EU · CONSORTIA · R&D

EDF European Defence Fund

The EU's main instrument for collaborative defence research and development.

The budget for 2026 is **€1 billion**, divided across 31 thematic topics. Proposals are submitted by consortia of at least three entities from three different countries.

EU · CONSORTIA · GRANT · R&D

WHAT IT IS

1. Grants for research actions, funded up to 100% of eligible costs
2. Grants for development actions, closer to prototype, with co-funding rather than 100%
3. Consortium of at least three entities from three different member or associated countries
4. Access to international partners, know-how and European defence supply chains
5. A position in the European defence ecosystem and a reference for further projects
6. 31 thematic topics in the 2026 work programme, each with its own conditions

WHO IT IS FOR

Companies, research organisations and universities able to form a consortium or join one. A solo start-up without partners cannot enter EDF directly; EUDIS is the entry route.

AT WHAT STAGE

TRL depends on the type of action — lower for research actions, higher for development actions. What matters most is a technology relevant to the topic and having partners.

BUDGET FOR 2026

€1 billion

Divided across 31 thematic topics in the annual work programme

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

1. Find a call topic on the SEDIA Funding & Tenders Portal that matches your technology
2. Build a consortium of at least three entities from three countries, or join an existing one
3. Submit the proposal through SEDIA before the deadline set for that call
4. Independent experts evaluate the proposal against the criteria set out in the call

TIMING

The annual work programme for 2026 was adopted in December 2025. Individual calls are published on SEDIA with their own deadlines during the year. Allow months, not weeks, to build a consortium.

NOTE / TIP

Ownership or control from third countries is screened, so verify eligibility early. The administration is demanding and coordination across partners takes time — many companies use an external coordinator.

FREE CONSULTATION · INDEPENDENT

Is EDF right for your company?

Defence Hub CzechInvest will help you pick the right programme and work through the whole application — free and independent.

defencehub@czechinvest.org
defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu

Book a consultation