EU Research Funding

EU Newsletter 2025 - I
Spring

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Index

Horizon Europe and Horizon 2020

Selection of open and forthcoming calls

European Research Council (ERC)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
ERC Proof of Concept Open	13/11/2024	13/03/2025 18/09/2025
ERC Advanced Grant 2025 Forthcoming	22/05/2025	28/08/2025

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
MSCA COFUND 2025 Open	23/01/2025	24/06/2025
MSCA Staff Exchanges 2025 Forthcoming	27/03/2025	08/10/2025
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2025 Forthcoming	08/05/2025	10/09/2025
MSCA Doctoral Networks 2025 Forthcoming	28/05/2025	25/11/2025
European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2026-2027 Forthcoming	17/06/2025	22/10/2025

Widening Participation & Strengthening the European Research Area (WIDERA)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
HORIZON-WIDERA-2025-ACCESS-01: Teaming for Excellence Open	03/12/2024	10/04/2025 20/01/2026 (two-stage)

European Innovation Council (EIC)

Call	Opening Date	Deadline for proposals
EIC Pathfinder Open Open	20/02/2025	21/05/2025
EIC Transition Open Forthcoming	22/04/2025	17/09/2025
EIC Accelerator 2025 – Short application Open	29/10/2024	18/12/2025

Do not hesitate to contact us at euresearch@uni-potsdam.de if you need further information about these or other Horizon Europe calls. The European Commission publishes the calls in the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (FTOP).

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Interim evaluation of Horizon Europe (Heitor Report) published

The report on the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe entitled "Align, Act, Accelerate" emphasizes that immediate action is essential if Europe is to maintain its outstanding position in research and innovation. The group of experts led by Manuel Heitor, former Portuguese Secretary of State at the European Commission, who drafted the report, urgently **calls for significant changes to the next research framework program.** For example, experimental units should be set up as quickly as possible to test the success of new funding measures and evaluation processes, among other things, before the next research framework program (FP10) starts. The report also makes **further recommendations, such as increasing the budget to 220 billion euros, setting up a Societal Challenges Council** to address key societal challenges, and strengthening excellence and competitiveness.

Work Programmes for Horizon Europe Pillar II expected in April

The work programmes for the clusters in Pillar II, including the call topics for 2025, are expected to be published by the European Commission at the end of April 2025. Draft versions have been published on the Science|Business Network website. Please note that the contents are preliminary and subject to change.

3

Association of Third Countries to Horizon Europe

Switzerland

Negotiations on Switzerland's association to **all three pillars of Horizon Europe and the Euratom research and training programme** have concluded. Switzerland is expected to sign the agreement on its participation in the Union's programmes in 2025. Once signed, Switzerland will become an Associated Country in both programmes with retroactive effect from 1 January 2025. Swiss applicants will be granted transitional arrangements pending the agreement's signature. Updates on Switzerland's association will be published on the dedicated EC website.

Republic of Korea

On 1 January 2025, the Republic of Korea joined Horizon Europe, opening up new opportunities for researchers and unlocking potential for cooperation. The European Union thus welcomes researchers and organisations from the Republic of Korea to participate in **Pillar II of the Horizon Europe programme** from the Work Programme 2025 onwards. The Association Agreement is expected to be signed in 2025. Updates will be published on the dedicated EC website.

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Using CONNECT by YERUN for international research collaboration

Since 2022, the University of Potsdam is part of the YERUN network of young European research universities. This network offers researchers various funding opportunities (such as the YERUN Research Mobility Awards or the Open Science Awards) as well as networking opportunities.

CONNECT by YERUN is a data-driven web application to foster collaboration and knowledge sharing among researchers from YERUN member institutions. The platform will be presented in webinars over the coming months. The next webinar in the series "How to Navigate CONNECT by YERUN" will take place on 11 April 2025 (13:00 - 14:00 CET). To register, please go to this website. If you have any questions or need further assistance, don't hesitate to contact our YERUN colleagues at contact@connect-by-yerun.eu.

Within UP, Marita Böhning (marita.boehning@uni-potsdam.de) is the coordinator responsible for YERUN activities.

4

RM Comp: The European Competence Framework for Research Managers

RM Comp identifies the key skills and competencies required for effective research management, thus supporting career development of stakeholders and providing consistency across roles and institutions in Europe. RM Comp has 3 main dimensions: 7 competence areas; 50 competencies; and 800 learning outcomes along 4 proficiency levels. You can consult the RM Comp here.

Discover EURAXESS

EURAXESS is a platform created by the European Commission for researchers, entrepreneurs, universities and businesses to interact. This comprehensive platform provides valuable resources and services to facilitate international research mobility and collaboration. Whether you are looking for a new job, exploring funding options, or looking to navigate the logistics of working abroad, EURAXESS provides essential information to help you make informed decisions.

