

ResearchConnect

Research bulletin
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Arts and Humanities

Gerda Henkel Fellowship in Digital History Open for Applications

Fund ID: S17688

The German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington DC is an internationally recognised centre for advanced study in the fields of German history in North America and American history in Germany. Its scope also encompasses comparative, international and global history as well as research in the fields of economics, sociology and political science. The GHI is particularly committed to promoting international scholarly exchange and collaboration by bringing together European and North American scholars, as well as academics from other parts of the world, in its conferences and research projects.

The **Gerda Henkel Fellowship in Digital History** offers postdoctoral scholars and advanced doctoral students based in Europe the opportunity for a 12-month research stay at the [Roy Rosenzweig Center for History and New Media](#) at the George Mason University in Virginia, USA. The aim of the fellowship is to support early-career scholars to develop new skills and methods in the area of digital history. It is also designed to connect scholars from Europe to the digital history landscape in the United States.

Applications are open to postdoctoral scholars and advanced doctoral students, who are currently affiliated with a European research institution. The fellowship comprises a monthly stipend of €3,400 for postdoctoral scholars or €2,400 for doctoral students.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 28 February 2025.

Spencer Foundation Launches New Initiative on AI and Education

Fund IDs: S20826, S25098, S8826, S18646, S20494

Set up in 1971, the Spencer Foundation is a US-based funder of education research and wishes to increase opportunities for all as well as improve education in order to impact positively on people's lives.

The Foundation has issued details of a new initiative on Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Education to re-envision possibilities for education and learning across the lifespan. The initiative has been developed from a [Spencer Convening on AI and Education](#) - 'Towards New Horizons of AI, Learning and Equity in Education' - held in spring 2024. It will support novel research on key topics on AI, equity and education. Ultimately, the initiative aims to offer evidence-based guidance that centres the needs of young people so that the technology solutions, systems and policy directions being developed and built contribute to the learning and thriving of all students.

The focus is on leveraging the potential of AI technologies for equitable teaching and learning, while attending seriously to the potential harms, privacy and data security risks, and potential adverse impacts on education systems. As AI-driven tools and applications continue to evolve, it is essential to foster responsible innovation and collaboration within educational settings to harness AI's potential for enhancing teaching and learning experiences.

The initiative will focus on three core activities:

- Advancing cutting-edge research on AI and education in four key areas (AI and learning; AI policy; AI ethics and justice; and how AI will transform educational research).
- Cultivating connections and collaborations between researchers, the technology industry, policymakers and practitioners.
- Enriching public discourse on AI and education.

Rigorous research is necessary to properly evaluate the concerns (eg widening digital divide, algorithmically driven bias and

discrimination, and the energy and environmental costs of computationally demanding AI systems), while remaining open to the potential for AI to positively transform educational systems from early childhood to higher education (eg AI-powered learning tools, and the possibilities for technology to support teacher professional learning or reduce the administrative burden of classroom tasks for educators).

The Foundation will fund new research through two existing grant programmes: Vision Grants and Racial Equity Research Grants. While these schemes remain open to all topics, additional funds have been designated within each programme for work focused on AI. The Foundation also welcomes AI-focused work across the entire portfolio of research grant programmes, including the Small Research Grants on Education, Large Research Grants on Education and Research-Practice Partnerships scheme.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

ANR and DFG Invite Proposals for French-German Joint Research Projects in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Fund ID: S11871

As part of their on-going cooperation, the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Foundation) and the Agence Nationale de la Recherche (ANR) in France are jointly operating a programme for bilateral collaborative research projects in the humanities and social sciences. The programme is designed to encourage and further develop research collaboration between Germany and France.

The project also aims to serve the humanities and social sciences in both countries in very specific terms:

- The programme aims to broaden the research spectrum of disciplines which are traditionally very focused on national research traditions. Through international collaboration and cooperation, it hopes to encourage the investigation of topics which offer insights into social and political problems on a larger scale.
- The programme also intends to demonstrate the benefits of multilingual research in research areas in which both German and French are still important research languages.

The call is open for collaborative proposals from all areas of the humanities and social sciences comprising researchers from Germany and France.

For German applicants, application is open to researchers working at German research institutions who have completed their research training (generally a doctorate). For French applicants, teams must be composed of at least one French public research organisation or team. A researcher cannot be project leader on more than one ANR-funded project and cannot participate in more than three ANR-funded projects as scientific coordinator.

Research funding is provided for up to three years. There are no set maximum funding amounts. Funding for German applicants will be provided according to the rules of the DFG, and funding for French applicants according to the rules of the ANR. It will cover project-related costs such as personnel, equipment and consumables.

Full proposals for joint bilateral research projects must be submitted to both DFG and ANR by the deadline of 6 March 2025 (13:00 CET).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

First 2025 Round Now Open for Spencer Foundation Large Research Grants on Education

Fund ID: S18646

Set up in 1971, the Spencer Foundation is a US-based funder of education research and wishes to increase opportunities for all as well as improve education in order to impact positively on people's lives.

The Foundation's Large Research Grants on Education programme provides support for research projects that aim to study education and broadly contribute to improvements in education. The overall goal is to support rigorous, intellectually ambitious and technically sound research that is relevant to the most pressing questions and compelling opportunities in education.

Funding is 'field-initiated' ie proposal submissions are open and do not operate in response to specific requests for particular research

topics, disciplines, designs or methods. The Foundation seeks to support scholarship that develops new foundational knowledge that may have a lasting impact on educational discourse.

Principal Investigators (PIs) and Co-PIs applying for the grant must have an earned doctorate in an academic discipline or professional field, or appropriate experience in an education research-related profession. Proposals are accepted from the US and internationally.

PIs must be affiliated with a non-profit organisation or public/governmental institution that is willing to serve as the administering organisation if the grant is awarded, such as a non-profit or public college, university, school district, research facility or other non-profit organisation.

Proposals with budgets between \$125,000 and \$500,000 can be funded, including up to 15% indirect cost charges. Funding can last for up to five years.

There is a two-stage application process consisting of a mandatory Intent to Apply proposal followed by a full application. **The Intent to Apply stage is now open and should be submitted by the deadline of 14 January 2025 (12:00 CT). The full proposal deadline is 11 February 2025 (12:00 CT).**

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Ivan Juritz Prize for Creative Work that References the Modernist Era - Entries Open for 2025

Fund ID: S19272

Established in 2014, the Ivan Juritz Prize aims to celebrate the creativity of the modernist era and reward art that seeks to 'make it new'. The prize is a collaboration between the Hub for Modern Literature and Culture at King's College London, UK and Mahler & LeWitt Studios, Italy.

The prize is offered to postgraduate students throughout Europe for texts, films, musical compositions, virtual documentation of artwork, excerpts of moving image work, and proposals for installation and performance.

Entrants are encouraged to play with form that enables people to think, feel and question. The three prize categories are text, sound and visual arts. Entrants are limited to one entry per prize category per year.

The prize is intended for artists who have yet to establish themselves, but work that has already been published or performed can be submitted. Candidates should analyse the role of experiment in their work and, if appropriate, relate the work, whether sympathetically or antagonistically, to the creative experimentation of the modernist era.

Entry is open to postgraduate students from any European country who are currently enrolled in traditional academic postgraduate degrees or creative postgraduate courses. 'European' refers to the geographical continent of Europe. Collaborative entries will be accepted, however, all members of the collaboration must be currently enrolled postgraduate students.

Winners in the three categories (text, sound and visual arts) each receive £1,000. The winners will also be invited to a joint two-week artist residency at Mahler & LeWitt Studios in Spoleto, Italy (travel expenses will be funded). All shortlisted works will be showcased at the prize-giving ceremony at King's College London and are written up in the *Textual Practice* journal.

Entries must be submitted by the deadline of 31 March 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Funding for Research Groups at the Bielefeld Centre for Interdisciplinary Research

Fund ID: S21230

Zentrum für interdisziplinäre Forschung (Centre for Interdisciplinary Research - ZiF) at Bielefeld University fosters outstanding and innovative interdisciplinary research projects. The ZiF is an independent thematically open research institution and is open to scholars from all disciplines and all countries.

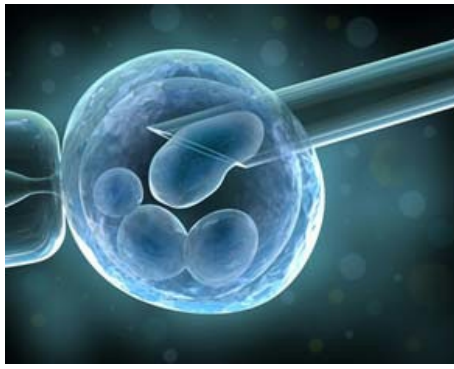
With the **Research in Groups Programme**, ZiF offers researchers working in interdisciplinary research the opportunity to gather a group of collaborators for a series of meetings at ZiF in Germany. The programme allows a group of international researchers to conduct an interdisciplinary research project of high academic quality and originality. ZiF offers funding for visiting groups (one to three months), resident groups (four to six months) as well as long-term research groups (up to three years).

