

CCG INSIGHT NEWSLETTER

Weekly Funding Insight
Week Commencing 3rd November 2025



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New Opportunities

Call Title:	CALL FOR REGIONAL PROJECT PROPOSALS IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS FOR 2025-2026
Programme:	Embassy of Finland Armenia
Objective:	The Office of the Roving Ambassador of Finland to the South Caucasus manages the FLC activities in the whole South Caucasus region. The office of the Roving Ambassador of Finland to the South Caucasus is now seeking proposals for non-profit regional projects with the cross-boundary implementation that will ideally cover Armenia, Azerbaidzhan and Georgia, or at least two of them. The chosen projects will be funded through the Fund for Local Cooperation (FLC) instrument in 2025-2026. The expected project length is approximately one year and must begin by the end of 2025 by signing the project Agreement and finalizing the first instalment of the grant.
Eligible Activities:	Priority areas for regional projects in 2025-2026: Theme 1: Climate action: environment protection and resilience building Theme 2: Digitalization development, education and media literacy Theme 3: Economic and social empowerment of women, girls, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples and gender and sexual minorities, and other people in particularly vulnerable positions. Actions must take place in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
Eligible Applicants:	FLC-recipient should have a genuine, credible domestic basis, registered, national or community-based organization (non-governmental and non-profit) with the preference to project activities outside the country capitals.
Total Budget:	€100,000
Deadline:	11/11/2025
More information and official documents:	https://finlandabroad.fi/web/arm/local-cooperation-fund

Call Title:	OPEN CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR THE WASH, CLIMATE ACTION AND ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME
Programme:	UNICEF
Objective:	Envisaged path to change for the WASH Environment and Climate Programme: The desired outcome is that by 2030, more children (0–18 years) and their families live in a clean, climate-resilient, and sustainable environment, with access to affordable, safely managed water and sanitation services, and practice safe hygiene behaviours.
Eligible Activities:	Achieving this vision requires five key preconditions: (1) increased use of safe water for drinking, cooking, and personal hygiene; (2) access to safely managed sanitation facilities, adoption of safe hygiene practices, and elimination of open defecation; (3) enhanced capacity of children and families to adapt to climate change and promote sustainability;

	(4) resilience of essential child services to climate and environmental impacts; and (5) reduced environmental pollution and degradation. Actions must take place in Uganda.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible are non-profit organisations with sector expertise and experience in the area.
Total Budget:	€1,000,000
Deadline:	20/11/2025
More information and official documents:	https://www.unpartnerportal.org/api/public/export/projects/18971/

Call Title:	POST-BASIC EDUCATION PROJECT “INDERO, KAZOZA”
Programme:	ENABEL
Objective:	The general objective of this call for proposals is to: “Contribute to strengthening access and equal opportunities in education for boys and girls in the communities surrounding the schools targeted by the project, by involving members of civil society and local communities as “agents of change” to promote the education of young people, particularly girls and the most vulnerable young people”.
Eligible Activities:	The specific objectives of this call for proposals are: • To raise awareness and mobilize local communities to support the education of girls and vulnerable youth and promote equal educational opportunities for all. • To create and support networks of “education champions and friends” and “female role models” as agents of change to address specific sociocultural barriers to the education of girls and vulnerable youth (reluctant parents, household responsibilities, early marriage or pregnancy, etc.), in order to sustain advocacy and awareness-raising efforts within communities, while connecting them with schools. Actions must take place in Burundi.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants must: be a legal person; be a public entity (universities, research centres, etc.) or be a private not-for-profit entity (international or national non-governmental organisation, ASBL, foundation, etc.).
Total Budget:	€128,000
Deadline:	21/11/2025
More information and official documents:	https://www.enabel.be/grants/

Call Title:	Innovate for Tomorrow Impact Accelerator 2025
Programme:	Dubai Holding
Objective:	The Innovate For Tomorrow Impact Accelerator 2025, Dubai Holding’s flagship scale-up programme, is designed to empower innovators to unlock a better and