EURAXESS is particularly valuable for **early-stage researchers**. The platform provides a rich database of job vacancies and funding opportunities. Early-stage researchers can take advantage of programmes such as the Marie Skłodowska-Curie (MSCA) Doctoral Networks and MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships. By using EURAXESS, you can enhance your professional development and gain international exposure.

University of Potsdam - EU Research Funding

New EU projects at the University of Potsdam

In 2023, the **European Research Council (ERC)** announced 102 **Proof of Concept grants** to ERC grantees to bridge the gap between the results of their pioneering research and the early phases of its commercialization.

One of them is **Prof. Dr. Jan Härter (Professor of Climate Physics) with his project DakE (High-resolution automatic weather monitoring system east of Dakar)**. The project started in July 2024 and deals with a novel methodology for flood and storm early warning, implemented in Senegal.

© Image: DakE proposal

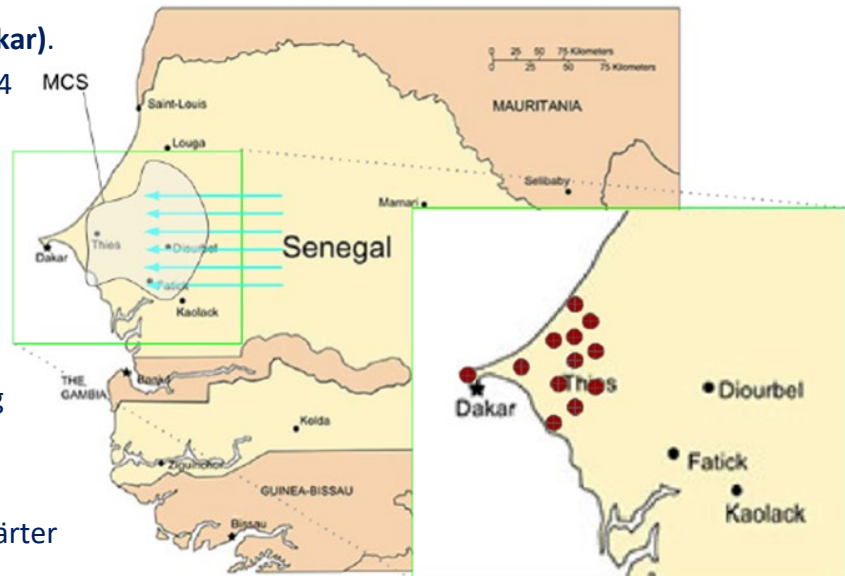**DakE**: "High-resolution automatic weather monitoring system east of Dakar"
ERC Proof of Concept – 2023
Project Leader: Prof. Dr. Jan Härter
Institution: Faculty of Science – Institute for Physics and Astronomy
Duration: 1 July 2024 – 31 December 2025
Funding UP: EUR 150.000,00

We welcome **a new MSCA Postdoctoral Fellow**, Dr. Gaspar Litholdo, who started at UP on 1 January 2025! His project, MemoryRNA, investigates how plants react to rising temperatures as a result of climate change and what role do genes play in a plant's response to heat stress.

MemoryRNA: "The role of epitranscriptomics in thermomemory regulation"
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship
Fellow: Dr. Gaspar Litholdo / Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Bernd Müller-Röber
Institution: Faculty of Science – Institute for Biochemistry and Biology
Duration: 1 September 2024 – 31 August 2026
Funding UP: EUR 173.847,36

Furthermore, **two ERC projects will start at UP in spring 2025.** One of them is **COMSCAL**, a Horizon Europe ERC Starting Grant in geometry, which will be transferred from the University of Münster to UP when the PI, Prof. Dr. Rudolph Zeidler, takes up his professorship at the Institute of Mathematics on 1 April 2025.

COMSCAL: "Comparison and rigidity for scalar curvature"
Horizon Europe – ERC Starting Grant
PI: Prof. Dr. Rudolph Zeidler
Institution: Faculty of Science – Institute for Mathematics
Duration: 1 January 2024 (start date at UP: 1 April 2025) – 31 December 2028
Funding UP: EUR 1.329.469,84

The other one is **CasualEarth**, a Horizon 2020 ERC Starting Grant transferred from the TU Dresden to UP on 1 March 2025. Jakob Runge, Professor for Artificial Intelligence in Sciences, is PI of this interdisciplinary project that aims to improve our understanding of the interdependencies between major drivers (modes) of climate variability by developing novel statistical causal inference methods for both observations and model data.

CasualEarth: "Advanced spatio-temporal causal inference for climate research"
Horizon 2020 – ERC Starting Grant
PI: Prof. Dr. Jakob Runge
Institution: Faculty of Science – Institute for Computer Science
Duration: 1 February 2021 (start date at UP: 1 March 2025) – 31 July 2026
Preliminary Funding UP: EUR 14.775,00 plus personnel costs to be transferred later

6

The University of Potsdam has so far obtained funding for 26 projects in the Horizon Europe programme. The complete list of projects can be consulted on the website of the University of Potsdam.

