



## BANDI & OPPORTUNITÀ DALL'UE

Selezione periodica, a cura di Confindustria Piemonte, delle *call for proposals* aperte e in apertura, ritenute di maggiore interesse per la manifattura piemontese, sui principali programmi europei a gestione diretta (Horizon Europe, Single Market Programme, Life, Digital Europe...) e relativi "cascade funding". Per una panoramica completa: [call for proposals; cascade funding](#)  
Per i numeri precedenti: [sito web Confindustria Piemonte](#)  
Per informazioni e per iscriversi alla newsletter: [een@confindustria.piemonte.it](mailto:een@confindustria.piemonte.it)

### CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

- Horizon Europe: Work Programme 2026-2027
- Horizon Europe: EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges - Pilot
- European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE): European Startup and Scaleup Hubs pilot

### CASCADE FUNDING

- EIT Higher Education Initiative (HEI) Call 2025
- EIC ACCESS+ Open Call

### FORTHCOMING

- Horizon Europe: Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) - Joint Undertaking - Call 12

### EVENTS

- Webinar: EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges, *January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026*
- IHI Call Days - Call 12, *January 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2026*
- Save the date: Info Day Innovation Fund, *January 29<sup>th</sup> 2026*

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## CALLS FOR PROPOSALS

Attraverso i programmi europei a gestione diretta, l'UE sostiene finanziariamente lo sviluppo di progetti che contribuiscono a realizzare gli obiettivi politici della Commissione per la programmazione 2021-2027. Tali programmi prevedono specifiche **calls for proposals** pubblicate e gestite direttamente dalla Commissione europea e dalle sue Agenzie esecutive. Ciascun programma può prevedere regole di candidatura distinte e anche le modalità di gestione e rendicontazione delle attività realizzate e delle relative spese possono essere diverse.

### Horizon Europe: Work Programme 2026-2027

The European Commission has released the Horizon Europe Work Programme 2026-2027, investing €14 billion to drive research and innovation (R&I) across the EU's strategic goals. A major novelty is the introduction of horizontal calls, which address cross-cutting challenges across different research and innovation areas, including clean technologies and decarbonised industry solutions, as well as AI

applications. At the moment, some calls have already been published, while others are expected to be released later in 2026:

- [Cluster 1 'Health'](#) (calls opening: February 10<sup>th</sup> 2026)
- [Cluster 2 'Culture, creativity and inclusive society'](#) (calls opening: May 12<sup>th</sup> 2026)
- [Cluster 3 'Civil Security for Society'](#) (calls opening: May 6<sup>th</sup> 2026)
- [Cluster 4 'Digital, Industry and Space'](#) (calls opened)
- [Cluster 5 'Climate, Energy and Mobility'](#) (calls opened)
- [Cluster 6 'Food, Bioeconomy Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment'](#) (calls opening: January 14<sup>th</sup> 2026)

**Funding programme:** Horizon Europe

**Call & Topic ID:** HORIZON-2026-2027

**Deadline:** depending on the call

**Applicants:** legal entities (public or private bodies) established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries

**Activity sector:** Horizon Europe main thematic areas

**Partnership:** required (at least 3 independent legal entities established in different EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries)

### **Horizon Europe: EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges - Pilot**

EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges aim to support high-risk, demand-driven deep tech innovation with transformative potential especially in areas where there is extensive research but lack of commercial uptake. The programme uses a two-stage funding model:

- Stage 1: €300.000 for up to 9 months to prepare and benchmark breakthrough solutions, exploring their feasibility and viability;
- Stage 2: Up to €2.5 million for up to 2.5 years to further develop the most promising solutions and test them in real-world environments with the involvement of users.

**Funding programme:** Horizon Europe – European Innovation Council

**Call & Topic ID:** EIC - Advanced Innovation Challenges

**Deadline:** February 26<sup>th</sup> 2026 (Stage 1), June 18<sup>th</sup> 2027 (Stage 2)

**Applicants:** Start-ups, SMEs or research performing organisations (university, research or technology organisation, including teams, individual Principal Investigators and inventors), established in EU member states or Horizon Europe associated countries

**Activity sector:** deep-tech innovation

**Partnership:** optional (proposals can be submitted either by a single applicant or by a consortium of up to 3 eligible independent legal entities from at least 3 different Member States or associated countries)

**More Info:** [Webinar](#)

### **European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE): European Startup and Scaleup Hubs pilot**

The European Startup & Scaleup Hubs (ESSH) pilot seeks to create a connected network of Europe's leading and emerging startup supporting structures, integrated within Europe's innovation ecosystems. The call aims to pilot a network of around 10-18 highly capable startup and scaleup hubs, deeply integrated with leading research, technology and higher education institutions. These hubs shall collaborate across borders to open their ecosystems to non-local startups, foster shared infrastructure and expertise, support pan-European startup development, and bridge regional gaps. The total budget allocated is €20.000.000.

**Funding programme:** Horizon Europe – European Innovation Ecosystems

**Call & Topic ID:** HORIZON-EIE-2026-02-CONNECT-01

**Deadline:** March 10<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Applicants:** legal entities (public or private bodies) established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries

**Activity sector:** innovation, interregional cooperation

**Partnership:** required (at least 3 national or regional authorities, from at least 3 different Member States or associated countries)

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## **CASCADE FUNDING**

*Il supporto finanziario a parti terze o "cascade funding" è un meccanismo di finanziamento della Commissione europea attraverso cui il consorzio beneficiario è incaricato di distribuire sovvenzioni ad entità terze attraverso le cosiddette "open calls". Accedere a una sovvenzione derivante da una open call consente di ricevere un finanziamento pubblico per eseguire specifiche attività di ricerca e innovazione (studi, esperimenti, azioni pilota) senza dover incorrere negli oneri burocratici delle*

tradizionali call for proposals. Nella presente sezione sono riportate anche le call pubblicate nell'ambito delle KICs (Knowledge and Innovation Communities) dello European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT).

