EIC-2025-EICSTEP-01	26.11.2024	16.12.2025	

1.3.2 European Innovation Ecosystems

Connecting with regional and national innovation actors.

	Opening	Deadline	Budget (mln EUR)
Implementing co-funded action plans for connected regional innovation valleys			
HORIZON-EIE-2025-02-CONNECT-02	14.05.2025	15.10.2025	40
Preparatory action for setting up joint programmes among innovation ecosystems actors			
HORIZON-EIE-2025-02-CONNECT-01	14.05.2025	15.10.2025	40
European network of national competence centers for innovation procurement			
HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-01	10.09.2025	20.01.2026	4,5
Expanding Investment Ecosystems			
HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-02	10.09.2025	20.01.2026	5
Scaling up deep tech ecosystems			
HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-03	10.09.2025	20.01.2026	5

1.3.3 European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

EITs are based on the concept of bringing together key institutions from three sectors – research, education and industry for the common goal of supporting innovations. There are nine Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) which focus on selected global challenges:

[EIT Climate-KIC](#) – climate innovations

[EIT Food](#) – farm-to-fork deliveries

[EIT InnoEnergy](#) – sustainable energy

[EIT RawMaterials](#) – raw materials

[EIT Digital](#) – digital Europe

[EIT Health](#) – healthy Europe

[EIT Manufacturing](#) – competitive manufacturing in Europe

[EIT Urban Europe](#) – smart and integrated transport

[EIT Culture and Creativity](#) – culture and creative industries

[KIC Water Call](#)

1.4 Widening participation and strengthening the European Research Area.

1.4.1 Widening Participation and Spreading Excellence

Supportive actions for widening countries (including Poland):

- [Teaming, Twinning, ERA Chairs, Excellence Hubs](#) – actions supporting R&I development and excellence of the institutions involved in the projects
- [COST](#)- there is a possibility to take part in a [new action](#) or join an [existing action](#) . Additionally, individuals can become [external experts](#).
- European Excellence Initiative for Higher Education
- Brain circulation – fellowships in widening countries
- Hop-on Facility – possibility for institutions from Widening Countries to join already selected collaborative R&I actions (in pillar II and Pathfinder calls)

Action	Budget (mln €)			
		Call identifier	Opening	Deadline
Hop-on facility				
EIC pre-accelerator - Widening	20	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-02-ACCESS-01	06.05.2025	16.09.2025
European Excellence Initiative (EEI)	60	HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-01-ACCESS-01	08.05.2025	20.11.2025

1.4.2 Strengthening the European Research Area.

This destination is to support efforts to reform ERA (European Research Area) and it is built around four strands corresponding to the four objectives set out in the ERA Communication „A new ERA for Research and Innovation” ([COM/2020/628 final of 30.09.2020](#)):

1. Prioritize investments and reforms
2. Improve access to excellence
3. Translate R&I results into the economy
4. Deepen the ERA

[Work Programme 2025](#)

2. EURATOM – Euratom Research and Training Programme

Calls are managed by [PIANOFORTE Partnership](#).

3. The European Defence Fund

The [EDF](#) is the Commission's instrument to support Research and Development in defence.

Its main goals are:

- To **promote** cooperation between companies, including SMEs and research actors throughout the Union.
- To **boost** defence capability development through investments.
- To **help** EU companies develop cutting-edge and interoperable defence technologies and equipment.

[Development actions implemented via actual cost grants \(EDF-2025-DA\)](#) **Deadline:** 16.10.2025.

Activities that aim to create, underpin and improve knowledge, products and technologies, including disruptive technologies, which can achieve significant effects in the area of defence (generating knowledge) cannot be funded under this call.

The Fund has a budget of **nearly €7.3 billion** for 2021-2027, with €2.7 billion allocated for collaborative defence research and €5.3 billion for collaborative capability development projects that complement national contributions. The financial support is offered primarily through grants up to 100% of eligible costs contingent on activities involved and a bonus system that considers SMEs, mid-caps, and connection to a [PESCO project](#).

4. EU4HEALTH (EU4H)

The EU4Health programme was adopted as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and to reinforce crisis preparedness in the EU. Its budget for 2021 -2027 is 5,3 mln EUR.

The areas of intervention are as follows:

- **Improve and foster health**
 - Health promotion and disease prevention, in particular cancer
 - International health initiatives and cooperation
- **Protect people**
 - Prevention, preparedness and response to cross-border health threats
 - Complementing national stockpiling of essential crisis-relevant products
 - Establishing a reserve of medical, healthcare and support staff
- **Access to medicinal products, medical devices and crisis-relevant products**
 - Ensuring that these products are accessible, available and affordable
- **Strengthen health systems**
 - Reinforcing health data, digital tools and services, digital transformation of healthcare
 - Enhancing access to healthcare
 - Developing and implementing EU health legislation and evidence-based decision making
 - Integrated work among national health systems

The maximum possible rate of Union co-financing is up to 60% of the total eligible costs of the action, unless specified otherwise in the specific calls for proposals. In cases of 'exceptional utility', the Union contribution may be increased up to 80% of the total eligible costs. The current Work Programme is available [here](#).