	more sustainable future through circular economy innovation across the UAE's most vital sectors.
Eligible Activities:	The programme focuses on reimagining the lifecycle of critical resources, unlocking new value, and driving real-world transformation through inclusive, tech-enabled, and regenerative solutions. Now in its second edition, the accelerator provides a platform for visionary scale-ups ready to make a measurable environmental and economic impact. Participants gain access to resources, mentorship, and networking within Dubai Holding's extensive ecosystem, which supports the full journey from ideation to implementation. The first-place winner will receive AED 500,000 and a fully funded opportunity to pilot their scale-up solution within Dubai Holding's ecosystem, while the second and third-place winners will receive AED 250,000 and AED 100,000 respectively. Beyond monetary prizes, shortlisted applicants gain access to a 12-week training and mentorship programme, ecosystem exposure, investor networking, and a one-year membership in the in5 incubator programme. The initiative also offers access to over 250 discounted technology platforms and applications, alongside the opportunity to pitch to potential partners and investors during Demo Day. The Innovate For Tomorrow Impact Accelerator provides not only a growth pathway but also an ecosystem that nurtures sustainability-focused innovation at scale—helping purpose-driven founders reshape industries and redefine the future of resource use in the UAE.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility for the programme requires scale-ups with at least one full-time founder committed throughout the 12-week hybrid accelerator. Applicants must be purpose-driven, adaptable, and ready to scale within the UAE. Qualified applicants should have either a functional prototype or Minimum Viable Product, completed early customer validation, or secured pre-seed to pre-Series A funding.
Total Budget: €500,000	
Deadline: 25/11/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://innovate-for-tomorrow.dubaiholding.com/

Call Title:	NATIONAL CALL FOR PROPOSAL FOR GRANT SUBMISSION
Programme:	UNDP
Objective:	The grant will support civil society efforts to localise SDGs by implementing projects that effectively measure progress on SDG indicators or propose new, locally relevant indicators for sustainable development. These grants will be awarded to up to five CSOs demonstrating a strong commitment to SDG-related projects to drive inclusive and equitable changes mainly at local to provincial levels. Moreover, the grants include building awareness around the SDGs, building capacity for civil society groups and the general public working on specific issues related to the SDGs, and supporting initiatives that can lead to new and innovative local development solutions that address the prioritized SDGs in the five provinces, namely- Chiang Mai, Chiang Rai, Tak, Narathiwat, and Bangkok.
Eligible Activities:	The grant will seek:

	• To implement local projects in accordance with the SDG profile and indicators of the respective province, ensuring that each project contributes to measurable improvements and impacts in provincial SDG indicators. • To increase awareness of the SDGs and SDG Localization among provincial and local stakeholders—including vulnerable groups—by building a gender-balanced, cross-community network that empowers members to develop entrepreneurial skills and implement inclusive, participatory solutions. • To collaboratively design and develop a framework for collective cooperatives that facilitate the sharing of local initiatives among stakeholders from various sectors, with the goal of achieving SDGs and promoting the project's long-term sustainability and scalability. The project is focused on Thailand.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible applicants include non-profit organizations, social enterprises, community-based organizations, civil society organizations (CSOs) with 3-5 years of proven experience (i.g., financial statements or audit reports for the last 3 years) in project management, policy research, policy analysis, human resource development, service delivery and similar.
Total Budget: \$100,000	
Deadline: 30/11/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.undp.org/thailand/news/undp-thailand-sdg-L-call-for-proposals-eng

Call Title:	Request for Applications: Travel Grants Program
Programme: Southeast Asian Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture	
Objective:	The SEARCA offers Travel Grants Program to support professionals, social scientists, and graduate students in the region. The grant aims to enable Southeast Asian nationals to participate in and present papers at local or international scientific conferences, with priority given to paper presentations. It seeks to promote the dissemination of scientific knowledge that supports the sustainable transformation of agriculture in the region, foster dialogue among researchers and scholars, strengthen collaborations between SEARCA and partner institutions, and encourage the publication of research outputs as articles or policy briefs.
Eligible Activities:	The grant covers eligible cost items such as event registration fees, airfare, accommodation, local transportation, meals not covered by the event, and visa application expenses, provided that the total cost does not exceed USD 1,200. Each grant provides to qualified agriculture and agriculture-related professionals, social scientists, or graduate students in Southeast Asia. Applicants must be nationals of Southeast Asian countries including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam.

