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Annex

Euratom Research and Training Programme

Euratom Work Programme 2026-2027 for nuclear research and training

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Introduction

This is the work programme for indirect actions under the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2026–2027 (the 'Euratom programme' or 'the Programme'), in accordance with Article 11(1) of Council Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304[1]. It constitutes a financing decision for 2026-2027, defines the scope of actions and provides information on implementation arrangements.

The first chapter explains the multiannual approach and strategic orientations for the duration of the Programme. The second chapter describes specific research and training actions that the Commission intends to fund in 2026-2027 through 3 calls for proposal. The third and final chapter describes actions funded through other means than calls for proposals, such as grants to identified beneficiaries, procurement and prizes.

The General Annexes set out the general conditions applicable to calls, topics for grants and other forms of funding. They also describe the evaluation and award procedures and other conditions for Euratom funding.

[1] Council Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304 of 23 June 2025 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community for the period 2026-2027 complementing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and repealing Regulation (Euratom) 2018/1563 (OJ L 3.7.2025) ELI: http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1304/oj

Multiannual approach and strategic orientations for Euratom indirect actions during 2026-2027

Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304, succeeding Regulation (Euratom) 2021/7651 for the period 2021-2025, requires that work programmes take a multiannual approach and include strategic orientations[2]. This chapter will address that requirement, setting out a framework for research actions for the period 2026-2027, ensuring continuity with the 2021-2025 Programme.

The general objective of the Programme is to pursue nuclear research and training activities, with an emphasis on the continuous improvement of nuclear safety, security and safeguards, radioactive waste management and radiation protection, as well as to complement the achievement of Horizon Europe's objectives[3]. It should ensure continuity between short- and long-term research and competences, *inter alia* in the context of the energy transition and carbon neutrality of the EU economy by 2050[4], thus increasing the EU's and Member States' energy security according to and respecting the technology neutrality principle. This framework is aligned with the broader EU strategies for competitiveness and carbon neutrality, contributing to the development of clean technologies through support for policy implementation, notably the Competitiveness Compass[5], the Clean Industrial Deal[6], the Net Zero Industry Act[7], the Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINC) 2025[8], and the launch of a European Industrial Alliance on SMRs[9] and the Commission's upcoming SMR strategy. The Programme is a crucial part of the Union's efforts to develop technological leadership further and promote excellence in nuclear research and innovation to ensure the highest standards of nuclear safety[10], security and safeguards, decommissioning, radioactive waste management, emergency preparedness and response, severe accident management, mitigation and remediation and radiation protection[11], and to maintain European sovereignty in low-carbon and affordable energy.

The Euratom programme's indirect actions provide research grants through competitive calls for proposals and to named beneficiaries. The Programme also funds research carried out by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC) through direct actions, subject to a

2 Art. 11(2)(d) of Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304, https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2025/1304/oj/eng.
3 Art. 3(1) of Regulation(Euratom) 2025/1304.
4 https://ec.europa.eu/info/energy-climate-change-environment_en and https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/energy_en
5 https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/competitiveness-compass_en
6 https://commission.europa.eu/topics/eu-competitiveness/clean-industrial-deal_en
7 https://commission.europa.eu/strategy-and-policy/priorities-2019-2024/european-green-deal/green-deal-industrial-plan/net-zero-industry-act_en
8 https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-nuclear-illustrative-programme-under-article-40-euratom-treaty_en
9 https://single-market-economy.ec.europa.eu/industry/industrial-alliances/european-industrial-alliance-small-modular-reactors_en
10 In accordance with recital 7 of the Council Regulation.
11 In accordance with recital 7 of the Council Regulation.

separate work programme. The Programme uses the instruments and rules of participation of the Horizon Europe Framework Programme for Research and Innovation[12].

To this end, the Community will support, in the interests of all Member States and the third countries associated to the Euratom programme [13], joint research to develop strong competences in nuclear research and innovation in both fission and fusion. All Member States stand to benefit from the development of a sound scientific and technical basis for the aim of a safe operation of reactors throughout these reactors' entire life cycle; secure management of radioactive waste; robust systems to protect humans and the environment from the effects of ionising radiation and progress in fusion science and technologies that will help remove barriers to the realisation of fusion energy within the 2050 timeframe.

Thanks to the Programme's stakeholders, Euratom is a global leader in fusion research. Through its participation in the construction and exploitation of ITER[14] and its support to both magnetic and inertial confinement approaches, Euratom aims to consolidate this position in the current decade.

The Programme strengthens the European Research Area in the nuclear and cross-cutting fields of science and engineering. It also supports the coordination of Member States' research efforts to avoid duplication, to retain a critical mass of research capacities in fission and fusion, and to ensure that public funds provide EU added value. By supporting nuclear safety research, radioactive waste management and radiation protection, the Work Programme's actions are in line with and support the implementation of Council Directives 2009/71/Euratom [15] (and its latest amendment 2014/87/Euratom [16]) on nuclear safety, 2011/70/Euratom[17] on radioactive waste management and 2013/59/Euratom[18] on basic safety standards. In this respect, the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG) should be consulted, as appropriate, to provide guidance on actions relevant to regulatory opinions and, by complementing any Commission-related initiative, to further support a coordination of activities within this field[19].

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12 Horizon Europe rules for participation and dissemination https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?uri=CELEX:32021R0695

13 Please refer to General Annexes, section B, for information on the eligibility of entities from countries associated to the Euratom Programme 2026-2027.

14 ITER ('the way' in Latin) is an international project (https://www.iter.org/) to build the world's largest tokamak, a magnetic fusion device that has been designed to prove the feasibility of thermonuclear fusion as a potential large-scale and carbon-free source of energy based on the same principle that powers the sun and stars.

15 Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations (OJ L 172, 2.7.2009, p. 18).

16 Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom of 8 July 2014 amending Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations, OJ L 219, 25.7.2014. p. 42-52

17 Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste (OJ L 199, 2.8.2011, p. 48).

18 Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom (OJ L 13, 17.1.2014, p. 1).

19 Commission Decision C(2024) 8345 final, Support to national nuclear safety regulatory authorities for collaborative and coordinated approaches to emerging challenges in the nuclear sector,

The Commission acknowledges that Member States have different views on the role of nuclear energy. While making every effort to respect these differences when drafting this work programme, the Commission underlines that the work programme implements provisions of the Council Regulation establishing the Euratom programme. As underlined in the Council Regulation[20], in full respect of the Member States' right to decide on their energy mix, the Programme's research results can be used by Member States to potentially contribute towards a climate-neutral energy system in a safe, efficient and secure way.

The objectives of the 2021-2025 and 2026-2027 Programmes represent an evolution compared to previous Euratom programmes. Some priorities are changing with the evolving needs of the Union and its Member States. For example, the intensified fight against cancer and the greater importance accorded to health since the COVID-19 crisis mean a bigger role for the Programme in researching the non-power application of nuclear science in the health and medical sectors.