The programme is open to researchers from all disciplines who have completed their doctorate. Applications must be submitted by a team of two to four people who also act as convenors of the group they propose. Groups must bring together at least three researchers. International participation is explicitly encouraged.

Depending on the format of the research group, ZiF offers a grant of €50,000 to up to €400,000 to cover the costs for travel and accommodation.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 24 April 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)



Biotechnology and Biology

BSBI Opens Applications for Botanical Research and Plant Study Grants

Fund ID: S5034

The Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland (BSBI) is a charity whose mission is to support the study and conservation of wild plants and to provide funding for botanical research.

The Society offers small-scale support through its Research Grants and Plant Study Grants to support research that enhances knowledge of the flora of Britain and Ireland.

Plant Study Grants are awarded to promote study of the British or Irish vascular or charophyte flora by undergraduate or postgraduate students in the UK or Ireland. These grants (maximum £1,000) are intended for undergraduates who wish to work on a botanical project that will improve their scientific skills, and for self-funding postgraduate students working on a relevant research project as part of their postgraduate degree course.

Research Grants, typically around £500 each but up to a maximum of £1,000, are aimed at PhD students, academic researchers and amateur botanists. Applicants need not be members of the BSBI.

The following areas of study are eligible for funding:

- Taxonomy, systematics and evolution.
- Ecology, including autecological, physiological and phenological studies.
- Population and ecological genetics.
- Phytogeography/phylogeography.
- Plant/animal interactions, including plant biochemistry.
- Conservation biology.

Research Grants may be used for scientific activities such as fieldwork, working visits, consumables and laboratory services, and publication costs.

Applications to the 2025 grant scheme (Research Grant or Plant Study Grant) must be submitted by 31 January 2025.

BSBI expects to announce its awards within eight weeks of this deadline.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Kew Royal Botanic Gardens Emily Holmes Memorial Scholarship - 2025 Application Deadline Announced

Fund ID: S9160

Founded in 1759 and declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2003, the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew (London, UK) undertakes science and conservation work to conserve plant and fungal diversity and safeguard the world's plant life for future generations.

Through the Emily Holmes Memorial Scholarships, Kew offers funding for postgraduate students to work on botanical research projects. It was established in 2002 and is funded via the Amar-Franses and Foster-Jenkins Trust.

Kew is particularly keen to encourage applicants who are finding it difficult to secure funding from other sources and are in a position where a grant would make a significant contribution to their studies. Funding is available for academic fees and postgraduate course research projects.

Strong applicants will have an established collaborative relationship with a Kew scientist who is willing to support the project and application. Applications must have a letter of support from a Kew scientist in order to be considered for funding and must clearly align with the [Kew Science Strategy](#). Strong applications will also show a clear link to the work of Kew Science, including an understanding of the different research areas at Kew and the involvement of Kew scientists.

The scheme is open to postgraduate students who are currently enrolled on a postgraduate course in a research organisation or university. Applications are accepted from any country worldwide and there are no restrictions based on nationality or age.

The scholarship has a total budget of £10,000 per year. The maximum grant size is £3,000 and most grants awarded are in the £1,000 to £3,000 range.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 28 February 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)



Economic and Social Research

€315 Million Announced for Horizon Europe Widening Actions as 2025 Teaming Call Opens for Applications

Fund ID: S21677

The European Commission has announced 63 projects will receive a share of €315 million through Teaming, Excellence Hubs, and ERA Chair actions to advance research and innovation in Widening countries. The three funding opportunities were launched in 2023, and all projects are due to start their activities between end of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025.

The supported opportunities are as follows:

Teaming for Excellence

The flagship initiative aims to accelerate research and innovation by creating or upgrading centres of excellence in low-performing countries. It fosters partnerships between leading scientific institutions and those in low-performing countries, helping to improve competitiveness and address societal challenges.

The Teaming for Excellence call's deadline for its second stage was on 7 March 2024, with 34 submitted proposals. [13 projects were selected](#) for funding, starting their activities between November 2024 and January 2025.

ERA Chairs

The action's goal is to increase research capacity at widening universities or scientific centres by attracting top researchers and establishing a fully integrated team to enhance performance in a chosen scientific domain. This call for proposals also closed in March 2024, receiving 158 applications, of which [38 were selected](#) for funding.

Excellence Hubs

This funding opportunity fosters collaboration between academia, business, government, and society in Widening countries. After receiving 205 project proposals in March this year, [12 were selected](#) to receive EU funding.

Details of all 63 projects selected under the three Widening calls are available in the dedicated [overview](#). Additional information about the funded projects, including their objectives and the consortia, are available on [CORDIS](#) (Community Research and Development Information Service).

The 2025 round of the *Teaming for Excellence* opportunity opened for applications on 3 December 2024. A total of €270 million is available to support approximately 18 projects. **Applications can be submitted via the Funding and Tenders Portal by the 10 April 2025 deadline.**

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

IPRA Foundation to Open 2025 Grant Cycle for Peace Research

Fund ID: S14822

The International Peace Research Association Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organisation, which furthers the purposes and activities of the International Peace Research Association (IPRA).

Peace Research Grants are available for projects that further the Foundation's goals and mission, which is to advance interdisciplinary research into the conditions of peace and the causes of conflict and examination of alternatives to violence.

Peace research is distinguished by its attention to systematic observation or study of conflict phenomena and peace strategies. IPRA is especially interested in projects that investigate how the conditions of peace can be advanced and/or the causes of war and other forms of violence be addressed, including their effects on people and society.

Individual scholars worldwide are eligible to apply. Previous recipients are not eligible to apply again.

The maximum grant is \$5,000 for a standard grant period of one year.

Applications to the first grant cycle of 2025 must be submitted to IPRA between 1 January and 28 February 2025.

Philipp Schwartz Initiative for Researchers at Risk Issues New Call

Fund ID: S12165

Established by the government of the Federal Republic of Germany, the Alexander von Humboldt Stiftung (Alexander von Humboldt Foundation) supports foreign students and researchers during research visits to Germany. The aim of the foundation is to promote academic co-operation between scientists and scholars from Germany and abroad.

The **Philipp Schwartz Initiative** is a cooperation between the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and the Federal Foreign Office. The objective of the programme is to enable universities and other research institutions to receive foreign researchers who are subject to significant and continuous personal threat in their country of origin while also raising awareness of the plight of threatened researchers in general, and offer opportunities for stakeholders interested and involved in this issue to network.

Eligible for funding are research-performing institutions in Germany, which includes:

- Public and state-recognised universities, including universities of applied sciences.
- Max Planck Institutes, Helmholtz Institutes, Leibniz Institutes, Fraunhofer Institutes.
- Federal and State Research Institutes.
- Other research-performing institutions that can convincingly demonstrate their research focus and infrastructures.

The fellowship may be provided to threatened researchers from any academic field and any country of origin who meet the following criteria:

- Completed doctorate or a comparable academic degree (PhD, CSc or equivalent).
- No more than five years of absence from their own country.
- Sufficient language skills required to successfully conduct their research projects.
- Proof of academic qualifications (eg publications).
- Potential to be integrated into the (research-related) job market.

Applicants should note that the application will require them to prove a pertinent threat to the selected researcher.

The Initiative provides a monthly stipend of €2,700 to the host institution for the fellowship recipient. The fellowship is limited to a maximum of 24 months. The host institution also receives a one-off lump sum of €20,000 for expenditure related to awareness-raising concerning the issue of 'researchers at risk' at its own institution.

The submission window for the 15th call closes on 16 February 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Panmure House Prize Opens to Applications in January 2025

Fund ID: S26142

Panmure House, a charity based in Scotland, UK, is the final remaining home of Adam Smith (1723-1790), the philosopher and 'father of modern economics'. The Edinburgh Business School and Heriot-Watt University rescued the historic building from dereliction in 2008 and it is now a centre of excellence for the study of contemporary economics.

Awarded annually, the Panmure House Prize is given to emerging leaders in academia for research that has already been conducted that explores the practical implementation of long-term thinking in relation to innovation, finance, and social and economic change. It rewards research that embodies Adam Smith's own approach to rigorous empiricism and long-term, interdisciplinary thinking.