	The paper should be aligned with SEARCA's priority thrusts that contribute to outcomes such as increased farmers' income, improved food security and nutrition, greater climate resilience of agricultural systems, and empowered farmers, farmer groups, and agricultural stakeholders and their institutions. Applicants are required to acknowledge SEARCA in their presentations, submit a publishable article, policy brief, or research note, and share their findings through SEARCA's Agriculture and Development Seminar Series or the SEARCA Online Learning and Virtual Engagement Webinar Series. Applications must be submitted online through the SEARCA Grants Information System. Submissions via email or hard copies will not be processed. Required documents include a letter of interest, a recommendation letter (if applicable), a two-page summary of the paper, proof of paper acceptance, the conference program, an estimated budget, and a curriculum vitae. Non-paper presenters applying to establish linkages or collaborations must provide proof of ongoing negotiations or invitations demonstrating potential for development impact. Only shortlisted applicants will be notified.
Eligible Applicants:	Priority is given to SEARCA Fellows (senior, adjunct, and visiting research fellows), SEARCA graduate scholarship alumni, researchers at SEARCA-implemented or coordinated projects, SFRT grantees, proponents from the University Consortium, SEARCA ongoing scholars, and faculty and staff of universities under SEARCA's Institutional Development Assistance Program. The second priority group includes regular staff members of nonprofit development-oriented institutions and graduate students at agricultural universities in Southeast Asia that are not University Consortium members. Former travel grantees may re-apply if their previous grant was awarded more than three years before the new application.
Total Budget: €10,000	
Deadline: 30/11/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.searca.org/travel-grants

Call Title:	Society of Chemical Industry Sustainability Award 2025
Programme:	Society of Chemical Industry
Objective:	The Society of Chemical Industry (SCI) Sustainability Award recognises outstanding science innovation in industry that leads to measurable improvements in environmental sustainability across products, processes, or business operations.
Eligible Activities:	Focus Areas/Objectives/Priorities/Themes: An industry that has a primary focus in products/processes requiring chemistry or chemistry-related science. Innovations must be related to science across SCI key theme areas of Global Health, Climate Change and Sustainability. Evidence of demonstrable, measurable outcomes as a result of the innovation will be requested as part of the application process. Applications which can demonstrate a material impact for society will be favoured. Established in 2023, the SCI Sustainability Award celebrates individuals or teams whose innovative work in the chemical and related sciences contributes significantly to enhancing environmental sustainability. The award is open to

	participants from companies of any size and from any country, promoting a global commitment to sustainable industrial development. Applicants must demonstrate how their work has led to a notable improvement in the overall environmental sustainability of their organisation. This may involve advancements in product or process development, as well as improvements in operational or business processes. The SCI encourages applications showcasing tangible outcomes that have made a measurable impact on environmental performance and sustainability practices. The award continues to highlight the importance of science-driven sustainability in addressing global challenges and encourages collaboration across industries to promote environmental responsibility.
Eligible Applicants:	Nominations for the award are managed directly by the Society of Chemical Industry and are accepted through self-nomination. Applicants are required to complete an online application form and provide detailed information about their sustainability innovations and achievements. Shortlisted candidates and eventual recipients are honoured at the SCI Awards Dinner, where excellence in sustainable science and industrial innovation is celebrated.
Total Budget: €N/A	
Deadline: 02/12/2025	
More information and official documents:	https://www.soci.org/awards/honours/sustainability-award

Call Title:	SWITCH-ASIA PROGRAMME – SCALING UP SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION UNDER GLOBAL GATEWAY
Programme: European Commission (EC) - International Partnerships	
Objective:	The global objective of this call for proposals is: To support Asia's transition to a low-carbon, resource-efficient and circular economy, while promoting more sustainable value chains and products between the region and the European Union and contributing to local economic recovery and a cleaner, more competitive economy.
Eligible Activities:	The specific objectives of this call for proposals are: • To support the green transition of key economic value chains either within Asia or connected to the European Union, with the goal of reducing their carbon and environmental footprints • To improve the business environment and investment climate for the circular economy in the Asia region, ensuring that existing and new green and climate finance instruments respond to the needs of the private sector • To empower local consumers to act more responsibly by choosing low-carbon and environmentally and socially sustainable products and services. Actions must take place in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Indonesia, India, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

Eligible Applicants:	Eligible organisations are: (1) non-profit-making; (2) be businesses (in particular MSMEs ⁸) or private sector organisations (e.g. organisations of MSMEs, industrial clusters or associations, chambers of commerce, trade federations, networks for corporate sustainability and reporting) or consumer organisations or; labour organisations or research and technology organisations (e.g. universities, research centres, technology transfer centres) or non-governmental organisations ⁹ or other civil society organisations; (3) and be directly responsible for the preparation and management of the action.
Total Budget:	€25,000,000
Deadline:	10/12/2025
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/prospect-details/184950PROSPECTSEN