Upcoming events in Horizon Europe

Date/Time	Event	Place	Organisation
13/03/2025 09:30–12:30	Horizon Implementation Day: Finding opportunities and submitting a proposal in Horizon Europe → Link to the event page	Online	European Commission
20/03/2025 09:30–12:45	Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Agreement Preparation in Horizon Europe → Link to the event page	Online	European Commission
20/03/2025 10:30–12:30	Europäische Forschung für eine sichere Gesellschaft (in German) → Link to the event page	Online	NKS Sicherheit/ NKS Gesellschaft
02/04/2025 10:00–11:30	RP Start Modul 1 – Horizont Europa für Einsteigerinnen und Einsteiger (in German) → Link to the event page	Online	DLR
03/04/2025 09:30–13:00	Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Management in Horizon Europe → Link to the event page	Online	European Commission

06/03/2025–10/04/2025	Horizon Europe Collaborative Projects in a nutshell (webinar series) → Link to the event page	Online	KOWI
08/04/2025 10:00–11:30	Das WIDERA-Arbeitsprogramm 2025 (in German) → Link to the event page	Online	NKS WIDERA
08/04/2025 10:00–12:00	Lump-Sum-Projekte in Horizon Europe (in German) → Link to the event page	Online	NKS RuF
30/04/2025 10:00–11:30	RP Start Modul 2 – Horizont Europa für Einsteigerinnen und Einsteiger (in German) → Link to the event page	Online	DLR
07/05/2025–21/05/2025	RP Kompakt – Multiplikator/innenseminar zu Horizont Europa (in German) → Link to the event page	Bonn/ Online	DLR
04/06/2025 10:00–11:30	RP Start Modul 3 – Horizont Europa für Einsteigerinnen und Einsteiger (in German) → Link to the event page	Online	DLR

7

Erasmus+ Actions 2 and 3 and Jean Monnet Actions

Calls in Actions 2 and 3 and Jean Monnet Actions

Below you find a list of the current Erasmus+ calls for proposals that are relevant for higher education institutions.

Key Action 2	Deadline for proposals
Erasmus+ Teacher Academies	26/03/2025
Forward-Looking Projects Topics covered: • Topic 1 - School Education: Enhancing basic skills • Topic 2 - Vocational Education and Training: Promote an enabling and supportive environment for vocational excellence at national and/or regional level • Topic 3 - Vocational Education and Training: Development of joint VET qualifications and modules • Topic 4 - Adult Learning: Support to the Pact for Skills • Topic 5 - Adult Learning: Improving career guidance to support adults' participation in training • Topic 6 - Digital education: Assessment of digital skills and competences • Topic 7 - Digital education: Ethical and effective use of generative Artificial Intelligence systems in education and training • Topic 8 - Digital education: Innovative data collection and exchange approaches in primary, secondary education (including vocational education and training) for data-informed decision-making	27/05/2025

8

The calls are published in the Funding & Tender Opportunities Portal (FTOP). Applications must be submitted electronically through the FTOP. The Erasmus+ Programme Guide provides the details of each action (aims, eligible organisations, budget, duration, etc.).

Further Erasmus+ calls (e.g., Cooperation Partnerships, Capacity Building Projects, Erasmus Mundus Action and Jean Monnet Actions) are expected to be launched in autumn 2025.

Funding of travel costs for the preparation of Erasmus+ projects through the NA DAAD

The National Agency of the German Academic Exchange Service (NA DAAD) provides funding to cover travel expenses related to the preparation of Erasmus+ cooperation projects. Detailed information about the application process is available on the website of the NA DAAD.

Upcoming events in Erasmus+

Date/Time	Event	Place	Organisation
25/03/2025 10:00–11:30	Online Info session: Forward-Looking Projects (in German) → Link to the event page	Online	NA DAAD
08–09/05/2025	Erasmus+ Forum for Partnerships and Cooperation Projects → Link to the event page	Bonn	NA DAAD

9

About us

EU Research Funding

In Dezernat 1 you find guidance on EU Research Funding in the following ways:

Consultancy (pre award support)	Application (pre award support)	Management (post award support)
• Identification of the right funding for your research in Horizon Europe and Erasmus+ • Organization of workshops and information events • Support through local, regional, national and international networks • Other information (i.e. success rates)	• Administrative issues • Formal assessment of the proposal • Funding & Tenders Portal • Detailed feedback on the structure and formal issues of the proposal • Elaboration and checking of the budget	• Preparation and signature of the Grant Agreement • Elaboration and signature of the Consortium Agreement • Coordination and support to the administrative and financial management of Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe projects

10

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EU Cohesion and Structural Policy - European Structural Funds for universities in the state of Brandenburg

We advise you to the funding opportunities in the state of Brandenburg and support you in project and cost planning as well as the completion of the necessary cooperation agreements.

For more internal information please follow the link:
https://z-wiki.uni-potsdam.de/x/XQToBQ

Information available in German. If you need information in English, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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11