The prize is administered in partnership with FCLTGLOBAL, a US-based non-profit organisation that promotes sustainable economies. Support is provided by Baillie Gifford, a Scottish investment management firm that is wholly owned by its partners.

The prize is open to emerging leaders in academia from relevant disciplines, particularly those whose research looks at long-term funding of innovation and who take interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary approaches. Candidates can be based in any country. Applicants must receive institutional support. Applications are encouraged from early career researchers (defined as 3-15 years post completion of PhD).

An award of \$75,000 is given annually to one recipient. Winners can spend this amount to advance relevant work, such as attending conferences, hiring research staff or undertaking buyout policies.

Applications open on 9 January 2025 and must be submitted by the deadline of 17 April 2025 (17:00 BST).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)



Engineering and Physical Sciences

Launch of 2025 Fondation Simone et Cino Del Duca Scientific Grand Prize on Matter out of Equilibrium

Fund ID: S16463

Fondation Simone et Cino Del Duca (Simone and Cino Del Duca Foundation) works to support literary, artistic and scientific achievements in France and beyond, providing a range of annual prizes and grants. It operates under the aegis of the Institut de France.

The Foundation's Scientific Grand Prize is awarded on an annual basis to a French or European scientist and their team for an ambitious research project addressing a specified theme. For 2025, the prize may be awarded in the any of the following fields: Mathematics; physics; mechanical sciences and IT; sciences of the universe and their applications. The research topic is: 'Matter out of equilibrium'. This topic covers a range of systems, including 'active' and biological matter, collective behaviour of animals, quantum many-body systems subject to external fields, highly trained and turbulent systems, as well as granular or glassy materials.

The Prize will be awarded to a French or European scientist and their research team.

The value of the Prize is as follows:

- €200,000 to finance the work of the award-winning research group.
- €25,000 awarded to the Principal Investigator (PI) of the research group.
- €50,000 towards the employment of one French or foreign postdoctoral researcher, to be selected by the PI, in the two years following the award of the prize.

The application deadline is 18 February 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Policy: 2024 EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard Published

In 2023, European industry has significantly increased its investment in research and development (R&D) by 9.8%, outpacing the United States and China for the first time since 2013. This growth, highlighted in the latest EU Industrial R&D Investment Scoreboard, underscores Europe's commitment to innovation and technological advancement. The [2024 Scoreboard](#) provides economic information from the latest financial accounts (Financial Year 2023) of the world's top 2000 R&D investors, as well as the top 800 companies based in the EU. These companies account for 85-90% of global private R&D funding.

Spread across 19 Member States, the top 800 companies based in the EU invested €247.7 billion in R&D in 2023, growing by 8.7% from the previous year. The automotive sector leads the EU-800 list, accounting for 34.2% of EU corporate R&D investments, followed by the health sector (19.3%), ICT hardware (14%) and ICT software (7.8%). This surge in investment is seen as a crucial step towards enhancing the EU's global competitiveness and achieving its strategic autonomy in key technological areas.

The European Commission has welcomed this development, emphasising the importance of sustained investment in R&D to drive economic growth and address societal challenges.

Ekaterina Zaharieva, Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation said:

'Research and innovation investments will determine tomorrow's economy, industry and competitiveness. We count on the contribution of European corporate leaders to help close our innovation gap with other world regions. Solid innovation ecosystems will boost our

start-ups and SMEs, and will contribute to our shared prosperity, building on our robust industrial base.'

The underlying Scoreboard database is publicly available to allow stakeholders such as companies, policymakers, and researchers to undertake their own analyses.

€3.4 Billion for Net Zero Technologies and EV Battery Cell Manufacturing Projects through European Commission Innovation Fund

Fund ID: S19983

The European Commission is inviting applications for six Call Topics launched under the Innovation Fund. The topics have a combined budget of €3.4 billion to support the deployment of innovative decarbonisation technologies, including electric vehicles batteries.

With an estimated revenue of €40 billion from the EU Emissions Trading System between 2020 and 2030, the Innovation Fund aims to create financial incentives for companies and public authorities to invest in cutting-edge low-carbon technologies and support Europe's transition to climate neutrality.

Under the general call, project promoters may apply for grants under five topics with distinct budget and capital expenditure (CAPEX) requirements:

- General decarbonisation (large-scale): €1.2 billion available for projects with CAPEX above €100 million.
- General decarbonisation (medium-scale): €200 million available for projects with CAPEX between €20 million and €100 million.
- General decarbonisation (small-scale): €100 million available for projects with CAPEX between €2.5 million and €20 million.
- Cleantech manufacturing: €700 million available for projects with CAPEX above €2.5 million focusing on the manufacturing of components for renewable energy, energy storage, heat pumps and hydrogen production.
- Pilot Projects: €200 million available for projects with CAPEX above €2.5 million focusing on deep decarbonisation.

Projects will be assessed based on their potential to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and their degree of innovation, maturity, replicability and cost efficiency.

For the first time under the Innovation Fund call for proposals, Member States will have the possibility to complement the Net-Zero IF 24 Call with national funding schemes. This new option, called 'Grants-as-a-Service', allows Member States to leverage on the Innovation Fund's evaluation process and streamlined State aid approval process.

In addition, a new €1 billion call for electric vehicle battery cell manufacturing ([IF24 Battery](#)) will support projects requesting more than €2.5 million that can produce innovative electric vehicles battery cells or deploy innovative manufacturing techniques, processes and technologies.

The Innovation Fund can cover up to 60% of a project's relevant costs. Projects located in the EEA are eligible to apply.

The 2024 call is open to applications until 24 April 2025 (17:00).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

France-Danube Hubert Curien Partnership Opens for 2025-2027 Programme

Fund ID: S17831

The Hubert Curien Partnership (PHC) programme promotes the exchange of scientific and technical excellence between research teams in France and various partner countries through joint research projects and bilateral research visits.

The 'Danube' PHC partnership supports the reciprocal mobility of collaborators between France and seven partner countries in the Danube region: Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Montenegro, Serbia and Slovakia.

Eligible joint research teams involve researchers from belonging to research groups affiliated with higher education institutions (HEIs) or scientific research organisations. Proposals must involve research teams in France as well as those in between two and four participating countries of the Danube region.

Collaborations will be funded for a maximum of two years and may be in any discipline.

Funding is available to cover the costs of the multilateral mobility of researchers between France and the Danube partner countries. The Hubert Curien initiative focuses on early career researchers, and project activities are expected to include research visits by doctoral students and/or early career postdoctoral fellows.

The maximum funding allocated to each project varies by country and by the total number of participating countries, with a maximum total value of support around €100,000 per project.

Only proposals that have been simultaneously submitted to Campus France and the administrative counterpart in at least two of the partner Danube countries will be considered.

The joint deadline for applying to the 2025-2027 programme is 17 January 2025.

Results are scheduled to be announced in June 2025 with projects to begin in July 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)



Medical Research

APMRF Opens 2025 Grant Cycle for Research Projects on Niemann-Pick Type C (NPC) Disease

Fund ID: S23285

The Ara Parseghian Medical Research Fund (APMRF) at the University of Notre Dame is a non-profit organisation dedicated to finding treatments or a cure for Niemann-Pick Type C (NPC) disease.

APMRF Research Grants are available annually to support research projects that further understanding of the molecular basis of NPC or seek to develop novel strategies to treat and/or cure the disease.

Funding supports an international research programme that aims to:

- Expedite a treatment and cure for NPC disease.
- Promote collaborative research efforts among the world's leading experts in cholesterol metabolism, cell biology, neurobiology, genetics, pharmacology and other areas of science.
- Study NPC disease that may also further understanding of other neurodegenerative diseases as well as cholesterol storage disorders.

Grants are available to qualified institutions and organisations around the world.

Individual grants do not usually exceed \$100,000 per year in value. Awards are usually made for a maximum of one year, but some proposals may be considered for a two year period.

Applicants to the 2025 grant cycle must first submit a Letter of Intent (LoI) by the deadline of 1 March 2025.

Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full proposal by the deadline of 1 May 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

EP PerMed Launches JTC 2025 alongside Two Market Development Opportunities

Fund ID: S25747

The European Partnership for Personalised Medicine (EP PerMed) is a 10-year [European Partnership](#) launched under Horizon Europe with a vision to improve health outcomes within sustainable healthcare systems through research, development, innovation and implementation of personalised medicine approaches for the benefit of patients, citizens, and society.

EP PerMed is inviting applications for its second of a planned seven Joint Transnational Calls (JTC). The call has a budget of €36.5 million and will support multinational innovative research projects in personalised medicine, which should bring together academic, clinical/public health and private research teams to enhance the competitiveness of Europe in this field.