Call Title:	FIFA GLOBAL CITIZEN EDUCATION FUND
Programme:	GLOBAL CITIZEN
Objective:	The FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund supports grassroots organizations expanding access to quality education and sports for children in underserved communities.
Eligible Activities:	By uniting resources and partnerships, FIFA and Global Citizen aim to give every child the chance to learn, grow, and thrive. • Educational Imperative: Evaluates the urgency and significance of addressing educational challenges, assessing the depth of educational gaps and potential for substantial improvements. • Equity and Inclusion: Assesses the extent to which the grant serves historically underrepresented groups. • Socioeconomic Indicators: Evaluates the socioeconomic vulnerability of the target population, prioritizing communities with higher disadvantages due to their correlation with educational disparities. • Geographic Representation: Ensures balanced grant distribution across diverse geographic regions, focusing on underserved areas and assessing educational infrastructure accessibility. • Implementation Efficacy: Evaluates the program's capacity for effective implementation, clarity of design, feasibility of activities, organizational capacity, and robustness of monitoring frameworks. Actions can take place worldwide.
Eligible Applicants:	The applicant organization must possess unequivocal legal registration as a non-profit entity within the specific country where the grant funds are intended to be utilized.
Total Budget:	€1,000,000
Deadline:	31/12/2025
More information and official documents:	https://www.globalcitizen.org/en/projects/fifa-global-citizen-education-fund/apply/

Call Title:	Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship Program
Programme:	Social Science Research Council
Objective:	The Doctoral Dissertation Research Fellowship Program provides support for topics related to Peacebuilding, Governance, and Developmental Dynamics.
Eligible Activities:	The thematic priorities encompass a wide range of interconnected issues, including Climate, Environment, and Resources—such as climate change, energy transitions, and natural resource conflicts; Justice, Peace, and Regional or International Stakeholders—covering human rights, peace education, regionalism, and transitional justice; Nationalism, Identity, Religion, and Culture—addressing diversity, citizenship, and the roles of women and youth in peacebuilding; State and Non-state Stakeholders, Governance, and Conflict—focusing on peacebuilding interventions, displacement, political transitions, security, and post-conflict reconstruction; and Technology, Media, and Arts—exploring the influence of artificial intelligence, digital ecologies, media, and the arts in promoting peace. Fellows will have the opportunity to participate in two mandatory APDD workshops held in July and January across different regions of Africa to refine their research focus and strengthen field-based methodologies. These workshops also support scholarly writing and capacity development for academic publications. Fellows will benefit from mentorship provided by experienced senior scholars and from peer-to-peer collaboration to enhance their academic and professional growth. Selected fellows will receive funding to cover field research, equipment, publications, and dissemination costs.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligibility for the fellowship requires applicants to be African citizens residing in an African country and enrolled in a PhD program at an accredited university in Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, or Uganda. Applicants must have a fully developed and institutionally approved doctoral dissertation proposal, as well as ethical clearance for their research instruments. The program gives priority to individuals holding faculty positions or demonstrating long-term commitment to higher education in Africa. Applications will be reviewed based on thematic alignment, originality, methodological quality, relevance to scholarly discourse, and feasibility of completion. Applicants must submit all required documents, including a dissertation proposal, research instruments, ethical clearance, chapter outline, CV, degree certificate, research timeline, budget, enrollment letter, and two reference letters from academic supervisors or institutional heads.
Total Budget: \$100,000	
Deadline: 16/01/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://www.ssrc.org/programs/african-peacebuilding-and-developmental-dynamics-apdd/awards-and-fellowships/doctoral-dissertation-research-fellowship/

