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Horizon Europe EIC Accelerator 2025 – Short Application; Deadline: 18 December 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

The EIC Accelerator supports companies (principally SMEs, including start-ups) to scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones. The EIC Accelerator provides a unique combination of funding from EUR 0.5 to EUR 12.5 million and Business Acceleration Services (see Section VI of the EIC Work Programme 2025).

The EIC Accelerator focuses in particular on innovations building on scientific discovery or technological breakthroughs ('deep tech') and where significant funding is needed over a long timeframe before returns can be generated ('patient capital'). Such innovations often struggle to attract financing because the risks and time period involved are too high. Funding and support from the EIC Accelerator is designed to enable such innovators to attract the full investment amounts needed for scale up in a shorter timeframe.

The EIC Accelerator supports the later stages of technology development as well as scale up. The technology component of your innovation must therefore have been tested and validated in a laboratory and other relevant environment (e.g., at least Technology Readiness Level 5). The EIC Accelerator looks to support companies where the EIC support will act as a catalyst to crowd in other investors necessary for the scale up of the innovation.

Applicants to EIC Accelerator can submit proposals through the following topics:

- EIC Accelerator Open, which has no predefined thematic priorities and is open to proposals in any field of technology or application;
- EIC Accelerator Challenges in the following predefined areas of emerging and strategic technologies:
 - o Challenge 01 - Acceleration of advanced materials development and upscaling along the value chain
 - o Challenge 02 - Biotechnology driven low emission food production systems
 - o Challenge 03 - GenAI4EU: Creating European Champions in Generative AI
 - o Challenge 04 - Innovative in-space servicing, operations, space-based robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure
 - o Challenge 05 - Breakthrough innovations for future mobility

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-EIC-2025-ACCELERATOR-01?isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&type=1,2&startDate=1728943200000,1731625200000&order=DESC&pageNum>

Single Market Programme EU-SME Centre in China; Deadline: 15 January 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

The EU SME Centre in China serves as a first point of support for EU SMEs interested in internationalising their businesses to China. It provides them with an overview of opportunities and risks in the Chinese market, as well as relevant information on European policies towards China such as de-risking, which help them assess their fitness and readiness to internationalise. It provides links to relevant Trade Promotion Organisations ("TPOs"), Business Support Organisations ("BSOs") and other EU actions (e.g. IP helpdesk) to make sure the SMEs can have the best support and advice possible when considering their expansion to China. The Centre also provides training and information sessions on a variety of industrial topics, to even out the knowledge differential that SMEs might have in comparison to larger corporations. Finally, the Centre engages in advocacy activities on behalf of EU SMEs, in coordination with the EU Chamber of Commerce in China's Working Group on SMEs.

The Centre is expected to assist SMEs to understand the Chinese market, so an expected result is increased awareness by SMEs of services that can be provided in this regard not only by the Centre, but also by other actors in China (e.g. BSOs, TPOs). Through the organisation of training programs, the dissemination of learning materials, and the provision of one-on-one professional advice, SMEs are expected to improve their knowledge over the business landscape in China, and

to fully grasp the opportunities available to them and the risks along the way.

Expected Outcome:

Qualitative and quantitative indicators:

- Number of SME enquiries and number of contacts of the EU SME Centre in China for information and advice purposes;
- Number of persons/SMEs trained in-person or remotely through webinars and workshops;
- Number of SMEs satisfied with the services provided (e.g. testimonials, post-service customer evaluations, etc.);
- Number of updated and new publications focusing on specific segments of the Chinese market.

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/SMP-COSME-2024-SMECC-01?isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&type=1,2&startDate=1728943200000,1731625200000&order=DESC&pageNum>

Connecting Europe Facility (CEF) Cross-border renewable energy studies projects; Deadline: 16 January 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time

This topic refers to projects for studies contributing to the implementation of a CB RES project. Studies (article 2 of CEF Regulation) in the meaning of CEF Energy include activities needed to prepare cross-border RES project implementation, such as preparatory, mapping, feasibility, evaluation, testing and validation studies, including in the form of software, and any other technical support measure, including prior action to define and develop a cross-border RES project and decide on its financing, such as exploration of the sites concerned and preparation of the financial package. A study could cover in-depth investigation and exploration of the risk factors of a project e.g. safety, technical, environmental, regulatory, economic or legal issues to determine whether and how the project should be implemented.

While CEF Energy does not finance technological development, in justified cases, studies can include also pilot projects, such as pilot plants, that are eventually needed to test technologies that are at TRL 7-8, innovative processes or techniques. Such pilot projects should be strictly related to eligible components of the CB RES project. For more mature projects, a study may have the objective to move the project through the development stage to a Final Investment Decision (FID) and may include Front End Engineering and Design (FEED) studies, technical design studies, geophysical surveys, seabed surveys, tasks related to territorial planning, environmental assessments and comparable studies as applicable.

Activities may also include stakeholder engagement and procurement for the construction phase. A study could also be used to set out in detail the operational aspects of a cooperation, such as the precise legal set up of the financing arrangement e.g. the cross-border tender or the regulatory set up of the cooperation project, or the arrangement on the allocation of costs and benefits between the participating counties. For each of the CB RES projects, the list of components that are included in the CB RES status can be found in the technical documentation¹⁶ supporting the Delegated Regulation that establishes the CB RES list.

