EU · CIVIL R&D · DUAL-USE

Horizon Europe

EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

The EU's civil research and innovation programme, open to dual-use technology.

The programme holds approximately **€95.5 billion** for 2021–2027, with around €14 billion in the 2026–2027 work programme. It is legally civil only.

EU · GRANT · CIVIL ONLY · DEEP TECH

WHAT IT IS

1. Non-repayable grants, usually up to 100% of eligible costs for research actions
2. Innovation actions are normally funded at 70% for profit-making consortia
3. Cluster 3, Civil Security for Society — crime, borders, infrastructure, cyber
4. Cluster 4 — AI, advanced computing, microelectronics, materials, manufacturing, space
5. EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator for breakthrough and deep-tech innovation
6. Cluster 3 projects are typically in the range of €1–8 million per project

WHO IT IS FOR

Companies, SMEs, start-ups, research organisations and universities. Defence-sector entities are not excluded, but their activity in the project must be exclusively civil.

AT WHAT STAGE

The programme covers the full maturity range. Pillar 2 clusters fund lower to medium TRL, EIC Pathfinder targets early TRL and EIC Accelerator start-ups close to market.

BUDGET FOR 2021–2027

€95.5 billion

Around €14 billion sits in the 2026–2027 work programme

HOW AND WHEN TO APPLY

1. Find an open call topic on the Funding & Tenders Portal (SEDIA) and read the work programme
2. Create an EU Login account and register your organisation to obtain a PIC
3. Build the consortium — normally three entities from three countries — and split roles and budget
4. Submit Part A and Part B through the portal before the deadline; independent experts evaluate

TIMING

The 2026–2027 work programme was adopted in December 2025 and calls open throughout 2026 and 2027. Many single-stage Cluster 3 calls open in May with a November deadline; verify dates in the call.

NOTE / TIP

The programme is legally civil only — purely military objectives belong in EDF. Prepare a justification of the civil application, obtain a PIC in advance and use the Czech National Contact Point.

FREE CONSULTATION · INDEPENDENT

Is Horizon Europe right for you?

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

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Book a consultation