Call Title:	Network Management Planning and Control and Mobility Management in a Multimodal Environment and Digital Enablers
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Programme: European Commission (EC)	
Objective:	The European Union has launched a flagship initiative under Horizon Europe to enhance network management planning, multimodal mobility, artificial intelligence integration, and digital enablers for a resilient and interconnected European rail system. The focus areas of this opportunity include: Improving strategic and tactical planning of the rail network; Increasing the resilience of a connected ‘real time’ rail network; Integrated rail traffic within door-to-door mobility; Digital Enablers; and the use of Artificial Intelligence to collect and analyse data patterns and support decision-making processes. The action to be funded under this Destination shall address two work streams (WS): WS1 – Network management planning and control & Mobility Management in a multimodal environment and WS2 – Digital Enablers.
Eligible Activities:	The expected outcomes include improving strategic and tactical planning of the rail network through innovative functionalities covering strategic and short-term services planning, considering ERTMS and ATO evolution; increasing the resilience of a connected ‘real-time’ rail network capable of interoperable traffic management across Europe; integrating rail traffic within door-to-door mobility with enhanced data exchange and accessibility; and developing a comprehensive digital twin and data federation framework supported by artificial intelligence as part of the digital enabler ecosystem. The initiative aims to deliver, by 2028, new digital and operational capabilities for the rail sector. These include European cross-border scheduling, decision support for short-term planning, optimization methods for timetabling and energy-efficient rail planning, and integration of traffic management systems with station and yard planning. It will also strengthen real-time operations with cross-border traffic management, cooperative multi-actor planning, disruption management, and automation in decision support. In addition, the project will enable improved passenger experience through integrated intermodal services, digital twins for predictive demand forecasting, and inclusive accessibility features for all passengers. The digital enabler component introduces a federated data space to ensure interoperability and secure data exchange, along with standardized ontologies based on ERA frameworks. It also emphasizes the development of a digital twin support and execution environment, enabling virtual representation and real-time simulation of railway operations. Artificial intelligence will play a vital role in analysing large data sets, identifying patterns, and supporting operational decision-making. Furthermore, the action integrates cybersecurity measures, aligning with the EU-RAIL System Pillar’s specifications to protect digital assets and ensure safe operations. The expected impacts include improved EU rail supply industry competitiveness, harmonized evolution of European traffic management systems, enhanced adaptability and sustainability of transport, and a more resilient, connected rail infrastructure. This flagship project will bring together infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, technology providers, and research institutions to deliver Europe’s next-generation rail traffic management architecture. This call, titled HORIZON-JU-ER-2025-FA1-TT-01, falls under the EU-Rail Joint Undertaking Call for Proposals 2025-02 within Horizon Europe (HORIZON). It is a HORIZON-JU Innovation Action (HORIZON-JU-IA) with a total indicative budget of EUR 22.4 million. The funding rate of the action is 60% of eligible costs to achieve the required leverage effect. Projects will be implemented through a lump sum

	grant model as defined in Horizon Europe's simplified cost decision framework. The deadline for submission is 11 February 2026 at 17:00 Brussels time, and the expected project duration is 30 months.
Eligible Applicants:	The topic (and the call) is open to all eligible entities in accordance with Horizon Europe, meaning legal entities established in an eligible country can participate. For this specific topic, there is an emphasis on private members of the EU-Rail JU (rail infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, technology providers, suppliers) providing in-kind contributions.
Total Budget: €224,000,000	
Deadline: 11/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-ER-2025-FA1-TT-01

Call Title:	Intelligent and Integrated Asset Management under Horizon Europe's EU-Rail Joint Undertaking
Programme: European Commission (EC)	
Objective:	The European Commission has opened a major funding opportunity under Horizon Europe's EU-Rail Joint Undertaking to advance intelligent and integrated asset management for a more efficient, sustainable, and competitive European rail system.
Eligible Activities:	Focus Areas/Objectives/Priorities/Themes: Meeting evolving customer requirements, reduced costs, more sustainable and resilient transport, improved EU rail supply industry competitiveness, improved performance and capacity. Increase the volumes of rail transportation on existing lines, improve the cost-effectiveness of rail transportation on existing lines, reduce the CO₂ emissions from the maintenance of existing lines, reduce the construction time and costs of new assets, increase durability and reliability of assets, optimise life-cycle costs of assets, strengthen European rail industry competitiveness with more qualified products, and improve flexibility and punctuality of the railway system. This funding opportunity forms part of Destination 3: Intelligent and Integrated Asset Management, focusing on the transformation of rail infrastructure management through innovation, digitalisation, and systemic integration. It aims to address the high financial and environmental costs linked to designing, constructing, operating, maintaining, and decommissioning rail assets while improving the sector's capacity and attractiveness for passengers and freight services. The programme envisions the future of rail asset management where asset status information is intelligently integrated with traffic management systems to reduce service disruptions, enhance safety, and optimise lifecycle performance. Artificial intelligence and digital twins will play a crucial role in delivering predictive and data-driven asset management solutions. The selected project will act as a flagship initiative under Europe's Rail programme, requiring a unified approach across industry, research, and infrastructure management. Proposals must demonstrate expertise across railway operations, infrastructure management, technology development, and research

	institutions. Collaboration with SMEs and start-ups is particularly encouraged to boost innovation and the practical application of new technologies. With an indicative budget of EUR 32.8 million and a funding rate covering up to 60% of eligible costs, this flagship project is expected to run for 30 months. The outcomes will contribute to improving European rail performance, competitiveness, and sustainability while aligning with EU standards and interoperability frameworks.
Eligible Applicants:	The topic (and the call) is open to all eligible entities in accordance with Horizon Europe, meaning legal entities established in an eligible country can participate. For this specific topic, there is an emphasis on private members of the EU-Rail JU (rail infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, technology providers, suppliers) providing in-kind contributions.
Total Budget: €32,800,000	
Deadline: 11/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-ER-2025-FA3-01