The overall objectives of JTC2025 are as follows:

- Support research projects in human health on pharmacogenomic strategies for personalised medicine approaches that address one or more of the following aspects:

- Identification of new pharmacogenomic markers or signatures using (multi)-omics data in relation to drug or drug combination.
 - Validation of a pharmacogenomic marker or signatures using (multi)-omics data in predicting drug or drug combination outcomes.
 - Use pharmaco-omics strategies to determine the right dosage, the efficacy of treatments and/or the risk of adverse drug response and non-response to treatment to tailor personalised treatment pathways, including combined treatments (multi-medication).
- Encourage and enable interdisciplinary collaborations, ie multi-actor research by engaging a range of other relevant disciplines such as pre-clinical and clinical research, bioinformatics/health informatics/data research, ELSA research, implementation research or health economics research connected to the proposed research topic, including end-user perspective analysis to support the implementation of the research outcomes into clinical practice.
 - Encourage cross-sectorial collaborations, by including the private sector (eg SMEs, small and medium-sized enterprises), industry, as well as regulatory/HTA agencies and patient organisations.
 - Establish participatory research, ie active representation of patients or citizens as part of research projects.

Research projects in all disease areas are welcome. Research on polygenic drug response phenotypes is encouraged.

The following countries (24) are participating in the preparation of the call: Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Sweden and Türkiye.

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each consortium must involve at least three partners from three different EU Member States or Associated Countries whose funding organisations participate in the call. Each of these partners must be eligible and request funding from the respective funding organisation. All three legal entities must be independent of each other. Consortia are strongly encouraged to include a mix of partners from academia, the clinical/public health sector, and private for-profit (industry) partners in line with the crosscutting/multidisciplinary nature of the call.

The call will be implemented in two stages. A pre-proposal stage will close on 18 February 2025 and a full-proposal phase for selected candidates will run from 15 May 2025 to 17 June 2025.

In addition to JTC2025, EP PerMed has launched two opportunities for start-ups, researchers, and early-stage teams working on cutting-edge solutions in personalised medicine, which aim to accelerate the development, validation, and market readiness of transformative innovations that enhance patient care.

The **Fast Track Validation Programme** aims to address a critical bottleneck in personalised medicine development by supporting validation studies to elevate projects to higher technological and market readiness levels. The programme provides a structured, accelerated pathway for personalised medicine innovators to validate their solutions, offering participants the opportunity to obtain critical evidence and feedback within a condensed timeframe of six months. This expedited process helps innovators swiftly advance their projects by at least one technology readiness level (TRL) and also enhances their readiness for market entry and commercialisation.

The programme is open to start-ups, or small teams and researchers affiliated with an academic or healthcare research organisation registered in an [EU Member State or a Horizon Europe-associated country](#) who are looking to advance their PM innovations through rigorous validation studies. The programme targets solutions that are at least at the proof-of-concept stage (TRL3).

The application can be submitted with or without an already selected validation centre. When applying without a validation centre, the application must present a clear view on what kind of validation partner is needed for the project. This will help facilitate matching the application with an appropriate validation centre.

Selected projects will receive funding of up to €80,000 per project, which can be used to cover validation services and other eligible costs. At least 70% of the budget should be allocated to user validation services.

The **Venture Creation Programme** empowers early-stage ventures or teams in personalised medicine by bridging the gap between innovation and commercialisation through mentoring, business model development, and customer discovery. Upon completing the EP PerMed Venture Creation Programme, new ventures will emerge with robust business models based on customer feedback, and cohesive, well-formed teams ready to bring the solutions to the market.

The programme is open to teams and early stage start-ups who seek support in spinning out their personalised medicine venture. Teams should consist of up to five members who are citizens or residents of [EU Member States countries or Horizon Europe associated countries](#) with proposed solutions (typically in the proof-of-concept stage (scientifically and technically)). The team shall consist of individuals with diverse backgrounds, including technical/scientific, clinical, product design/development, and business. Each team member should demonstrate relevant experience and a strong commitment to advancing personalised medicine.

Two webinars will be held for these opportunities:

- [Fast Track Webinar](#), 21 January 2025 (11:00-12:00 CET).
- [Venture Creation Webinar](#), 28 January 2025 (11:00-12:00 CET).

Applications should be submitted in English via the [EIT Health Application Platform](#) by 13 March 2025 (16:00 CET).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Ataxia UK Announces New Research Grants Deadline for Applications over £5,000

Fund ID: S2004

Ataxia UK is a medical research charity that supports people affected by the ataxias, a group of rare neurological conditions.

Funding is given to research projects that cover a wide range of progressive ataxias, as outlined in the Ataxia UK [Research Strategy](#). Specifically it will only consider funding research into conditions in which ataxia is the principal symptom, and in which the ataxia is likely to be progressive. This includes conditions such as Friedreich's ataxia, the spinocerebellar ataxias and other cerebellar ataxias (including idiopathic ones).

Ataxia UK's mission is to find treatments and cures for the ataxias. To achieve this, the objectives of Ataxia UK are to: gain a better understanding of the ataxias; improve diagnosis; develop treatments that are available to people with ataxia; and improve physical and mental quality of life for people with ataxia. Innovative projects involving promising new ideas are encouraged, as are projects that are close to a potential treatment. Funding can cover aspects such as:

- Research projects.
- PhD studentships.
- Research fellowships.
- Small grants (less than £5,000).
- Pilot scheme grants (less than £5,000).
- Contributions to ataxia meetings and conferences.
- Travel awards for researchers or students presenting at conferences.
- Satellite meetings at conferences.

Funding is open to:

- Academic institutions.
- Private sector research companies.
- Suitably qualified individuals.
- Collaborative groups formed from a combination of the above.

Applications are accepted from researchers based in any country, but the research must have relevance for people affected by ataxia in the UK. Research funded by Ataxia UK must take place in an environment that can be monitored, and where regulatory standards are equivalent to those in the UK.

Grants will normally last for one to three years and should not normally exceed £30,000 as the total budget requested.

Preliminary applications (for award amounts of £5,000 to £30,000) must be submitted by the deadline of 14 February 2025.

Small grant and pilot scheme applications (of less than £5,000) are accepted on a rolling basis and are discussed at the next Scientific Advisory Committee meeting. These grants are normally fast-tracked, with applications only going through one stage of assessment.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

ERA4Health Issues Pre-Announcement of 6th JTC Focusing on Cardiovascular Diseases

Fund ID: S24514

ERA4Health is a European Partnership that aims to boost European transnational collaborative research funding in priority areas addressing European public health needs.

ERA4Health has issued a [pre-announcement](#) of its sixth call for proposals titled 'InterHeart', which will focus on understanding the interactions between cardiovascular diseases and comorbidities and/or their therapeutic treatments. The call will support research that:

- Builds understanding of molecular and cellular mechanisms governing interactions between the cardiovascular system and the other organs/systems when at least one of the two presents a pathological state.
- Builds a comprehensive approach to understanding cardiovascular disease (CVD) interactions, combining basic research, clinical translation, and digital innovation through international collaboration.
- Enables transnational collaboration of multidisciplinary scientists from different countries to work together across borders, taking advantage of complementary expertise and leveraging diverse patient populations and sets of data.

The proposals should focus on expanding knowledge and understanding of:

- How CVD affect the performance of other organs/systems and/or their capacity to respond to treatments;
- How disorders other than CVD affect cardiovascular system performance including response to treatments; and/or
- How treatment for disorders other than CVD affect positively or negatively the performance of the cardiovascular system.

The proposals should include one of the following approaches:

- Mechanistic/experimental research.
- Identification and validation of biomarkers of organs/systems/disorders crosstalk mentioned above (including epigenetics biomarkers).
- Generation of digital models of disease(s) to study disease-disease or disease-drug.

The following funding organisations are taking part in the call:

- Belgium - Fund for Scientific Research-FNRS (FRS-FNRS) and The Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO)
- Denmark - Innovation Fund Denmark (IFD)
- France - French Research Funding Agency (ANR)
- Hungary - National Research, Development and Innovation Office (NKFIH)
- Italy - Ministry of Health (IT-MOH)
- Latvia - Latvian Council of Science (LCS)
- Lithuania - Research Council of Lithuania (LMT)
- Poland - National Centre for Research and Development (NCBR)
- Slovakia - Slovak Academy of Sciences (SAS)
- Spain - Regional Ministry of Health and Consumer Affairs of Andalusia (CSCJA)
- Taiwan - National Science and Technology Council (NSTC)

The duration of the projects will be 36 months.

Joint research proposals may be submitted by applicants belonging to one of the following categories (eligibility of project partners may vary according to national/regional regulations): academia, clinical/public health sector, enterprises, and operational stakeholders.