Proposals for studies can cover any of the elements of the CB RES status project contained in the technical documentation. While the focus of the study should be related to the renewable energy generation component of the project, in the case of projects with additional (non-RES generation) elements such as grid infrastructure, storage facilities, conversion of the renewable electricity, studies may also cover the interplay between those elements and the renewable energy component, if it is justified by the applicants that the effectiveness of the study will be higher when it captures the project set-up as a whole.

This topic aims at financing projects contributing to the goals and objectives of the European Green Deal, as well as the Paris Agreement and the 2030 climate and energy targets and the EU's objectives for climate neutrality, in accordance with recitals 5 and 30 of the CEF Regulation and in line with the Multi annual Work Programme.

It is expected that the financial assistance contributes to the development and the implementation of CB RES projects,



leading to cost-effective achievement of renewables target by 2030 in the EU (as referred to in Article 3 of Directive 2018/2001/EC) and to the strategic uptake of renewables technologies. Cross-border RES projects are an integral element of the enabling framework for regional and cross-border cooperation on renewables and facilitate cross border cooperation in the field of energy (as referred to in Article 3 of the CEF Regulation).

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/CEF-E-2025-CBRENEW-STUDIES?isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502&type=1,2&startDate=1728943200000,1731625200000&order=DESC&page=1>

EU-TR CCG EU-Türkiye Climate Change Grant Programme; Deadline: 16 December 2024

The global objective of this call for proposals is to improve the local climate change adaptation and mitigation capacity.

The specific objective of this call for proposals is to improve and increase climate change adaptation and mitigation solutions planning and implementation at local level.

A project must focus on at least one of these areas:

- in line with the priorities of the existing national adaptation and mitigation action plans between 2024-2030,
- promoting resilient and low-carbon cities and sectors,
- implementing adaptation and/or mitigation actions in line with existing local or national climate strategies.

As an additional element, all projects must include a component (set of activities) on strengthening the communication between stakeholders and “raising awareness within the society”.

Sectors or Themes:

Sectors or themes can be related to both mitigation and adaptation as follows:

Sectors for Adaptation to Climate Change: Urban (planning, infrastructure), climate related disaster risk management, transport, water resources management, agriculture and fisheries/livestock, and food security, ecosystem services, biodiversity and forestry, tourism, cultural heritage, energy, industry and other relevant sectors.

Sectors for Climate Change Mitigation: Energy, industry, agriculture, transport, waste, buildings, Land Use Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) and other relevant sectors.

The following actions listed are by way of example only and applications are not limited to these types of actions:

- Implementation of climate change adaptation and/or mitigation actions,
- Implementation of climate change adaptation and/or mitigation actions included in the action plans on national and local climate change,
- Piloting demonstrative actions in the field of climate change adaptation and/or mitigation,
- Implementing actions to reduce vulnerabilities and supply the necessary infrastructure for management of disasters caused by climate change,

- Implementing actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions,
- Implementing actions to make cities more resilient to the effects of climate change,
- Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and/or mitigation into local and sectoral actions,
- Dissemination of best adaptation and/or mitigation practices in collaboration with organizations and cities within Türkiye and/or the EU,
- Developing and/or implementing technology and innovative tools for climate change adaptation and/or mitigation action,
- Promoting community-based actions in adaptation and/or mitigation to climate change,
- Implementation of R&D and scientific studies for climate change adaptation and/or mitigation action in relevant sectors,

Further information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/182996PROSPECTSEN?isExa>

DFG Joint projects in all fields of research, including social sciences and the humanities, with Mexico; Deadline: 24 February 2025

The Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG, German Research Foundation) and the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM) are pleased to announce the third call for proposals to fund joint German-Mexican research projects in all fields of research (including social sciences and the humanities). This initiative aims to bring together relevant and competitive researchers from Germany and from UNAM to design and carry out jointly organised research projects of outstanding scientific quality.

Proposals for joint German-Mexican projects have to be submitted in parallel by the researchers in Germany and at UNAM to their respective funding organisation according to the organisations' respective format and regulations.

Applicants should demonstrate how bringing together researchers based in Germany and at UNAM will add value and advance their research. It is expected that each partner will substantially contribute to the common project. The teams of applicants should ensure there is a plan for effective delivery and coordination of research among the partners. There are no separate funds available for these joint initiatives; proposals must succeed on the strengths of their intellectual and scientific merits and teams in comparison with all other proposals.

Key information for eligible researchers:

- Deadline for submission of proposals at UNAM and the DFG: 24 February 2025.
- Researchers may apply for a funding period of up to three years.
- The DFG and UNAM use their standard programmes for proposals within this initiative
 - o DFG: Research Grants Programme ("Sachbeihilfe"),
 - o UNAM: PAPIIT (links see below).
- Principal investigators (PIs) at UNAM submit their documents to UNAM, PIs based in Germany to the DFG.
- All documents must be written in English.
- Funding of the joint research projects is contingent upon positive assessment by both funding organisations. Unilateral funding of only one part of a project is not possible.

Further information:

<https://www.dfg.de/de/aktuelles/neuigkeiten-themen/info-wissenschaft/2024/ifw-24-97>

Other Contact Research Funding Advisory Service at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg

If you have any questions about funding opportunities, specific calls for proposals, help with submitting applications and project support, please contact the Research Funding Advisory Service/EU University Network at Otto von Guericke University Magdeburg.

Information about current events, funding structures and contact details online at:

<https://www.ovgu.de/KontaktForschungsfoerderung>

<https://www.euhoerschulnetz-sachsen-anhalt.de/>