Moreover, other cross-sectoral synergies are unlocked (e.g., digitalisation and deployment of artificial intelligence, robotics, internet of things, big data, and novel manufacturing methods). Where relevant, applicants are encouraged to take advantage of synergies with the Mission on Cancer[21] and the relevant Horizon Europe clusters 1. 'Health' and 4. 'Digital, Industry and Space'.

Fission and fusion research under SET Plan Action 10[22] are supported through interested Member States' individual and combined research & development programmes, by industry and various research and university stakeholders. Euratom's support is limited to actions fulfilling the objectives set out in Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 and may be granted only if appropriate proposals, addressing one of the topics listed in this Work Programme, succeed in the call.

Most of the Programme, particularly research and innovation in fission and fusion energy, nuclear materials, radioactive waste management and radiation protection, is carried out through co-funded European Partnerships. These co-funded European Partnerships should achieve a greater impact, involving a wide range of public and private partners. This approach capitalises on a decade of Commission, Member State and stakeholder efforts in ensuring more sustainable and inclusive research, creating stronger links between EU and national policies.

The success of the European Partnerships requires substantial financial and in-kind commitments from Member States and implementation through their mandated (and

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https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/2bb4abfb-7a33-467f-989a-34cf81c75fe1_en?filename=C_2024_8345_F1_COMMISSION_DECISION_EN_V2_P1_3777593.PDF and its annex https://energy.ec.europa.eu/document/download/d2fb4b59-a2ce-467b-8b2e-97b6b98dbaab_en?filename=C_2024_8345_F1_ANNEX_EN_V1_P1_3777594.PDF

[20] Recital (3) of the Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765. Some Member States submitted statements on the Euratom Programme (Germany, Luxembourg and Austria).

[21] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/funding-programmes-and-open-calls/horizon-europe/eu-missions-horizon-europe/eu-mission-cancer_en

[22] SET-Plan Information System https://setis.ec.europa.eu/index_en

associated) actors. For the continuation of the existing Partnerships in fission and fusion research, the Euratom programme will provide additional funding in 2026-2027, with the budget being committed in instalments where appropriate.

The rest of the Programme, including nuclear safety, education and training, infrastructures, or cross-cutting components, will be supported by collaborative research and innovation projects and accompanying coordination and support actions (CSAs). To achieve greater consolidation of research efforts, priority will be given to substantial projects and more generic call topics, allowing potential beneficiaries to choose how they deliver the expected outcomes.

Horizon Europe provides a framework[23] for synergies with the Euratom programme, *inter alia*, in education and training, and for joint research actions. The latter will focus on ways in which non-power applications of ionising radiation can be used safely and securely in sectors such as medicine, industry, agriculture, transport and space, etc. The inclusion of researchers in the field of Social Sciences and Humanities will be encouraged.

In particular, the Euratom programme will seek synergies in medical applications of ionising radiation, including improvements in the quality and safety of such applications as outlined in the SAMIRA action plan[24]. Whenever possible, there should be interactions with other Horizon Europe activities and Commission initiatives[25] (Europe's Beating Cancer Plan[26] and the Cancer Mission[27]).

This Euratom programme also represents an opportunity for synergies between direct and indirect actions. The Council Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304 establishing the programme for 2026-2027 specifies a single set of objectives for the direct and indirect actions, permitting closer coordination and co-design of work programme priorities.

The JRC will complement activities by the consortia receiving Euratom grants in areas where it has the necessary competences, expertise, tools and dedicated infrastructure. As a member of such consortia, the JRC will not receive funding from the indirect actions budget. Details on the JRC's participation in the call for proposals are provided in Section 6 of this chapter.

All areas supported by the Euratom programme apply an open science approach, based on cooperation and diffusion of knowledge (including FAIR principles). This is done in accordance with the Horizon Europe rules, as specified in the General Annexes.

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23 In Annex IV (point 17) to the Regulation (EU) 695/2021 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for research and innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013 (OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1).

24 See Commission Staff Working Document on a Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA), SWD(2021) 14 https://ec.europa.eu/energy/sites/default/files/swd_strategic_agenda_for_medical_ionising_radiation_applications_samira.pdf

25 EU programmes and funds financed from the EU budget and NextGenerationEU https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/find-funding/eu-funding-programmes_en

26 https://ec.europa.eu/health/sites/health/files/non_communicable_diseases/docs/eu_cancer-plan_en.pdf

27 https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe/missions-horizon-europe/cancer_en

The preparation and implementation of this work programme was, and will be, based on openness and transparency. Its priorities were set by the Commission, taking into account the opinions of the Programme Committee, the opinion of the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee (STC) in preparation of the proposal for Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304[28], European Joint Programmes in fusion (EUROfusion), radiation protection (PIANOFORTE) and radioactive waste management (EURAD) and the academia and nuclear research stakeholders, including European technology platforms or fora[29].

This Work Programme and the calls for proposals linked to it are published on the EU 'Funding and tender opportunities' portal[30].

The following sections provide an overview of actions implemented during 2026-2027.

Main actions under the Euratom programme 2026-2027	
Fusion research	Co-funded European Partnership in fusion research (refocused mission)
	Innovation actions under the co-programmed European partnership on fusion energy
Nuclear safety	• Collaborative fission research and innovation projects on: o Safety of current technology (Generation II Long Term Operation) and Generation III and III+ new build o Safety of advanced and innovative nuclear designs and fuel cycles including the Small Modular Reactors (LW-SMRs and AMRs) o Cross-cutting actions e.g. on modelling and simulation using High Performance Computing, artificial intelligence, nuclear data, digitalisation, harmonisation of licensing rules, certification, codes and standards, and other

[28] STC Opinion https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/document/download/8908a4d4-ad88-465f-9c9b-bbbf0e7174cc_en?filename=priorities-for%20european-nuclear-research.pdf

[29] Among others from Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP and its pillars NUGENIA, ESNII, NC2I), the Implementing Geological Disposal Technology Platform (IGD-TP) and the Multidisciplinary European Low-Dose Initiative (MELODI), the Consortium of European Radiation Research Platforms (MEENAS, MELODI, EURADOS, EURAMED, NERIS, ALLIANCE and SHARE) and other European forums such as the European Nuclear Energy Forum (ENEF), the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), the European Technical Safety Organisations Network (ETSON), the Nuclear Europe Industrial Association (nucleareurope), the European Energy Research Alliance Joint Programme on Nuclear Materials (EERA JPNM), the Generation IV International Forum (GIF), the Heads of the European Radiological Protection Competent Authorities (HERCA), as well as international organisations including the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP), the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), the Nuclear Energy Agency (OECD/NEA) and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