Call Title:	European Commission launches Call for Innovative Rail Services to Revitalise Capillary Lines
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	The European Commission, under the Horizon Europe Programme, has announced a new funding opportunity to develop innovative regional rail services aimed at revitalising low-density and capillary railway lines through advanced and cost-efficient solutions.
Eligible Activities:	Focus Areas: Building upon the results of S2R and Europe's rail flagship projects as well as EU Member States' rail research and innovation activities, the Flagship Project stemming from this topic is expected to contribute specifically in regional solution linked to system architecture approaches, CCS & Operations, rail infrastructure assets as well as Customer Services. The Flagship Project stemming from this topic is expected to contribute to Europe's Rail Programme with the following outcomes: possible adaptation of the proposed solution to meet the specific requirements of low-density lines, demonstration of the possibility of scaling up as a European solution, adapt and demonstrate solutions up to TRL7, demonstration of the feasibility of proposed technical solutions and preparatory work for integrated demonstrator under operational conditions (TRL7) set for the future. This new call by the European Commission supports the development and demonstration of sustainable, interoperable, and customer-oriented solutions for regional railway systems. It seeks to transform low-density and underused rail lines into efficient, modern, and connected transport options by introducing smart digital technologies and energy-efficient innovations that enhance cost-effectiveness and service quality. The initiative builds on major European research and innovation projects including MOTIONAL, R2DATO, Rail4EARTH, and FUTURE. It focuses on four core domains—

	System, CCS & Operations, Assets, and Customer Service—to develop integrated and deployable solutions that can be scaled across Europe by 2028. Key activities will include the development of integrated Operations Control Centres for regional lines not linked to main networks, deployment of wireless and energy self-sufficient infrastructure components, and creation of advanced multimodal passenger information systems to ensure seamless connections between transport modes. These technologies are expected to reach Technology Readiness Levels (TRL) between 5 and 7, proving their practical viability in real-world conditions. The project will adhere to the ERA Ontology and align with the EU-Rail System Pillar to maintain interoperability, cybersecurity, and compliance with European standards. Consortia applying for funding must demonstrate expertise across infrastructure management, railway operations, system integration, research, and innovation, with participation encouraged from SMEs and startups. With a total indicative budget of EUR 10 million and a co-funding rate of 60%, the initiative will support one large-scale project over an expected duration of 30 months. It marks an important step in Europe's mission to modernise regional rail systems, advance sustainable mobility, and strengthen regional connectivity through innovation.
Eligible Applicants:	The topic (and the call) is open to all eligible entities in accordance with Horizon Europe, meaning legal entities established in an eligible country can participate. For this specific topic, there is an emphasis on private members of the EU-Rail JU (rail infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, technology providers, suppliers) providing in-kind contributions.
Total Budget: €10,000,000	
Deadline: 11/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-ER-2025-FA6-01

Call Title:	Funding available for Sustainable and Green Rail System
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	The European Commission is now accepting applications for its Sustainable and Green Rail System Initiative to enhance the sustainability performance of railway systems through the development, testing, and deployment of innovative products and services that minimize energy consumption, resource use, and environmental impact.
Eligible Activities:	The focus is on innovative solutions to minimise environmental footprint of the overall rail system, including less resource-intensive materials (infrastructure, rolling stock and operational). Holistic approach towards generation, storage and optimal use of energy in the infrastructure connected to the European energy network. Innovative approaches to design and use, focused on increased capacity and modularity of solutions (tools, manufacturing processes and efficient use of resources). Systems improvement including electro-mechanical components for low consumption, low emissions, low noise and low vibration levels. Healthier and safer subsystems such as air-filtration, disinfection systems and eco-friendly HVAC

	technologies. New designs of rolling-stock especially modular interiors for a more adaptative, attractive and economically sustainable railway transport for passengers and supported by industrial standards. With an indicative budget of EUR 26.6 million and an estimated project duration of 30 months, the program builds on prior research such as FP4-Rail4Earth to achieve energy and CO₂ savings, circular sustainability, and a safer, more attractive rail environment. The flagship project seeks to integrate solutions like a Rail Power Smart Grid that merges greener energies, intelligent energy management at both station and network levels, and resilient, climate-proof materials for rail infrastructure and rolling stock. The initiative will also advance healthier and safer environments through improved HVAC systems, passenger flow management integrating safety measures, and industrial standards that facilitate modular, bio-sourced interiors. The project targets the demonstration of innovative technologies by 2028, including hydrogen hybrid trains, battery electric multi-unit trains, and energy-smart adaptive systems. Additional efforts include the development of universal hydrogen refueling interfaces, airless train technologies, and noise reduction solutions, all designed to push Europe's rail systems closer to climate neutrality by 2050. Preparatory work will continue to advance these technologies toward full-scale demonstration and integration.
Eligible Applicants:	The topic (and the call) is open to all eligible entities in accordance with Horizon Europe, meaning legal entities established in an eligible country can participate. For this specific topic, there is an emphasis on private members of the EU-Rail JU (rail infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, technology providers, suppliers) providing in-kind contributions.
Total Budget: €26,600,000	
Deadline: 11/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-ER-2025-FA4-01