Only transnational projects will be funded. Consortia must consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of five eligible partners from at least three different countries participating in the call, with no more than two eligible partners from the same country. The maximum number of eligible partners can be increased to six or seven if they include one or two partners, respectively, from an underrepresented country (Lithuania and Slovakia). Consortia can include a maximum of two collaborators (self-funded partner not applying funding).

Project partners will be funded by their relevant national/regional funding organisation. Eligible costs and funding rules vary between the respective funding organisations.

Pre-proposals should be submitted between 7 January 2025 and 7 March 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

February Deadline for 2025 Fondation ARC International Call for Leaders in Oncology

Fund ID: S11252

The Fondation ARC (Association pour la Recherche sur le Cancer - Cancer Research Association) is France's leading foundation dedicated entirely to cancer research. It supports work in all areas of cancer research, including prevention, screening, diagnosis, aetiology and treatment.

Fondation ARC's Recruiting International Leaders in Oncology fund, now accepting applications for 2025, aims to strengthen France's competitiveness in the field of cancer research by attracting top-tier researchers to move to France, establish teams in France and develop ambitious research programmes within French research structures.

The call is open to basic and translational research programmes that will develop links between bench and bedside. The scheme is intended to work as a collaboration between the Fondation ARC and the host institutions, with host institutions matching the Fondation ARC funding budget of €1.5 million over five years. The aim of this scheme is to ensure selected researchers remain in France in the long-term and as such, the research structure must commit to supporting the candidate as part of a long-term process.

The initiative is aimed at French research structures located within France, composed of internationally renowned teams offering the critical mass necessary to this programme's ambition and who wish to develop a new research programme in the field of oncology. The research structure must identify a candidate who meets its needs in terms of skills development and may only present one candidate. Research structures are defined as follows:

- An academic research structure governed by a public research institution: university, public body for scientific purposes (EPST), public body for industrial or commercial purposes (EPIC), etc.
- A non-profit organisation, such as an association or a foundation.
- A public health institution in France.

Calls for proposals are targeted at researchers recognised for their scientific career and world-class quality, able to form their own team and conduct their research project independently. In order to be nominated, a candidate must have defended their doctoral thesis (PhD) within 10-25 years of the award decision date and hold a position outside of France as of the opening of the call. The must be free to move to France by the end of 2025.

The call will provide up to €1.5 million over a five-year period. Funding may be used for the researcher's salary, material resources, recruitment of temporary staff and travel expenses. It is expected that the host structure make substantial commitments to guarantee the team and research project the best hosting conditions.

The application deadline is 14 February 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

ANRS MIE Launches New Call for Projects on Emerging Infectious Diseases in Low- and Middle-Income Countries

Fund ID: S24323

France's Agence Nationale de Recherche sur le Sida | Maladies infectieuses émergentes (ANRS MIE - National Agency for AIDS and Emerging Infectious Diseases Research) was founded in 1988 by the Ministry of Research and Technology as part of the government's plan to combat the AIDS epidemic. Its mission is to evaluate, promote, coordinate and fund research on AIDS and human retroviral infections, in collaboration with other French institutions conducting biological and medical research. Since 2021, research into emerging infectious diseases also falls within the remit of the Agency.

ANRS MIE operates a programme to support research into emerging infectious diseases. The focus of the programme is to support collaborative research with low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) into these diseases. Research will take place in a LMIC. This call welcomes projects linked to emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases. The projects undertaken may focus on any of the following: Basic research; translational research; clinical research; public health; or the humanities and social sciences. Conforming to the ANRS MIE priorities concerning emerging and re-emerging pathogens, the call is particularly interested in studies of viral haemorrhagic fevers, respiratory viruses and arboviruses. It is not obligatory for the project to be linked to HIV, viral hepatitis, tuberculosis or sexually transmitted infections. The call for proposals is particularly interested in major, multidisciplinary projects involving a number of countries, supporting the research structure of the countries involved. Involving patient groups in research projects is highly encouraged if the project permits it.

The call will fund research projects, which may or may not include requests for associated research grants (doctoral or postdoctoral). Separately, it will fund individual and nominative research grants that are not associated with a project (doctoral or postdoctoral students).

Projects must be undertaken in LMICs according to the [World Bank classification](#). Applications must have two project leads, one from a French research team and one from a team in a LMIC. Other research teams, from anywhere in the world, may also be involved in the project alongside the project leads.

Eligible candidates for research grants are researchers from any country who meet the following criteria:

- Doctoral or postdoctoral candidates.
- Aged 40 or under by the time the call for proposals closes.
- Associated with a French research institution (public or private).
- (for doctoral students) Candidate at a French doctoral institution.
- (for doctoral students) Have at least a DEA/Master's 2 or equivalent at the time of application.

There is no established minimum or maximum project budget; this will be decided on a case-by-case basis. Recipients of a research grant will receive funding for 12, 24 or 36 months. Managing costs are permitted by up to 8% of the total budget. Projects may be co-financed alongside other organisations, subject to agreement between ANRS MIE and the partner organisations.

The application deadline is 12 March 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

First ERDERA Call Now Open

Fund ID: S26947

The European Rare Diseases Research Alliance (ERDERA) represents over 170 organisations from 37 countries working closely together with a shared vision of making Europe a world leader in rare diseases research and innovation to ultimately support concrete health benefits to rare diseases patients through improved prevention, diagnosis and treatment.

The aim of the ERDERA Joint Transnational Call (JTC) 2025 call is to enable scientists in different countries to build an effective collaboration on a common interdisciplinary research project based on complementarities and sharing of expertise, with the expected impact being future use of the results to benefit patients.

Proposals must cover at least one of the following areas:

- Development of novel therapies in a preclinical setting through cell, organoid and animal model studies, molecule screening or use of in silico or artificial intelligence models to accelerate the success rate of the pre-clinical stage.
- Development of predictive and pharmacodynamics biomarkers correlated to the efficiency of the therapy in a preclinical setting that could serve as surrogate endpoints.
- Replication of pre-clinical studies in an independent lab to increase validity of exploratory findings.
- Pre-clinical proof of concept studies for evidence of pharmacological activity in vitro and in vivo, pharmaco-kinetics and pharmaco-dynamics of the drug and first toxicology and safety data.
- Studies to support readiness for initiating clinical trial authorisation conforming to regulatory requirements.

Translatability into humans should be the key focus of the project, and applicants should demonstrate access to relevant scientific or regulatory expertise (eg, through innovation task forces or competent national authorities). The maximum duration of a project will be three years.

Partners belonging to one of the following categories may request funding under a joint research proposal (according to country/regional regulations):

- Academia (research teams working in universities, other higher education institutions or research institutes).
- Clinical/public health sector (research teams working in hospitals/public health and/or other health care settings and health organisations).
- Enterprises (all sizes of private companies). Participation of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) is encouraged when allowed by national/regional regulations.
- Patient advocacy organisations (PAOs).

Only transnational projects will be funded. Each consortium submitting a proposal must involve four to six eligible principal investigator partners from at least four different participating countries. One of these four to six partners must be an Early Career Researcher (ECR). In general, ECRs can either be PhD holders or medical doctors.

JTC25 has a deadline for pre-proposals of 13 February 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Cystic Fibrosis Research: Christiane Herzog Advancement Award Now Open for Applications

Fund ID: S19649

Christiane Herzog Stiftung is a charitable foundation dedicated to supporting people affected by cystic fibrosis (CF). As part of its core mission, the foundation also promotes research on the disease.

Applications are now invited for the annual **Christiane Herzog Advancement Award for Cystic Fibrosis Research**. The award is designed to promote work by an early career researcher in the field of cystic fibrosis. It offers a project grant to carry out a research project over the period of two years. The thematic focus of the award is on clinically relevant work in the field of diagnostics or therapy of CF. Project proposals must be innovative and include pioneering approaches to CF research.

Eligible to apply are researchers and medical doctors working in the field of cystic fibrosis for at least one year. Applications are accepted from clinicians up to the age of 41. Researchers without any clinical responsibilities may apply until the age of 36.

The proposed research project must be carried out (predominantly) in Germany, Switzerland or Austria. It should be part of the applicant's career progression plan (eg habilitation). The project may have already commenced. Completed projects are however not considered as part of this grant award.

The award comprises a project grant of €50,000 which maybe be used to cover the applicant's own salary as well as material and travel costs (eg for research trips).

The deadline for applications is 28 February 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Policy: UK and Switzerland Strengthen Scientific Collaboration

The United Kingdom and Switzerland have [announced](#) a significant enhancement of their scientific and research partnership, backed by a £16 million joint investment. This funding aims to address some of the most pressing global challenges, including advancements in healthcare and the transition to green energy.