[30] https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon

	industrial applications (cogeneration of heat and electricity, transport, etc.). • Co-funded European Partnership in nuclear materials (CONNECT-NM)
Radioactive waste and spent fuel management	• Co-funded European Partnership in radioactive waste management (EURAD-2)
Radiation protection and ionising radiation applications	• Co-funded European Partnership in radiation protection research and detection of ionising radiation (PIANOFORTE) • Actions to ensure a European secure supply of radioisotopes and support the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA)
Competences and cross-cutting issues	• European facility for nuclear research, promoting transnational access to infrastructure (OFFERR) • Education and training support schemes for the next generation of scientists and engineers in fission research (ENEN2Plus) • MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships in fission and fusion research

1. Nuclear safety

The Nuclear Safety Directive[31] highlights the need to use research results[32] in implementing its safety objectives, to prevent accidents and radioactive releases outside nuclear installations. For operating nuclear power plants, research reactors, or nuclear installations, this should lead to 'reasonably practicable' safety improvements. For future reactors, the Directive envisages significant safety improvements based on the latest science and the technology research performed.

Besides supporting safety research, the Euratom programme also takes advantage of Member States' experience in the nuclear field. It helps develop a Euratom safety policy benefiting from the best Euratom expertise available. The Programme also contributes to the efforts by

[31] Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations ((OJ L 172, 2.7.2009, p.18), as amended by Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom of 8 July 2014 amending Directive 2009/71/Euratom establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations (OJ L 219, 25.7.2014, p. 42).

[32] The Nuclear Safety Directive highlights the need to use research results in implementing its safety objective of preventing accidents and, should an accident occur, mitigating its consequences and avoiding early radioactive releases and large radioactive releases. Whilst the objective applies fully to 'new' installations, it is also to be used as a reference for existing installations for the timely implementation of reasonably practicable safety improvements. The Directive's preamble explains that this objective calls for significant safety enhancements in the design of new reactors for which the state-of-the-art knowledge and technology should be used, considering the latest international safety requirements.

all Member States to build consensus around the highest standards of safety, security, and non-proliferation, while leveraging international collaboration with organisations such as the IAEA, OECD-NEA, WENRA and/or ENSREG.

Outline of Euratom-funded actions

The Programme aims to support long-term and exploratory safety research through collaborative and innovative projects. This Work Programme emphasises the importance of nuclear safety and the integration of security and safeguards in the operation of operating nuclear power plants, research reactors and other nuclear installations, where appropriate, and of advanced nuclear concepts, fuels and materials, in line, among others, with the requirements of the Nuclear Safety Directive[33] and the pursuit of the highest standards of nuclear safety, security, and safeguards[34], and IAEA safety standards[35], feedback from ongoing Euratom projects, and the updated strategic agendas of different research stakeholders.

In the context of planned long-term operation (LTO) of existing power reactors, this Work Programme supports research addressing the known challenges in ageing management and the monitoring of installations, including those raised in Topical Peer Reviews under the Nuclear Safety Directive (Article 8e(1) and (2)).

This work programme aims to facilitate cooperation among safety regulators and Technical and Scientific Support Organisations and to encourage the industry to work closer together to improve standards. A more shared approach to stringent safety requirements and standardisation of reactor designs and licensing, including for the SMRs, could further improve safety across the entire Community. In this framework, the European Nuclear Safety Regulators Group (ENSREG), the European Industrial Alliance on Small Modular Reactors (SMRs), the Technical Working Group on Nuclear Safety and Safeguards (TWG6, launched in 2024) and the European Technical Safety Organisations Network (ETSON) could be consulted. In 2024 Euratom launched a co-funded European Partnership in Nuclear Materials, CONNECT-NM, bringing together European entities having a national mandate for research in materials science and dealing with nuclear materials, including nuclear fuel. Next-generation fuels with improved properties are expected to be part of advanced and innovative reactor designs and Small Modular Reactors (SMRs and AMRs). They can be manufactured using new methods and they can use spent fuel, which helps create a more sustainable fuel cycle.

CONNECT-NM builds upon the success of the Euratom project ORIENT-NM on the ‘Organisation of the European Research Community on Nuclear Materials’ and takes into account feedback received from research stakeholders, end-users and Member States at a FISA2022 workshop held in Lyon in June 2022 and at the FISA-EURADWASTE 2025 in Warsaw (Poland), in May 2025. The CONNECT-NM European Partnership will be extended,

33 See footnote 21.

34 Commission Regulation 2025/974 of 26 May 2025 on the application of Euratom safeguards OJ L, 16.06.2025

35 IAEA safety standards: https://www.iaea.org/resources/safety-standards

profiting from the additional funding foreseen by this work programme. It is expected that an extended Partnership will push further knowledge frontiers in the domain of safety, security and peaceful use of nuclear materials and fuel, making nuclear power generation and non-power applications safer and more economically viable, with a special emphasis on innovative approaches expected to assure Europe's leadership in the nuclear technology field.

Expected impact of research

Research results will support the efforts of EU Member States and Associated Countries' safety authorities and industry to ensure that nuclear installations in the Community are designed, sited, constructed, commissioned, operated, and decommissioned in accordance with the highest standards of safety, security, radioactive waste and spent fuel management, and non-proliferation, while considering socio-economic, environmental and political issues, and supporting innovation in the fission industrial sectors. In particular, at a time when the EU is seeking to guarantee its strategic autonomy in critical sectors, these capabilities will contribute to securing the EU's supply chains, including those for a secure supply of medical radioisotopes or fuels including High-Assay Low-Enriched Uranium (HALEU) fuel from the early 2030s.

2. Spent fuel and radioactive waste management, decommissioning

The Radioactive Waste and Spent Fuel Management Directive (RWM Directive) highlights the need to use research results[36] to ensure a responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and avoid imposing undue burdens on future generations and perform further research.

All Member States generate radioactive waste through activities ranging from non-power applications to electricity generation and research. Due to the potential radiological hazards it poses to workers, the public and the environment, radioactive waste and spent fuel must be safely managed through characterisation, minimisation of the amount of radioactive waste generated, containment, and isolation from humans and the living environment over the long term. Research helps to improve the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste and reduces the risks.

Outline of Euratom-funded actions

The first European Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management (EURAD) ended in May 2024 and has delivered substantial results over the past 5 years. EURAD-2 partnership, launched in October 2024, builds on EURAD and PREDIS, advancing a joint programme for research, development, and knowledge management of radioactive waste across EU Member States and Associated Countries, and assisting national RD&D programmes for the long-term management, including disposal and predisposal of various types of radioactive waste, particularly intermediate and high-level radioactive waste.

[36] Obligations of Member States and licence holders are mentioned in Recitals 38-39, Article 5, Article 8 and Article 12 of the Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19July 2011 establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste.