Call Title:	Sustainable Competitive Digital Green Rail Freight Services
Programme:	European Commission (EC)
Objective:	Applications are now open for Sustainable Competitive Digital Green Rail Freight Services Initiative to make rail freight more attractive by improving service quality, cross-border operations, and multimodal connectivity through smart, efficient, and harmonized solutions.
Eligible Activities:	The focus areas of this initiative include increasing capacity and efficiency (e.g. with Digital Automatic Coupler (DAC) and other technological and operational solutions) in a smart way for all types of rail freight transport, improving cross-border operation (cross border implies an important share of freight traffic and is expected to grow) and finally a better multimodal service offering. In addition to all these, this destination aims to contribute, if necessary, in the delivery of harmonization by means of contributing on the definition of European Standards.

	Those objectives should be addressed aiming to deliver solutions in the following areas: full digital freight train operations enabled by key technologies for transforming the European Rail Freight sector which will increase productivity (time and cost reduction), efficiency (through process automation) and service quality, all of that leading to an increase of competitiveness. Together with a “smart” increase of capacity, more freight traffic can be shifted to the European rail system, significantly contributing to the EU Green Deal. The total indicative budget allocated for this opportunity is EUR 20.4 million, with an indicative project duration of 30 months. The development of innovative freight assets (e.g. innovative freight wagons, last mile solutions, terminals) allow to further improve the competitiveness of rail freight by reducing LCC, operational costs and also increasing automation. A seamless rail freight with a significantly reduced average transportation time based on an agile, interoperable and open environment within integrated and harmonized European mobility networks which interacts with other businesses; an environment in which companies can optimize their operations; for railway undertakings and intermodal operators, this results into higher productivity, better capacity utilization, improved planning possibilities and, through the reduction of cross-border barriers and multimodality, faster transport handling, altogether resulting into higher reliability. In addition, comprehensive multimodal and transparent customer information in combination with easy booking and managing functions, lead to an increase in customer satisfaction and easier access to rail-based services. Being based on harmonized European data this leads to higher predictability and planning possibilities. The expected outcome builds upon prior EU rail research and innovation activities including S2R IP5, EU-Rail FP5-TRANS4M-R, and the European DAC Delivery Programme (EDDP). The flagship project aims to contribute to Europe’s Rail Programme by addressing two main workstreams: Work Stream WS1, which focuses on Full Digital Freight Train Operations with DAC as the enabler for fully digitalized freight train operations, and Work Stream WS2, which focuses on Seamless Freight, offering easy access and reliable intermodal transport services through digital solutions.
Eligible Applicants:	The topic (and the call) is open to all eligible entities in accordance with Horizon Europe, meaning legal entities established in an eligible country can participate. For this specific topic, there is an emphasis on private members of the EU-Rail JU (rail infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, technology providers, suppliers) providing in-kind contributions.
Total Budget: €20,400,000	
Deadline: 11/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-ER-2025-FA5-01