The collaboration will support 11 UK-Swiss research projects, focusing on areas such as antibacterial coatings for joint replacements and the development of quantum sensors for various applications. This initiative builds on previous collaborative efforts and underscores the strategic importance of the life sciences sector, with both countries being key global players. The agreement was formalised during a meeting in Berne, where UK Science Minister Lord Vallance and Swiss State Secretary for Education, Research and Innovation Martina Hirayama signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding.

This renewed commitment is expected to foster innovation and strengthen the ties between the two nations' leading research institutions and businesses.

UK Science Minister Lord Vallance said:

'Sometimes the biggest breakthroughs happen simply by bringing big thinkers and innovators together. To unleash science as a force for good in the world, it is critical that we build deeper and broader ties with research powerhouses like Switzerland.'

'Science is fundamentally international, and by working together, the UK and Switzerland's researchers, academics and businesses will be able to aim higher and achieve more.'

Swiss Federal Councillor Guy Parmelin said:

'I am delighted that the outstanding cooperation between Switzerland and the United Kingdom will be further strengthened in the coming years. This is made possible in particular through cooperation between our innovation promotion agencies, the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) and its partner institutions, and between the Paul Scherrer Institute and the UK's Science and Technology Facilities Council (STFC).'

Up to \$1 Million Available to Develop aSyn-SAAs for Biomarkers in Parkinson's Disease

Fund ID: S27089

Established in 2000, the Michael J Fox Foundation (MJFF) was set up to find a cure for Parkinson's disease (PD) and ensure the development of improved therapies.

MJFF's Seed Amplification Assay Innovation Program seeks to advance the development of high-performance, quantitative alpha-synuclein seed amplification assays (aSyn-SAAs), addressing the critical need for less invasive, highly sensitive and quantitative biomarkers in PD clinical trials. Research must address one or both critical gaps to integrate aSyn-SAA into clinical practice and therapeutic development:

- Current aSyn-SAAs provide binary (positive/negative) results rather than quantitative assessment, precluding their use for monitoring disease progression and evaluating treatment effects.
- The invasiveness of spinal tap limits its utility in routine clinical practice, can delay or deter subject recruitment in clinical trials, has poor accessibility/acceptance in some geographies, and is not amendable to request repeated sampling.

Research must aim to overcome these challenges through the development of quantitative aSyn-SAA in cerebral spinal fluid (CSF) and in less invasive methods around biofluids or tissue. Applicants may seek to address one or both challenges in a single application towards the goal of enabling feasible, efficient and quantitative measures of aSyn in SAA for clinical trials.

MJFF will prioritise proposals that develop high-performance, quantitative seed amplification assays for alpha-synuclein, and tackle challenges in sensitivity, specificity and reproducibility of SAA in peripheral biofluids and tissues.

Applications may be submitted by researchers or clinicians in:

- Public and private non-profit entities, such as universities, colleges, hospitals, laboratories, units of state and local governments, and eligible agencies of the federal US government.
- Biotechnology/pharmaceutical companies or other publicly or privately held for-profit entities.

Awards may be held in any country.

Funding of up to \$1 million for 6-24 months is available.

Proposals must be submitted by the deadline of 30 January 2025 (17:00 US ET).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Hamburg Science Prize Offers €150,000 for Research on Immunomodulation

Fund ID: S16053

Akademie der Wissenschaften in Hamburg (AW Hamburg - Academy of Sciences and Humanities in Hamburg) is an academic society for scientists from northern Germany. Since 2009, the academy has awarded the biennial Hamburg Science Prize. The Germany-wide prize is designed to honour outstanding achievements in research, with a focus on scientific work dedicated to progress for human wellbeing. The award is intended to incentivise future scientific work by offering funding for further research activity. Each award is dedicated to a particular theme that can relate to all disciplines of natural and social science, technology and humanities.

The annual theme for the 2025 call is 'Immunomodulation'. The prize is intended to promote and raise public awareness of the necessity and importance of research into immunomodulation with all its facets. It will be given to scientists whose research has made a significant contribution to advances in the field of immunomodulation and immunomodulation. The focus is particularly on research with a potential for application in clinical practice.

Eligible are researchers working in Germany. Nominations maybe submitted from researchers worldwide. They must however be written in German.

The award is endowed with €150,000 and is intended to support further research activity. The candidate's proposed use of the prize money is a deciding criterion when making the award.

The nomination window for the 2025 award closes on 15 March 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)



Natural Environment

First LEAP-SE Transnational Call to Launch in January 2025

LEAP-SE is a six year programme conducted by a consortium of partners from European and African countries, co-funded by the European Commission under Horizon Europe. This partnership aims at developing a long-term partnership between Europe and Africa on Research and Innovation (R&I) on sustainable energy within the framework of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy (CCSE) partnership of the AU-EU High Level Policy Dialogue (HLPD) on Science, Technology and Innovation.

The [LEAP-SE Joint Call 2025](#) will fund basic research, industrial research, applied research and experimental development projects (covering all innovation steps) that are 12-36 months long. Participating countries are Algeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Mauritania, Morocco, Senegal, South Africa, Tunisia, Austria, Belgium, France, Italy, Germany, Portugal, Romania, and Türkiye.

The range of activities recommended for collaboration under LEAP-SE, will focus on seven identified multi-annual roadmaps (MAR):

- Assessment of Renewable Energy Sources and integration of RES in sustainable energy scenarios.
- End-of-life and second-life management and environmental impact of RE components.
- Smart stand-alone systems (SAS).
- Smart grid (different scale) for off grid application.
- Processes and appliances for productive uses (PRODUSE).
- Innovative solutions for priority domestic uses (clean cooking and cold chain).
- Production and utilisation of green hydrogen.

Project consortia must consist of project partners from a minimum of four countries from the two continents (two from Europe and two from Africa). Each project consortium applying to the Call should consist of at least one academic partner and at least one partner from the private sector.

LEAP-SE Joint Call 2025 is scheduled to open in mid-January 2025 with a pre-proposal deadline at the end of March 2025.

Registration is open for a call presentation in [French](#) on 20 January 2025 (10:30) and one in [English](#) on 21 January 2025 (10:00).

Bilateral Research between Spain and Germany: Second AEI-DFG Call Now Open

Fund ID: S25471

Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Foundation) and the Spanish Agencia Estatal de Investigación (AEI - State Research Agency of Spain) launched their joint Lead Agency Programme in summer 2023. The initial pilot was intended to comprise two calls. DFG and AEI have now issued the second call.

The thematic focus of the new call is on bilateral collaboration in the fields of psychology, particle and nuclear physics as well as atmospheric sciences, oceanography and climate research.

Similar to the 2023 call, no separate funds are available for this joint call. Instead, the call follows the general guidelines and budget of the AEI funding line '*Proyectos de Generación de Conocimiento*', (PID2024) and the DFG's Research Grants Programme (*Sachbeihilfe*). Submissions are accepted from researchers working in Germany and Spain who meet the respective national funding criteria.

Proposals will be evaluated in competition with other proposals within the national funding programmes. Only projects that are

selected by both DFG and AEI will be granted funding.

For the 2025 call, AEI acts as the lead agency. The Spanish principal investigator (PI) is responsible for submitting the bilateral proposal to AEI. Upon submission to AEI, the German PI then submits a copy of the proposal to DFG.

The deadline for proposal submissions to AEI is 31 January 2025 (14:00 CET).

Copies of the proposal must reach DFG within 7 days after the submission to AEI.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

EREF Scholarship Programme for Waste Management Research Open to Applications

Fund ID: S10739

The Environmental Research and Education Foundation (EREF) is a non-profit organisation based in the United States. EREF funds and directs scientific research and educational initiatives for waste management practices to benefit industry participants and the communities they serve.

EREF operates a Scholarship Programme to recognise graduate (Master's and doctoral) students pursuing excellence in solid waste management research and education. The following Scholarships are awarded each year:

- Carl J Apicella Scholarship
- Detachable Container Association Scholarship
- Evergreen Surety Bond Scholarship
- Fiessinger Doctoral Scholarship
- Friends of BFI Scholarship
- GarbageMan's Invitational Scholarship
- HHH Safety and Spirit of the Waste Industry Scholarship
- Reinhart Master's Scholarship
- Robert J Riethmiller/PTR Baler and Compactor Scholarship
- Robert P Stearns/SCS Engineers Master's Scholarship
- Ruterra Group Doctoral Scholarship in honour of Joe Frola
- Scott and Vicki Dols Scholarship
- Tom J Fatjo Jr Scholarship
- Waste Industries Scholarship Honouring Lonnie C Poole Jr
- EREF Scholarship

EREF's definition of solid waste includes: municipal solid waste, construction and demolition waste, industrial waste (eg coal ash) and WTE ash etc.