The expected outcomes of EURAD-2 remain unchanged and relevant. In line with the objectives of Directive 2011/70/Euratom, this partnership should support, within the next decade and across Europe, the safe start of operations of the first geological disposal facilities. It should also pave the way for more Member States to reach the stage of site selection and implementation, aiming for wide acceptance by local, regional and national publics, and make geological disposal a more broadly applied solution.

Implementation of the action should result in greater cross-fertilisation and interaction between national programmes in key areas of general interest, improved knowledge management, and transfer between actors. In particular, the European partnership is a unique opportunity for less advanced national programmes to benefit from the integration process in the area of radioactive waste management.

The EURAD Partnership, now in its second phase since October 2024, remains central to these efforts. However, EURAD has a limited budget, restraining its ability to tackle issues like legacy waste, innovative containers, and advanced treatment techniques. Additional funding is necessary in 2026-2027 to enhance EURAD's capacity to respond dynamically to evolving needs and policy changes and to cover a broader scope of research. It would also enable more substantial support for Member States with smaller nuclear inventories or those in the early stages of radioactive waste management (RWM) programme development. Moreover, increased resources would enable EURAD to expand its collaboration with international organizations, such the IAEA and OECD-NEA, while also fostering greater diversity, enhancing student participation, encouraging cross-border cooperation, and elevating scientific excellence.

Expected impact of research

Through the European Partnership, the Euratom programme supports technical cooperation among stakeholders and the development of scientific knowledge and technologies that underpin implementation of the Radioactive Waste Management Directive across Member States, in line with their respective national programmes.

Euratom also consolidates knowledge on the safe commissioning and operation of the first geological disposal facilities for spent fuel and high-level waste, including the safety of predisposal activities, decommissioning, and the management of other long-lived radioactive waste. The programme further strengthens knowledge management and the transfer of expertise in this field.

3. Nuclear science and ionising radiation applications, radiation protection, and emergency preparedness

Well-directed research is fundamental for adequate risk assessment of ionising radiation and risk management of its applications, emergency preparedness and risk mitigation, in line with

the Basic Safety Standards Directive[37]. A multidisciplinary approach is necessary to provide more detailed information on the benefits and risks of radiation, as well as their effects and interactions with other risk factors. This will pave the way for better recommendations and new solutions for health and environmental protection against the dangers arising from ionising radiation including risks of radiological accidents and nuclear emergencies; it will also provide insights into innovative and optimised medical procedures and their effective transfer into clinical practice.

Outline of Euratom-funded actions

In 2022, the Commission launched a co-funded European Partnership for research in radiation protection, improved use of ionising radiation in medical applications and radiation detection (PIANOFORTE). The Partnership builds on and further develops the research priorities of the roadmap prepared by the previous 2015-2020 European Joint Programme (CONCERT). The Partnership aims to have a clear impact on the Community and its citizens and demonstrate a strong commitment on the part of partners mandated by Member States. It should also achieve synergies with Horizon Europe's Cancer Mission, which contributes to the Commission's 'Europe's Beating Cancer Plan' and the SAMIRA Action Plan.

PIANOFORTE European Partnership will be extended, profiting from the additional funding foreseen by this Work Programme. 65% co-funding rate reflects the high impact of radiation research on health policies and the need to involve a wider research community, emergency preparedness, and risks mitigation e.g., related to challenges associated with the Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine, and compliance of nuclear industries and operators, primarily responsible for nuclear safety.

In addition to the European Partnership, under the 2026-2027 Work Programme, the Commission proposes an action to support the development of European production of stable isotopes used in novel nuclear medicine therapies, strengthening the resilience and security of the EU medical radioisotope supply chain.

Expected impact of research

Continuation of the co-funded European Partnership PIANOFORTE should substantially expand scientific knowledge to support the implementation of the Basic Safety Standards Directive and help to harmonise radiation protection practices throughout Europe. It should also lead to advances e.g. in integrative radiobiology and in developing improved understanding, tools, methods and best practices to cope with issues related to radiation exposure.

PIANOFORTE should lead European independent scientific evidence-based research on the linear no-threshold (LNT) model for radiation exposure and the "as low as reasonably achievable" (ALARA) principle, which is predicated on LNT. Improved understanding of

[37] Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom.

LNT in its specific context (genetic, age, co-exposure, cell-dependent, etc.) in relation to health effects should be promoted, in particular regarding lower doses. PIANOFORTE should also focus on integrating radiation protection into circular economy practices to ensure the safe reuse of NORM residues and the sustainable remediation of legacy sites.

The growing demand for sustainable resource use and environmental protection, alongside the pursuit of innovation, calls for the integration of the circular economy principles into radiation protection regulation and practices. Research in this field should aim to develop and demonstrate innovative approaches for NORM industries to safely manage the reuse of low-level radioactive by-products and/or residue, and to implement remediation strategies that align with circular economy objectives while contributing to environmental restoration in many legacy, NORM-contaminated sites. Furthermore, the safe reuse of low-radioactive materials and remediation of historical contamination must be underpinned by robust scientific, regulatory, and societal frameworks.

PIANOFORTE should strengthen EU resilience to nuclear and radiological threats through integrated protection strategies aligned with the all-hazards approach and the United Nations (UN) Sendai Framework.

In the context of growing geopolitical instability and increasingly complex risk scenarios, this research topic aims to enhance the EU's resilience to nuclear and radiological threats through an all-hazards, integrative approach that encompasses radiation protection, multi-hazard preparedness, emergency response and mitigation measures, and recovery. Research should address cross-border coordination between radiation protection and public health sectors, alongside integrated planning for emergency and recovery phases that considers the full spectrum of protective strategies, including human health and well-being, social and economic aspects, and environmental protection. Particular emphasis should be placed on alignment with the UN Sendai Framework, especially in addressing non-radiological impacts such as mental health effects and societal disruption, as well as advancing effective risk communication. The scope also includes fostering synergies between civilian and defence-related research through a controlled dual-use framework. The ultimate objective is to develop a robust, harmonised approach of protective strategies at local, national, and European levels, capable of responding to evolving multi-hazard threats and ensuring long-term societal, environmental, and health resilience.

In other areas, developing the scientific basis for new recommendations and procedures should also enhance the potential for synergies with Horizon Europe, as mentioned above, including the secure supply of radioisotopes for medical applications. Actions should also develop an EU capacity for the innovative exploration and production of secondary raw materials (e.g. lanthanide alloys) and/or the recovery/recycling of raw materials from spent nuclear fuel, supporting an EU strategic autonomy and a circular economy.