Call Title:	PhD Research on Low-Height Noise Reduction Barriers in Rail Transport
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Programme: European Commission (EC)	
Objective:	The PhD Research on Low-Height Noise Reduction Barriers in Rail Transport initiative seeks to strengthen rail research and innovation by creating collaborative doctoral positions focused on sustainable, cost-effective, and environmentally beneficial solutions for noise reduction in the rail sector.
Eligible Activities:	The focus areas of this opportunity include the creation of at least 3–5 PhD positions interacting with the Funding Members of the Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking. The PhD researchers are expected to liaise regularly with the Europe’s Rail JU, present their findings at Europe’s Rail JU events, and submit scientific papers to relevant conferences. The research shall address critical design and implementation parameters for low-height noise barriers, model the dependencies between various heights and materials for such solutions and the noise reduction levels and noise propagation, identify sustainable materials for low-height noise barrier solutions, assess additional benefits of low-height barriers, conduct cost-benefit analysis, and evaluate constructability and the impact on landscape aesthetics. These areas together aim to provide the most advantageous cost/benefit solutions while aligning with circular economy principles and greener transport targets around Europe. With a total indicative budget of EUR 1 million, this research and innovation action by the Europe’s Rail Joint Undertaking aims to further extend the rail research and innovation community that began with the Academics4Rail and PhDs EU-Rail projects. The initiative is expected to realize 3–5 PhD positions that will team up closely with the rail industry to explore and validate advanced noise reduction technologies. The focus on low-height noise barriers arises from the recognition that rail operations can significantly affect residents living near rail corridors or urban and suburban metro lines. This research is designed to investigate innovative noise reduction techniques, design requirements, and validation methods for sustainable and effective barrier solutions. These may include plant-based or natural materials that not only reduce noise but also improve the visual and environmental landscape along railway lines. The outcome of this initiative is expected to enhance collaboration across academic and industry stakeholders under the EU-Rail Programme. Participating entities are encouraged to form consortia to promote cooperation, knowledge sharing, and cross-disciplinary engagement, ensuring that the PhD research contributes meaningfully to European rail research and innovation activities.
Eligible Applicants:	The topic (and the call) is open to all eligible entities in accordance with Horizon Europe, meaning legal entities established in an eligible country can participate. For this specific topic, there is an emphasis on private members of the EU-Rail JU (rail infrastructure managers, railway undertakings, technology providers, suppliers) providing in-kind contributions.
Total Budget: €1,000,000	
Deadline: 11/02/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-JU-ER-2025-EXPLR-03

Call Title: Submissions open for UEG Research Prize (Europe)	
Programme: United European Gastroenterology	
Objective:	The United European Gastroenterology is pleased to announce its Research Prize to support a future scientific research project from early stage to successful conclusion.
Eligible Activities:	The UEG Research Prize 2026 offers a prize of €50,000 to support a future scientific research project from its inception to successful completion. The prize money, which is paid to the winner's department, must be used strictly for salary support, equipment, and research consumables related to the recipient's research. The winner will be officially awarded during UEG Week 2026, where they will also present their winning project in a dedicated session. In addition, the recipient will be featured in the UEG Week 2026 online programme, on the UEG website, and in post-congress reports. The prize is aimed at established senior researchers whose work has a major impact on digestive health and whose proposed project will significantly advance their career. UEG encourages applications from all areas within digestive health research. They must also commit to completing the proposed research within the agreed timeframe. Departments that have received the UEG Research Prize in the past five years (2021–2025) are not eligible to apply, and the prize can only be awarded to the same recipient once. The call is open to both myUEG Associates and myUEG Young GI Associates.
Eligible Applicants:	Eligible candidates must lead a substantial research group based primarily in Europe and focus on research areas that face greater challenges in obtaining funding. Applicants should have a proven track record of securing peer-reviewed grants from recognized international research councils, charities, or industry partners. To qualify, candidates must have been listed as a (co-)author of an abstract submitted to UEG Week within the past three years (2023–2025) or have been recognized as a UEG Rising Star between 2021 and 2025.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: 03/03/2026	
More information and official documents:	https://ueg.eu/opportunities/research-funding/research-prize

Call Title: EMERGENCY GRANTS FROM FREE RIVERS FUND	
Programme: FREE RIVERS FUND (FRF)	
Objective:	The Free Rivers Fund (FRF) supports initiatives and actions in defence of free flowing rivers. Partnering with the paddle sports industry they provide grants for activist and conservation groups that commit to the fight to protect rivers from dams and development.
Eligible Activities:	Free Rivers Fund aims to support those initiatives that most urgently need funding. No matter if you have been an organization for several years already or if you are just starting out with a bunch of ideas but no results to show, they are looking

	forward to receiving your application: If you are fighting for free flowing rivers: please apply! They are now able to set up a fund for urgent action projects. They offer their new “Emergency Grant”. Everyone can apply for it with just an e-mail – all year round. The purpose is to help initiatives that have just formed in order to prevent a dam. You can apply, if (1) your project aims at direct action against a proposed dam; (2) your project is new; (3) your project is run by a single person, a group or a newly formed organisation. Actions can take place worldwide.
Eligible Applicants:	Your project must be run by a single person, a group or a newly formed organisation.
Total Budget: €100,000	
Deadline: Ongoing	
More information and official documents:	https://freerivers.org/apply/emergency-grant/

Link to Previous Funding Newsletters

<https://www.consultcormack.com/funding-newsletter>

Disclaimer:

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