Applications will be considered from those who:

- Will be or are currently full-time Master's or doctoral students.
- Have a clearly demonstrated interest in solid waste management research.

Applications from students outside the United States or studying abroad will receive equal consideration. Recipients are chosen based on credentials and potential contributions to the solid waste industry and its scientific community.

Doctoral scholarships are awarded at a rate of up to \$15,000 per year and can be extended for up to three years from the initial award date. Master's scholarships are awarded at a rate of up to \$7,500 per year and can be extended for up to two years from the initial award date.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 3 March 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Postgraduate Studentships Open to Applications

Fund ID: S707

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has responsibility for food, farming, environment, fisheries, forestry, sustainability policy and the development of the rural sector in Northern Ireland.

Each year, DAERA funds a small number of full-time postgraduate studentships for a three-year period of research leading to a PhD qualification at a university in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland. The research proposal must be in line with one of DAERA's postgraduate studentship [research needs](#) under the following themes:

- Climate
- Sustainable agri-food systems
- One Health
- Natural environment
- Rural affairs

Studentships may be held in higher education institutes in the UK or Republic of Ireland. Applicants must be ordinarily resident in Northern Ireland for the full three-year period before the first day of the first academic year of the course.

The candidate must be a UK national, Irish national, EU national or relevant family member of an EU national with 'protected rights' under the EU Withdrawal Agreement with settled or pre-settled status under the EUSS. For Non-EU nationals, the candidate must be 'settled' in the UK by the closing date for the application.

The required academic qualification is a first or upper second class honours degree from a university in the United Kingdom or Republic of Ireland; alternatively, the applicant may have qualifications and experience considered by the university as equivalent to this standard.

A full DAERA award includes the cost of approved fees as well as maintenance support. Allowances for 2025 are to be confirmed (in academic year 2024/25, the maintenance allowance for a research studentship was £19,237). Other expenses that may be covered or partially covered are: conference expenses (if presenting the research); research training support; and overseas fieldwork (where the fieldwork is essential to the research programme). Funding is provided for three years.

Applications must be submitted by the deadline of 25 February 2025 (23:59).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Now Open: IraSME Call for International Collaborative R&D with SME and RTO Participation

Fund ID: S8558

IraSME is a network of ministries and funding agencies for transnational cooperative R&D projects between small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and Research and Technology Organisations (RTOs) from at least two participating countries. The programme supports SMEs in their transnational innovation activities, helps them to acquire technological know-how, extend their networks, get insights into new regions and develop innovative products, processes and technical services.

IraSME generally organises two calls a year with cut off dates towards the end of March and September. The participating countries change on a call-by-call basis. The calls are intended for joint research projects between SMEs and RTOs involving the development of innovative products, processes or technical services. Research topics are not pre-defined and can be chosen by applicants, although projects should be based on R&D activities with significant technical risks to realise new or improve significantly existing products, processes or technical services with demonstrable market opportunities.

The following countries participate in the 35th call:

- Austria
- Brazil.
- Czech Republic.
- Flanders (Belgium).
- Germany.

- Luxembourg.
- Türkiye.
- Wallonia (Belgium).

Research consortia should consist of at least two SMEs from two different participating countries/regions. RTOs can participate if at least one SME from their country/region is part of the consortium. They may be funded directly or treated as subcontractors depending on the applicable national/regional rules. Partners from not participating countries can also participate in the project if they can finance their part on their own or manage to get funded in another way.

Funding varies for every participating country. The duration of the project should be between 12 and 36 months.

The application deadline for the 35th call is 26 March 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

ISblue Support for International Mobility of Marine Science PhD Students To and From France

Fund ID: S24123

ISblue is an interdisciplinary graduate school which brings together research teams and laboratories in western France to increase knowledge and promote technological innovation and training in the area of marine science.

Funding is available through the ISblue International PhD Mobility scheme to support research visits by doctoral students. This scheme operates on a co-directional basis, supporting mobility both to and from [ISblue research units](#).

Support is provided for three aspects of doctoral mobility.

Co-supervised theses (*co-tutelle* or 'international co-direction')

Mobility support may be requested for doctoral students and their co-directors over the duration of the bilateral PhD. Candidates must be enrolled in an ISblue partner higher education institution (HEI) and also enrolled in a doctoral programme at an institution outside of France.

Outgoing international mobility

This aspect of funding supports the international mobility of doctoral candidates registered in ISblue institutions through short visits (typically one to three months) outside of mainland France in order to acquire new techniques and methodologies, or to carry out fieldwork.

Incoming international mobility

Support is available for doctoral students in institutions outside of France to spend time in an ISblue research unit (typically no longer than three months) as part of an international collaborative initiative.

Mobility should be carried out within the framework of an established programme of international cooperation or under an agreement signed between an ISblue institution and a foreign partner.

For all types of mobility, candidates must have been enrolled in a thesis for less than three years (unless their thesis is financed over four years). The thesis subject must be related to marine science and technology.

The total budget allocated to this scheme is €90,000 per year. The only eligible costs are the actual costs of travel within the limit of the allocated package of support.

Applications to the winter 2024 call must be submitted by 15 February 2025 (23:59).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)



Science and Technology

Switzerland to Associate with Horizon Europe and Euratom Following Successful Negotiations with EU

The European Commission and Switzerland have concluded negotiations on the association of Switzerland to all three pillars of Horizon Europe and the Euratom research and training programme.

In addition to Horizon Europe and Euratom, the agreement will provide Swiss applicants with access to ITER/F4E (Fusion for Energy), Digital Europe, Erasmus+, as well as EU4Health. A separate agreement will cover Switzerland's participation in the EU Space Agency, for activities related to the Galileo and EGNOS components of the Union Space programme.

The agreement concludes an extended period of absence of Switzerland from the research programmes dating back to 2021 following a breakdown in negotiations governing bilateral relations between Switzerland and the EU.

Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research and Innovation, said:

'Switzerland's association to Horizon Europe and the Euratom programmes brings the long-standing cooperation between Switzerland and the European Union to a higher level. This strengthened cooperation will enable European research and innovation communities to benefit from a wider pool of talents and scientific excellence. I welcome this very positive development, which in turn improves Europe's resilience, prosperity, competitiveness and well-being.'

The signing of the Agreement on Swiss participation in Union programmes is expected to take place in 2025, pending the completion of all necessary validations on both sides. In the meantime, the Commission will ensure transitional arrangements are in place from 1 January 2025 so that Swiss entities are able to participate in calls from that date.

The announcement can be read in full at the [European Commission website](#).

BMDV Modernity Fund Launches Fourth Call for Data-Based Research and Development Projects

Fund ID: S15636

The **Modernity Fund Initiative** (mFUND) of the Bundesministerium für Digitales und Verkehr (BMDV - Federal Ministry of Digital and Transport) promotes application-oriented research aimed at the widespread use and smart networking of BMDV departmental data in innovative and advanced applications.

As part of the programme's **Funding line 1**, the BMDV has launched a **fourth call** to support small research and development projects, feasibility studies and preliminary studies with a focus on data and a relation to the BMDV's official remit. Funding is provided in the following categories:

- Category A: Projects with a strong connection to data from the BMDV's business area.
- Category B: Projects which directly and demonstrably contribute to supporting structural change in one of the coal region.
- Category C: Projects which are dedicated to the 2025 mFUND topic: '*Mobility Without Borders: Joint Data Innovations in Europe*'.
- Category D: Projects which deal with the digitalisation of the construction industry in the field of mobility.

Applications may be submitted by legal entities under public and private law in the EU and Switzerland.

The fourth call grants up to €200,000 for a period of up to 18 months. For publicly funded institutions of higher education and non-educational research institutions up to 100% of project-related costs may be provided.

Projects proposals are accepted continuously until the final deadline of 31 December 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Policy: EIC Tech Report on Breakthrough Innovations and Future Trends in European Technology

The European Innovation Council (EIC) [Tech Report 2024](#) provides an in-depth analysis of breakthrough innovations supported by the EIC, highlighting their potential to drive economic growth and address societal challenges.

The report showcases a range of cutting-edge technologies, including advancements in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, and renewable energy. It emphasises the role of these innovations in fostering sustainable development and enhancing Europe's competitive edge in the global market. Notable projects include AI-driven healthcare solutions, next-generation renewable energy systems, and groundbreaking biotech applications aimed at improving public health.