4. Maintaining and further developing expertise and competence in the nuclear field within the Community

The use of nuclear and technologies involving ionising radiation in all areas of application, in line with high Euratom standards for nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radiation protection, and responsible radioactive waste management, and processes of public participation requires a highly specialised and qualified workforce within the EU. In addition, knowledge management and transfer between generations, Member States and associated countries is essential to maintain nuclear competencies in Euratom and uphold Euratom's highest safety standards. Due to an ageing research community and slow increase in students in scientific and engineering subjects, maintaining and developing nuclear and radiation protection competencies is a growing concern for Member States, including regulatory authorities, research stakeholders, academia, industry, and the entire workforce supply chain.

For this reason, a strategy will be designed and tested through an initiative led by industry and the research and training sector, and supported through a Euratom-funded CSA, to attract new people to nuclear work and train and retain the workforce in the skills necessary. The strategy will focus on mobility, transferability and digital skills and promote diversity, inclusion and gender balance.

Outline of Euratom-funded actions

The Commission aims to continue long-term actions in nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radioactive waste management and radiation safety education and training, as well as to improve access to research infrastructure, offering direct support to students and researchers while providing stability and predictability to stakeholders and users.

To this end, the 2026-2027 Work Programme will fund actions to support access to cutting-edge nuclear infrastructure, including those managed by the European Commission's JRC, further enhancing the network developed under the OFFERR project.

Euratom will also fund actions aimed at coordinating activities, sharing best practices, and creating a single hub for nuclear education and training at the EU level, promoting Euratom competences available through a larger number of attractive educational programmes, and expanding mobility opportunities and job prospects.

These efforts will be complemented by the establishment of a Nuclear Skills Academy under the Net-Zero Industry Act and the European Alliance on SMRs, which should address skill gaps and future competences[38]. The establishment and implementation of the Academy should be informed, as necessary and appropriate, by the outcomes of the review of existing Skills Academies announced in the Communication on the Union for Skills[39]. The Union of Skills strategy further aim to foster the development of a skilled workforce, including for the nuclear sector, in line with the 8th Nuclear Illustrative Programme (PINC)[40].

[38] Euratom Work Programme 2023-2025 provided support for preparatory action for the academy, C(2025)8411 https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/euratom/wp-call/2023-2025/wp_euratom-2023-2025_en.pdf

[39] COM(2025)90, see also https://commission.europa.eu/topics/competitiveness/union-skills_en

[40] https://energy.ec.europa.eu/publications/communication-nuclear-illustrative-programme-under-article-40-euratom-treaty_en

These actions will be supplemented by specific education, training and dissemination activities within the European Partnerships in radiation protection (PIANOFORTE), radioactive waste management (EURAD-2), nuclear materials (CONNECT-NM), as well as collaborative projects in other areas. In the latter case, the Commission recommends allocating 5% of the project's budget for this purpose.

Support for mobility, PhDs and fellowships/training in fusion energy research will be provided within EUROfusion, European Partnership.

Expected impact of research

Euratom actions should improve specialised education and training by providing mobility and access to state-of-the-art nuclear research infrastructure. Detailed insights into the evolution of human resources in the nuclear field in terms of supply (academia) and demand (NPP operators, TSOs, regulators, medical and other non-power applications) will enable better and more sustainable coordination of nuclear education and training. This is particularly beneficial to smaller Member States, which can take advantage of economies of scale afforded by the Europe-wide pooling effect.

5. Development of fusion energy

Fusion energy comes with promising perspectives for safe, large-scale, low-carbon electricity production. There is an international recognition of this potential, with the significant growth of fusion companies' creation, substantial private investments, and more ambitious timelines and roadmaps worldwide. The fusion sector, while still having science and research at its core, is now also driven by the development of the industry, including SMEs and start-ups.

Europe is well positioned in this context with cutting-edge infrastructures, well-established and renowned research (notably with EUROfusion under Euratom), strong industry players, and rapidly developing start-ups and SMEs. But competition with other regions of the world is becoming fierce, as shown, for example, by the massive level of private investments in US fusion start-ups, which surpasses by far what can be observed in Europe.

In acknowledgement of this trend, the support of the Euratom programme for fusion energy research in 2026-2027, while maintaining a focus on excellent science, will partially shift to help developing the European fusion industry and to foster the emergence and growth of innovative fusion start-ups and SMEs.

Outline of Euratom-funded actions

In 2026-2027, the fusion energy component of the Euratom programme will have three priorities: to advance fusion science, to accelerate the maturation of key fusion technologies and to support the development of the fusion industry and start-ups.

The 2026-2027 period will be an opportunity to reinforce the involvement of, and coordination with, industry players on fusion research by establishing and launching a public-private partnership on fusion energy. This partnership will allow to pool resources from

private partners and EU funding along a common strategic agenda, thereby accelerating the development and validation of key technologies for future power plants.

The priorities identified translate into the following actions:

Continuation of EUROfusion: EUROfusion remains a key driver of Europe's fusion ambitions. To maintain this role and align with the forthcoming *EU Fusion Strategy*, its mission and programme have been redefined for 2026-2027. In that period, EUROfusion will focus on advancing foundational science and technology while supporting the development and joint exploitation of existing and future research infrastructures. Education and training will also remain an important element of EUROfusion.

European Public-Private Partnership on fusion energy: This partnership will be a co-programmed European partnership, to be launched in 2026. It will rely on contributions from private partners and calls for projects (defined on the basis of the partnership's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda - SRIA[41]) under the Euratom programme, allowing selected consortia to deliver crucial advances in areas of higher technology maturity. The partnership on fusion energy will be instrumental in fostering the transition of the fusion sector to more mature, commercially viable technologies for fusion power plants. It will also contribute to the development a European supply chain for future fusion power plants.

Two calls for Innovation Actions will be launched in 2026–2027 under the fusion energy partnership - one in 2026 and one in 2027. The 2026 call will focus on three key technology areas, identified based on preparatory work and feedback from ongoing actions (e.g., EUROfusion), while also considering potential industry interest and technology maturity. The 2027 call is designed to cover a broader scope but will be amended to better align with the priorities of the SRIA once published.

Fusion challenges under EIC instruments: the Euratom programme will include in 2026-2027 transfers of budget to EIC in order to support fusion-related challenges under the European Innovation Council's instruments. The aim is to address the needs of emerging fusion start-ups in Europe, enabling them to scale up and mature their concepts and technologies, while also attracting private investments more effectively. The focus will be on start-ups developing alternative fusion concepts and key enabling technologies for fusion power plants. However, fusion-related innovations with application potential in other sectors will also be within scope.

In addition to these three strands of activities, 2026-2027 actions on fusion energy will include another edition of the **SOFT Innovation prize**[42], to be awarded in 2028.

Expected impact of research

[41] The SRIA is currently under preparation in the frame of the Coordination and Support Action GO4FUSION (HORIZON-EURATOM-2024-NRT-01-01) and in consultation with representative fusion stakeholders.

[42] https://research-and-innovation.ec.europa.eu/funding/funding-opportunities/prizes/soft-innovation-prize_en

Fusion research under the Euratom programme is expected to have a significant impact in several key areas.