Call	Opening	Deadline	Budget (mln euro)
EU4H SANTE Action Grants 2025 (EU4H-2026-SANTE-PJ)	23.09.2025	06.01.2026	56,8
EU4H HERA Action Grants 2025 (EU4H-2025-HERA-PJ)	04.09.2025	04.12.2025	30

5. Research Fund for Coal and Steel

Main goals are: decarbonization and modernization of the steel sector, new clean steel technologies, modernization of the coal sector - phasing out of coal use, support for regions and communities undergoing energy transition.

The RFCS Research Programme has the following research objectives for the Coal and Steel sector:

Coal

Article 4. Supporting the just transition of the coal sector and regions;

Article 5. Improving health and safety;

Article 6. Minimising the environmental impacts of coal mines in transition.

Steel

Article 8. New, sustainable and low-carbon steelmaking and finishing processes;

Article 9. Advanced steel grades and applications;

Article 10. Conservation of resources, protection of the environment and circular economy;

Article 10a. Management of work force and working conditions.

Proposers may submit proposals for Research projects, Pilot or Demonstration projects or Accompanying Measures.

Call	Opening	Deadline	Budget (mln euro)
	06.2026	09.2026	

6. LIFE

LIFE co-funds research and innovation projects connected to the protection of environment.

The programme includes two priorities :

1. Environment

- [Nature and biodiversity](#)
- [Circular economy and quality of life](#)

2. Climate

- [Climate change mitigation and adaptation](#)
- [Clean energy transition](#)

LIFE funding rate is 60% of eligible costs.

7 . CEI – Central European Initiative

[CEI](#) is the oldest and largest cooperative initiative in Central Europe. Currently CEI features 17 members, which are: Albania, Belarus (suspended), Bosnia and Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, Italy and Hungary.

The mission of the CEI is political, economic, cultural and scientific cooperation among member states. The main slogan of the cooperation is regional cooperation for European integration.

[CEI OPEN CALLS](#)

8.NCBR The National Centre for Technology and Development – international calls funded nationally

	Opening	Closing	Budget (million)
NCBR			
DUT Call 2025/Driving Urban Transitions The aim of the DUT Call 2025 competition is to support transnational research and/or innovation projects addressing the challenges cities are facing to move towards a more sustainable economy and functioning. The topics of the call are divided into three thematic tracks: • Positive Energy Districts (PED), • 15-minutes City Pathway (15mC), • Circular Urban Economies (CUE) DUT Call 2025	01.09.2025	17.11.2025 (pre-proposal)	2,3 EUR
Quantera call 2025 QuantERA Call 2025 is a joint international call for research proposals in the field of quantum technologies, co-funded by a consortium of funding organisations under the QuantERA III Research & Innovation Action programme, with an additional contribution from the European Commission. https://quantera.eu/call-2025/	04.09.2025	05.12.2025	1,5 EUR
Water4All - JTC Call 2025 The international call is being launched as part of the European co-funded Water4All Partnership and will support projects to address key challenges related to the links between water and human health, including water quality, pollution and water treatment technologies. The competition topics are described in Theme IV (IV.I; IV.III) of the SRIA Strategic Research Agenda for the Water4All Partnership (https://www.water4all-partnership.eu/news/publication-strategic-research-and-innovation-agenda-sria)	12.09.2025	13.11.2025 (pre-proposal)	1,5 eur

<u>SBEPartnership - 2025 3rd Joint Transnational Co-Funded Call</u>	15.09.2025	17.11.2025 (pre-proposal)	1 eur
The Sustainable Blue Economy Partnership (SBEP) is a partnership for a sustainable blue economy in the area of the European sea basins (Mediterranean, Black Sea, Baltic and North Sea) and the Atlantic Ocean			

9.NCN National Science Centre – international calls funded nationally

	Opening	Deadline	Budget (mln)
NCN			
<u>Weave-Unisono</u> cooperation with research teams from one or two of the following countries: Austria, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Switzerland, Germany, Luxemburg, Belgium – Flanders and Poland		Depending on the country of the Lead Agency	30 PLN
<u>IMPRESS-U</u> The IMPRESS-U call for proposals is addressed at research teams from Poland which will conduct joint research together with research teams from Ukraine and the United States (optionally from Lithuania, Latvia and/or Estonia) within the framework of a joint research project.	29.08.2023	31.12.2025	10 PLN
<u>QuantERA Call 2025</u> Quantum technology research projects that will follow the theme: - Quantum Phenomena and Resources (QPR). International consortia of at least 3 research teams from 3 participating countries can apply for funding. https://quantera.eu/call-2025/	4.09.2025	5.12.2025 (international) 12.12.2025 (national)	1,5 EUR
<u>BiodivConnect</u> Research proposals should address one or more of the following three topics: • Setting restoration targets and measuring success • Transferability and scaling of nature restoration efforts • Resilience and sustainability of restoration efforts <u>Open Call – Biodiversa +</u>	12.09.2025	7.11.2025 (pre-proposal)	1 EUR
<u>LEAP-SE Call 2026</u> In November 2025, the LEAP-SE (Long-Term Joint EU-AU Research and Innovation Partnership on Sustainable Energy) network consortium will announce a call for international research projects aimed at developing cooperation between researchers from Europe and Africa in the area of energy transition.	11.2025		