One of the key themes of the report is the importance of fostering a robust innovation ecosystem. The EIC underscores the need for increased collaboration between startups, research institutions, and industry leaders to accelerate the development and deployment of new technologies. The report also highlights the EIC's commitment to supporting high-risk, high-reward projects that have the potential to transform industries and create new markets.

In addition to technological advancements, the report addresses the challenges faced by innovators, such as regulatory hurdles, funding gaps, and the need for skilled talent. It calls for targeted policy measures to create a more conducive environment for innovation, including streamlined regulatory frameworks, increased investment in R&D, and initiatives to attract and retain top talent.

Joint German-Israeli Research Projects Call Announced by DFG

Fund ID: S14041

The **German-Israeli Project Cooperation Programme** (DIP - *Deutsch-Israelische Projektkooperation*) of the Bundesministerium für Bildung und Forschung (BMBF - Federal Ministry of Education and Research) and Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG - German Research Foundation) supports joint research between institutions in Germany and Israel.

The programme is open to all fields of science and research. It is intended to strengthen the scientific cooperation between the two countries and to promote the exchange of scientists, in particular early career researchers.

Projects must bring together researchers from Germany with partners at one of the following research institutions in Israel:

- Bar-Ilan University
- Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- University of Haifa
- Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- Reichman University
- Tel Aviv University
- Technion - Israel Institute of Technology
- Weizmann Institute of Science

Each of these institutions is entitled to submit two proposals.

Projects are supported for a period of five years with a grant of up to €1.655 million. This is intended to cover running costs (staff, materials, travel) and instrumentation.

The application procedure has multiple stages. During the first stage, the research authorities of the Israeli institutions make a selection among pre-proposals, which they solicit and receive through an internal procedure. They will select 16 proposals that may then be submitted to DFG.

For the 2025 call, the submission window for proposals closes on 15 March 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Policy: ESIR Policy Brief on Anticipatory Governance

A new [policy brief](#) from the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation's Expert Group on the Economic and Societal Impact of Research and Innovation (ESIR) examines the root causes of 'short-termism' in corporate governance, identifying its impact on sustainable business practices and proposing EU-level solutions.

Embedding Anticipatory Governance in Europe's Transitions highlights that current market practices and regulatory frameworks often incentivise short-term gains over long-term sustainability. This misalignment poses challenges to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the EU's broader sustainability objectives. The ESIR group argues that a proactive governance framework is essential to address the ethical, social, environmental, and economic implications of technology, emphasising accountability, public trust, and a new digital social contract.

The report suggests that enhancing directors' duties to include a stronger focus on long-term value creation and sustainability could mitigate these issues. It also recommends regulatory adjustments to better align corporate governance with sustainable development, thereby fostering a more resilient and responsible business environment in the European Union.

DAAD Announces New Programme for German-Indian Bilateral Exchange

Fund ID: S27079

The DAAD (Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst - German Academic Exchange Service) is the largest German support organisation in the field of international academic co-operation. The DAAD awards competitive, merit-based grants for use toward study and/or research in Germany at any of the accredited German higher education institutions (HEIs), and for German students to go abroad.

The DAAD's '**German Indian Academic Network for Tomorrow**' Programme aims to strengthen the academic cooperation of German and Indian higher education institutions. The programme funds the bilateral study, teaching, research, networking and/or further education and training stays for students and scholars in Germany and India. Master's students and doctoral candidates are supported for a period of up to six months. Postdoctoral researchers, experienced academics, professors, assistants and senior university staff may spend up to one month in Germany or India.

The programme is open to all disciplines, especially the fields of energy, sustainability and climate, smart cities and mobility, semiconductors and new materials, healthcare and MedTech, supercomputing, artificial intelligence (AI), Quantum Computing and advanced manufacturing and Industry 4.0. Applications from the social sciences and humanities are also welcome as long as the project is related to these fields.

Eligible to apply are public and state-recognised institutions of higher education in Germany.

The grant includes a mobility flat rate of up to €1,475 for Master's and doctoral students and up to €1,750 for postdoctoral researchers and professors in Germany. Depending on the academic level, the monthly support of for research stays is set between €992 and €2,300.

Applications close on 31 January 2025.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

Policy: EIC Board Publishes ESG Policy Recommendations

The European Innovation Council (EIC) Board has published a series of [recommendations](#) for a proposed environmental, social and governance (ESG) policy, outlining a strategic approach to responsible deep tech innovation. The EIC Board considers that ESG principles will help attract capital from like-minded investors, that a comprehensive ESG policy will enhance the EIC's reputation as a leader in responsible deep tech innovation and that it will ensure that the EIC's investments are resilient and future-proof.

As one of the EU's largest deep tech investors, the EIC aims to leverage its position to catalyse the integration of ESG principles within the European deep tech sector.

The Board's key recommendations include:

- The EIC should take a leading role in promoting responsible deep tech innovation, using its position to catalyse the integration of ESG principles within the deep tech sector.
- The EIC should play a catalyst role in aligning reporting requirements for early-stage companies, making it easier for them to adopt ESG practices and ensure transparency.
- A comprehensive ESG policy would enhance the EIC's reputation as a leader in responsible deep tech innovation, attracting capital from like-minded investors and stakeholders.
- By incorporating ESG principles into its investments, the EIC will ensure that its portfolio companies are resilient and future-proof, securing long-term value and success.

The EIC Board recommends in an initial phase, in 2025, to put in place the overall ESG framework, based on the elements above, and advance on implementing the EIC Fund ESG framework. In a second phase of implementation (2025-27), the ESG policy should be fully implemented, including the implementation of Business Acceleration Services (BAS) services and discussions to align practice and standards in the deep tech investment community.

EuroHPC JU Seeks Consortium to Establish a Pan-European Master Programme for HPC

Fund ID: S17875

The European High Performance Computing Joint Undertaking (EuroHPC JU) was established in September 2018 to develop, deploy, extend and maintain an integrated supercomputing and data infrastructure with the EU and to develop and support a highly competitive and innovative High Performance Computing (HPC) ecosystem.

EuroHPC JU has launched a pan-European Master Programme in HPC, based on insights from the previous [EUMaster4HPC](#) pilot project. The programme will educate specialists in HPC including AI and quantum computing with an HPC focus.

The programme will have a pan-European scope, with an annual intake of over 100 students per year, ensuring widespread geographical intake across Europe. It will feature an advanced education curriculum, covering specialised modules in system architecture, software development, HPC operations and utilisation. The programme will also address significant societal challenges by applying HPC to crucial areas such as climate modelling, healthcare optimisation, and drug discovery.

The project will run for six years, with four cohorts of students graduating over its course. It will ensure the development of a highly skilled European HPC workforce, which will contribute to reinforce Europe's leadership in this field and foster collaboration between academia and industry through knowledge exchange. By aligning education with industry needs, the programme aims to prepare and train students for the challenges and opportunities in the HPC landscape.

Applications must be submitted by a consortium consisting of a minimum of five independent entities (beneficiaries; not affiliated entities) from five different eligible countries which are higher education institutions and functioning as awarding universities. Awarding universities will enrol students to their universities and award a master degree after successful completion.

A total of €10 million is available for up to six years.

Applications should be submitted via the European Commission's Funding and Tenders Portal by the 14 May 2025 deadline.

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

ERC Announces €678 Million for 2024 Consolidator Grants Recipients

Fund ID: S21414

The European Research Council (ERC) has announced the results of the 2024 round of its Consolidator Grants, which help mid-career researchers consolidate their teams and conduct ground-breaking, pioneering research on topics of their choosing.

The grants are worth up to €2 million each over a period of five years, as well as an additional €1 million to cover:

- Eligible 'start-up' costs for PIs moving to the EU or an Associated Country from elsewhere as a consequence of receiving the ERC grant.
- Purchase of major equipment.
- Access to large facilities.

- Other major experimental and field work costs, excluding personnel costs.

The 2024 round of funding launched in September 2023 and closed for applications on 12 December 2023. A total of 2,313 proposals were submitted, of which 328 will receive funding, a success rate of 14.2%. Of the successful projects:

- 131 will be based on research in physical sciences and engineering.
- 94 will be based on life sciences research.
- 103 will be based on research in the social sciences and humanities

Recipients will carry out their projects at universities and research centres in 25 EU Member States and other countries associated with Horizon Europe. The highest numbers of grants will be located in Germany (67 projects), France (38), the UK (38) and the Netherlands (37). There are nationals of 43 countries among the winners of this call, notably Germans (60 researchers), French (34) and Italians (29). The ERC estimates that the projects will create around 2,750 jobs for postdoctoral fellows, PhD students, and other staff at the host institutions.

Full details of all the winning projects are available on the [ERC website](#).

(This Bulletin article was the subject of a ResearchConnect news alert.)

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