Among the key outcomes for the period, the revision of the EUROfusion programme will maximise the effectiveness of funding and ensure optimal coordination with relevant activities (e.g., those led by F4E and the ITER Organisation). The revised programme will also allow, in addition to the main Magnetic Confinement Fusion (MCF) approach, to explore alternative concepts like Inertial Confinement Fusion (ICF) and foster synergies between different fusion methodologies. An additional important expected outcome is an increase in technology transfer opportunities and commercial exploitation, to raise awareness in industry and society about the benefits of fusion technologies. These opportunities will be further strengthened thanks to the growing synergy between EUROfusion and F4E [43], and a strong complementarity with industry players and innovation funded under the co-programmed partnership on fusion energy. The revised programme of EUROfusion will also maximize EU benefits in preparation of ITER Operations, ensuring readiness and coordination of a fully trained experimental team for the Start of Research Operations (SRO) phase of ITER. This phase will require a fully trained experimental team well in advance. Finally, EUROfusion will advance Critical Fusion Infrastructures that are essential for testing and validating integrated fusion technologies in relevant operational environments. Priority will be given to key projects such as the conceptual design of a Fusion Pilot Plant, aimed at demonstrating key enabling technologies, as well as to scientific exploitation of major facilities that are essential for testing and validating integrated fusion technologies in relevant operational environments.

The launch of the European co-programmed partnership on fusion energy (planned in 2026) is bound to be game-changing. The main expected impact is a significantly strengthened role for industry players in the strategic developments of fusion research – moving from a situation where companies are positioned mainly as a supplier of components, towards a strong, consolidated European fusion industry able to compete internationally. The cooperative nature of the partnership will allow to define and unfold a common European strategic agenda (namely the SRIA), to coordinate own research and innovation activities of the partners and projects funded under the Euratom programme, thereby maximising the resources allocated (the expectation is that partners' contributions match at least the EU funding allocated, corresponding to a total of approximately 150 million EUR for the 2026-27 period). The partnership's calls will address the technology challenges along the path to a Fusion Pilot Plant, targeting technology areas of higher maturity and significant commercial potential. This will effectively supplement research and technology transfer activities led in EUROfusion, creating significant business opportunities for EU companies.

Another important expected impact of fusion actions under the Euratom programme is an increased support for start-ups and SMEs in the field. With EUR 40 million over the 2 years (of which EUR 20 million transferred from Euratom to the EIC), European fusion start-ups and SMEs will gain easier access to proven instruments implemented by the EIC (*Fusion Challenge* under the EIC Accelerator). It is expected that this support will be specifically

[43] Fusion for Energy, the European Union organisation managing Europe's contribution to ITER.

beneficial to start-ups developing innovative concepts for future fusion power plants, but it will also expand its benefits to companies that develop innovative technologies and components of interest to fusion, with additional potential for applications beyond that sector.

Finally, fusion actions in 2026-2027 will significantly enhance the visibility of European fusion research. In this regard, communication and dissemination activities led under EUROfusion and in connection to the co-programmed partnership, as well as the SOFT Innovation Prize, will be instrumental.

6. Role of the Joint Research Centre

Achieving the Euratom programme's objectives requires synergies between indirect actions and direct actions, the latter of which are managed by the European Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC). The JRC also plays a significant role in knowledge management, including the results of Euratom-funded collaborative projects. It has a specific mandate in the field of decommissioning[44], where it should facilitate the coordinated dissemination of knowledge among Union stakeholders.

Where appropriate, the Commission recommends that the JRC be included in bidding consortia for Euratom calls for proposals. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of proposals; when participating in such consortia, the JRC will not receive funding from indirect actions but will bear its own staff and research infrastructure operational costs[45].

For the bidding consortia, the JRC (contact: JRC-EURATOM-IA@ec.europa.eu) offers its expertise, capacities and infrastructure free of charge in key areas of fission reactor systems, radioactive waste management, radiation protection research and education and training. The JRC's facilities and expertise are listed in General Annex H of this work programme.

7. International Cooperation

The international and global dimension in Euratom-funded research activities is crucial for achieving mutual benefits and knowledge sharing. The Euratom programme is open to the participation of countries having concluded association agreements to this effect. It is also open, at the project level and on the basis of mutual benefit and subject to acceptance by the consortium, to the participation of entities from third countries and of international organisations e.g. OECD/NEA, IAEA, etc. for scientific cooperation.

8. Gender balance

The European Commission is committed to promoting gender equality in research and innovation. Euratom research prioritises gender equality, and the participation of women is

[44] Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/100 of 25 January 2021, covering the period 2021-27, establishing a dedicated financial programme for the decommissioning of nuclear facilities and RWM https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/reg/2021/100/oj

[45] For more information on the JRC participation, please refer to the General Annexes (section on Entities eligible to participate/Specific cases).

actively encouraged (see General Annex B, in particular provisions in relation to ‘Gender equality plans and gender mainstreaming’).

Call - Nuclear research and training

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[46]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)		Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)[47]	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026	2027		
Opening: 24 Mar 2026 Deadline(s): 15 Sep 2026					
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-01	EURATOM-RIA	7.00	8.00	Around 3.00	5
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-02	EURATOM-IA	6.50	8.50	Around 3.00	5
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-03	EURATOM-CSA	2.50	2.50	Around 5.00	1
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-04	EURATOM-CSA	3.50	3.50	Around 7.00	1
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-05	EURATOM-IA	1.00	1.00	Around 2.00	1
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-06	EURATOM-CSA	0.25	0.25	Around 0.50	1
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-08	EURATOM-COFUND	7.50	7.50	Around 15.00	1

[46] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening. The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months. All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time. The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2026 and 2027.

[47] Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-09	EURATOM-COFUND	7.50	7.50	Around 15.00	1
Overall indicative budget		35.75	38.75		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	The criteria are described in General Annex D.
Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-01: Safety of operating nuclear power plants and research reactors

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 15.00 million.
Type of Action	Research and Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the

	consortium selected for funding.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) [48].

Expected Outcome: the project's results are expected to contribute to some of the following expected outcomes.

- Continuing safety assessment and long-term operation compliance that address technical challenges, regulatory expectations and economic competitiveness goals. Licence-holders and regulators will ensure the successful implementation of the requirements of the Nuclear Safety Directive [49], Basic Safety Standards Directive [50], Radioactive Waste Management Directive [51] and topical peer reviews [52] for current and planned nuclear power plants and research reactors.

- Safety assessment of ageing management programmes and optimisation of safety solutions; as well as the development and validation of advanced tools for ageing management and evaluation of reactors' safety margins. The aim is to prevent and mitigate risks (including those associated with severe accidents) by using innovative cross-cutting technologies (applicable to multiple reactor technologies), digital upgrades, digital twins, AI/ML-assisted defect detection, advanced multi-physics (including fluid structure interaction) and/or multiscale modelling and simulation, as well as PSA updates for extended operations.