### **EIT Higher Education Initiative (HEI) Call 2025**

The EIT Higher Education Initiative's Call 2025 aims to strengthen innovation and entrepreneurship capacity in higher education across Europe. This call supports projects that enable universities and their partners to develop critical entrepreneurship skills and mindsets, launch new innovation structures and programmes, and strengthen strategic collaboration with industry and society. Projects can apply under:

- Topic 1: Boosting the innovation and entrepreneurship capacity of Europe's STEM talent pipeline;
- Topic 2: Strengthening synergies across the European higher education and innovation area, specifically between the EIT ecosystem and the European Universities alliances.

The total budget allocated is up to €2.000.000 per project.

**Deadline:** March 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

**Applicants:** Higher education institutions, SMEs, research institutes, public bodies and network, established in Horizon Europe-eligible countries

**Activity sectors:** Entrepreneurship and Innovation in Higher Education

**Partnership:** required (consortia led by HEI with at least 5 partners, including min. 3 HEIs from 3 different countries; for Topic 2, at least 1 business partner, and at least 1 other non-HEI partner)



[Partner search \(Greece\): Seeking partners for a STEM capacity building project](#)



[Partner search \(Greece\): Seeking partners for building synergies among European Universities alliances](#)

### **EIC ACCESS+ Open Call**

EIC ACCESS+ is an initiative of the European Innovation Council (EIC) that aims to co-fund deep-tech startups in accessing tailored business services from the [EIC Service Catalogue](#). Startups can receive up to €60.000 in financial support to access services that accelerate their growth, enhance market readiness, and help secure investment. Participants must select a service provider from the EIC Service Catalogue and include a clear and detailed description of the requested service in the application, outlining the expected results and impact. The total budget allocated is €3.450.000.

**Deadline:** May 31<sup>st</sup> 2026

**Applicants:** EU startups that are recipients of EIC Awards (EIC Pathfinder, EIC Transition, EIC Accelerator, and Seal of Excellence holders), established in an EU Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country

**Activity sectors:** deep-tech

**Partnership:** not required

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## **FORTHCOMING**

### **Horizon Europe: Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) - Joint Undertaking - Call 12**

IHI call 12 is a single-stage, applicant-driven call with five topics aligned with the specific objectives set out in the [IHI Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda \(SRIA\)](#). Proposals will have to: address an unmet public health need; involve a large-scale, ambitious, cross-sector, public-private partnership; clearly describe the impacts on society, the economy and science; take account of the pre-competitive nature of IHI projects; and contribute to strengthening the competitiveness of the EU's health industries and the implementation of relevant EU policies. Call text is available [here](#).

**Funding programme:** Horizon Europe, Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) Joint Undertaking

**Call & Topic ID:** HORIZON-JU-IHI-2026-12

**Planned opening date:** Early 2026

**Deadline:** April 21<sup>st</sup> 2026

**Applicants:** legal entities (public or private bodies) established in EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries

**Activity sector:** health

**Partnership:** required (at least 3 independent legal entities established in different EU Member States or Horizon Europe associated countries)

**More Info:** [Info days](#)

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## EVENTS

### **Webinar: EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges**

*Online, January 15<sup>th</sup> 2026*

L'Agenzia per la Promozione della Ricerca Europea (APRE), insieme al DLR (Centro Aerospaziale Tedesco) e all'Access2EIC, il network dei Punti di Contatto Nazionale EIC/EIE, organizza un webinar dedicato alle EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges, a sostegno di innovazioni deep tech ad alto rischio e orientate alla domanda. La partecipazione è gratuita, previa registrazione al seguente [link](#).

### **IHI Call Days - Call 12**

*Online, January 19<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup> 2026*

The Innovative Health Initiative (IHI) Partnership is organizing the IHI Call Days for call 12. The event provides the opportunity to learn about the rules and procedures, financial aspects, and general information related to Call 12. Registration is required and available [here](#).

### **Save the date: Info Day Nazionale Innovation Fund**

*Roma, January 29<sup>th</sup> 2026*

Confindustria, in collaborazione con il MASE, organizza l'Info Day nazionale sull'Innovation Fund, dedicato alle nuove opportunità di finanziamento a supporto della decarbonizzazione dei sistemi produttivi. L'evento - che si terrà in presenza il 29 gennaio, a partire dalle ore 9.00, presso la sede di Confindustria a Roma – sarà l'occasione per presentare il nuovo [bando Innovation Fund Net Zero Technologies](#) e le aste [IF25 Hydrogen Auction](#) e [IF25 Heat Auction](#). Il programma dettagliato e il form di registrazione saranno presto disponibili a questo [link](#).

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## **A.A.A. PARTNER CERCASI**



Gli uffici di Confindustria Piemonte, oltre a diffondere le opportunità di partnership internazionali, sono a disposizione per creare apposite ricerche partner delle aziende piemontesi e promuoverle attraverso il database gestito in esclusiva dal network EEN.

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