- Safety assessment of internal and external hazards in order to evaluate nuclear installations' safety (applicable to multiple reactor technologies and nuclear fuel cycle facilities), prevent and mitigate accidental situations, and improve and validate advanced modelling tools (including AI-based approaches).

[48] This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

[49] Council Directive 2009/71/Euratom of 25 June 2009 establishing a Community framework for the nuclear safety of nuclear installations (OJ L 219, 25.7.2014, p. 42) as amended by Council Directive 2014/87/Euratom of 8 July 2014.

[50] Council Directive 2013/59/Euratom of 5 December 2013 laying down basic safety standards for protection against the dangers arising from exposure to ionising radiation, and repealing Directives 89/618/Euratom, 90/641/Euratom, 96/29/Euratom, 97/43/Euratom and 2003/122/Euratom, OJ L 13, 17.1.2014, p. 1.

[51] Council Directive 2011/70/Euratom of 19 July 2011 on establishing a Community framework for the responsible and safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste, OJ L199, 2.8.2011, p. 48.

[52] https://www.ensreg.eu/.

- Further development and validation of advanced materials testing as well as of component and structural integrity assessment methods to quantify material degradation (including concrete structures, metal fatigue, corrosion, irradiation embrittlement, defect tolerance, advanced NDE techniques and safety margins in aged and potentially degraded plants).

- Reactor Long-Term Operation (LTO) fuel and core safety management, to evaluate --high burnup fuel and cladding integrity; and assessment of alternative fuels, core physics and neutron flux redistribution effects, and impacts of LTO on spent fuel inventory and interim storage.

- Ensuring the highest nuclear safety standards for the deployment of alternative nuclear fuel in Soviet-designed research reactors in EU Member States and Ukraine. This could encourage consistent approaches to the licensing and deployment of this alternative fuel.

- Drawing up best practice guidance for developed assessment methods, identifying knowledge gaps in safety margins, disseminating project outputs and providing appropriate training in the use of developed assessment methods. The sharing of examples of LTO strategies to facilitate learning and exchange.

- Support for the establishment of international collaboration benchmarks; the sharing of consistent and harmonised approaches between regulators to safety assessments of different nuclear technologies (for example, through regular exchanges between licensees and regulatory bodies and/or their technical support organisations); further improving safety across the Community, EU Member States and Associated Countries. Such action should ensure complementarities with the recently launched grant scheme in support of competent national regulatory authorities in coordinated approaches to new regulatory challenges in nuclear safety.[53]

- Development of competences and ensuring continuity in short-term to long-term research. This will support the energy and climate strategies of interested Member States, highlighting LTO's role in making their energy production more climate-neutral (in accordance with and respecting the EU's technology neutrality principle), thereby increasing the energy security of both the EU and Member States.

Scope: Euratom research will be driven by the increasing importance of long-term operation (LTO) and by the fact that the current and planned innovative fleet will consist mainly of light water-cooled reactors.

Proposals should address challenges related to ageing management and/or the evaluation of the safety margins of the current and planned reactors fleet. Such challenges relate to a number of points, including the development and validation of methods and tools to increase safety and the availability of systems, as well as structures and components needed for reliable and safe operation and management. Other areas of focus include the ageing of

[53] Granted under decision C(2024)8345 published on https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/funding-and-financing/financing-decisions_en

concrete structures, core physics and thermal hydraulics, internal and external hazards (e.g. fires and explosions phenomena), inspections, condition and structural health monitoring, digitalisation (including AI), machine learning, the Internet of Things and digital twins, modelling and simulation (e.g. by using a combination of high-performance computing and engineering modelling), as well as prevention and mitigation strategies for intended LTO.

Adequate safety margins, the early detection of degradation and the prevention of failures in pressure boundary components are of high priority in order to ensure the important third physical barrier in light water reactors. During the long operating life of nuclear power plants (40 to 80 years), their steel pressure boundary components are subject to threats from non-linear processes such as ageing, different degradation mechanisms and load history effects. This highlights the importance of research activities (including experimental efforts in ensuring the proper analysis of damage tolerance, degradation, improvement of replaceable components by material and fuel development, loads and safety margins) as well as the development of appropriate programmes for inspections, repairs, component replacement (including advanced manufacturing technologies for producing these components) and continuous tailored alignment with safety regulatory standards (even those resulting from climate change).

The scope of this topic also includes the safety of alternative nuclear fuel in cases where security of the fuel supply is under threat (e.g. Soviet-designed research reactors).

Where appropriate, the Commission recommends that consortia should use the JRC's services. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of the proposal. It would bear the operational costs for its own staff as well as research infrastructure operational costs. The JRC's facilities and expertise are listed in General Annex H to this work programme.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-02: Safety of SMRs, advanced and innovative nuclear reactors and fuels

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 3.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 15.00 million.
Type of Action	Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
Legal and financial	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions

set-up of the Grant Agreements	apply: Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60 000. Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) [54].

Expected Outcome: the project results are expected to contribute to some of the following expected outcomes:

- research into safety of innovative reactors, small modular reactors (SMRs) – both light water SMRs (LW-SMRs) and Gen-IV-based advanced modular reactors (AMRs); design or demonstration of SMRs and fuel cycles' viability; and efficient integration within low-carbon and smart energy systems;
- research support towards a shared and consistent approach among regulators' TSOs to safety requirements for different advanced energy systems and applications (e.g. industrial heat, district heat and the maritime sector), supported by regular exchanges and reviews and workshops with licensees, SMR developers, and research organisations, thereby further improving safety across the EU;
- emphasis on innovation in the safety aspects of LW-SMRs and AMRs;
- establishment of operating rules for specific services for innovative reactors, incorporating emerging instrumentation and digital technologies that offer potential improvements for in-service operation;
- research into fuel cycles (including their key features: inherently safe design, generation of less high-level waste and improved use of resources), potentially enabling interested Member States to contribute to the energy transition (according to and respecting the EU's technology neutrality principle) and thus increase Member States' and EU energy security.

Scope: the Commission expects from this Topic a balanced portfolio of projects covering both LW-SMRs and AMRs with their fuel cycles. The focus on safety will also cover research and innovation needed to independently demonstrate the safety of innovative systems, critical structures for both LW-SMRs and AMRs with their fuel cycles. Developers' goals are

[54] This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

systems that offer increased safety, sustainability, economic competitiveness, and also enhance fuel efficiency, minimise waste generation, foresee non-electric applications and flexibility in terms of adaptation to the energy mix with intermittent/variable sources. These innovative reactor technologies aim at including safety-by-design features. Research should also be conducted on the safety of advanced coolant technologies, reactor hybridisation and fuel designs.

Research proposals should do several of the following:

- keep the focus on safety-security-safeguards-by-design (3S by Design) facilitating regulators' TSOs awareness of innovative reactor concepts that could be integrated into hybrid energy systems;
- investigate SMRs' high degree of passive safety in respect to possible safety assessment harmonization of regulatory aspects;
- address pre-normative R&D challenges for selected SMRs, seeking cross-cutting benefits and possibly including the use of modern digital solutions;
- cover the viability phase of innovative technologies when basic concepts are tested under safe-relevant conditions. Examples would include assessment of proof of concept of better safety features and safety improvements;
- further investigate and experimentally validate the safety aspects of selected SMRs. Examples would include water natural circulation, two-phase flow, the use of non-water coolants, severe accidents, fluid-material interaction, thermal-hydraulic-neutronic coupling, design optimisation, higher operational temperatures (this is also related to the option of industrial process heat production and high-temperature H_2 generation), maritime applications. The purpose would be to assess their potential to enhance specific safety subjects related to internal and external hazards (e.g. fires and explosions phenomena), radioactive waste management (waste minimisation 'by design', decommissioning 'by design'), emergency preparedness and response, human and environmental impacts, safeguards, social perception and the effects on the long-term sustainability of fuel cycles;
- establish appropriate coordination with relevant initiatives within the following partnerships: EURAD-2 (radioactive waste), PIANOFORTE (radiation protection) and CONNECT-NM (materials).
- appropriate coordination should also be established in order to incorporate the perspective(s) of relevant research institution(s) in Member States that are actively planning to deploy SMRs in Euratom Members States and Associated Countries;
- further investigate the nuclear safety aspects of operational flexibility in an integrated energy system (for example, by design and safety demonstration aspects in combination with intermediate heat storage facilities or other means);

- further investigate SMRs, fuel cycles and the SMR-specific focus on modularity advantages for example, from a) factory fabrication, transportability and scalability; to b) safety case development for multi-module sites and/or underground siting; and c) focus on safety-by-design and regulatory readiness and; d) integrated energy systems.

- Where relevant, proposed action should ensure complementarities with the recently launched grant scheme in support of competent national regulatory authorities in coordinated approaches to new regulatory challenges in nuclear safety.[55]

Where appropriate, the Commission recommends that consortia should use the JRC's services. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of the proposal. It would bear the operational costs for its own staff and research infrastructure operational costs. The JRC's facilities and expertise are listed in General Annex H to this work programme.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-03: Enhancing the European nuclear competence area

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 5.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 5.00 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. The following exceptions apply: The page limit of the application is 40 pages.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 20 000 in order to enable participation of students and young researchers in the activities.

[55] Granted under decision C(2024)8345 published on https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/funding-and-financing/financing-decisions_en

Expected Outcome: project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- complementing national programmes whose purpose is to ensure a sufficient and competent nuclear workforce. The action will generate EU added value by supporting coordination, sharing best practices and creating a single point for nuclear education and training at the EU level;

- enhancing nuclear careers by promoting Euratom competences in the fields of nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radioactive waste management and radiation protection; making them available through a higher number of attractive education programmes; and expanding mobility opportunities and job perspectives (including giving access to world-class infrastructure);

- advancing nuclear education and training through strategic actions for the safe implementation of AI;

- making nuclear education more attractive and disseminating information to communities of various profiles and ages, including for experienced professionals from adjacent industries (e.g. manufacturing industries) interested in continuing developing their career in the nuclear field.

Scope: the purpose is to support the programme's objective of maintaining and enhancing the EU's nuclear competences in the field of nuclear safety, security, safeguards, radioactive waste management and radiation protection. The consortium would implement a comprehensive and sustainable pan-European E&T programme in the areas related to the use of nuclear engineering and technologies (including ionising radiation applications beyond nuclear energy). The action should build on activities that have been previously developed under Euratom and other EU programmes and should complement national efforts when appropriate. The project should use results from previously conducted analyses to streamline the effort to build up the skills and competences needed for the safe development of the nuclear sector. It should generate EU added value by complementing national educational and training programmes in order to ensure that sufficient and skilled staff are available for the sector. The action should foster a long-term career perspective within the field (considering current job trends and their evolution; and investigating what is needed to make the nuclear sector attractive to talented people). Human resources specialists should be involved. To ensure continuity and avoid duplication, the action should be led by experienced EU actors (see ENEN2plus, Skills4Nuclear).

To ensure a robust and diverse talent pool in the nuclear sector, it is essential to spark early interest among pupils and students in nuclear science and technology. The project should include actions that introduce key groups (young learners at different levels, teachers and other staff at educational institutions, and other influential individuals) to the wide range of roles within the field, thus helping and encouraging them envision a future in the sector. Specific attention should be paid to teachers at all levels, and the consortium should propose and implement targeted activities at each level for them.

Attracting students, doctoral candidates and workers from other sectors should be another focus. The consortium should identify best practices and propose activities that increase the attractiveness of nuclear careers (e.g. internships, technical visits, training programmes and career events).

The action may include specialised education and training in the most demanding areas of competence (e.g. decommissioning, radioactive waste management, radiation protection, SMRs, nuclear safeguards and non-power nuclear applications (cf. medicine and space)) in order to address current and future skills gaps.

To promote the effective use of the most advanced tools in nuclear education, the project should evaluate the use of AI (particularly small and large language models (SLMs and LLMs)) to support education programmes. The consortium should analyse the efficacy of existing and experimental practices (including assessing possible risks associated with the use of these tools in education – such as the possible inhibition of critical thinking, which is at the basis of learning). The project should propose strategic actions for the safe implementation of advanced digital tools in EU nuclear education. This could include (but not be limited to) piloting the safe use of AI (including LLMs) in education and training contexts, accompanied by evidence-based guidance to ensure that AI supports rather than replaces critical thinking and academic integrity. The action should provide practical templates, case studies and a risk-mitigation of AI-utilisation checklist for EU education providers.

The consortium should manage a robust mobility scheme. This will build on and draw lessons learned from previous programmes, thus improving procedures and reflecting current development and priorities. The scheme should take into consideration results from conducted assessments and should support national/EU strategies (e.g. the nuclear skills strategy that is currently under development by the independent consortium funded through the Skills4Nuclear project[56]). On the one hand, it should be an essential part of guided career development for highly specialised students and young nuclear professionals in multidisciplinary and multicultural environments. On the other hand, it should be an entry point that attracts students and workers from other sectors. The scheme should be prepared with close cooperation between industry, universities and research institutions, in order to involve relevant actors at an early stage and achieve synergies. The mobility scheme should be extensive, sustainable and supported with sufficient resources to meet demand.

Building on the work done so far, the project should provide a single-entry point website (a one-stop shop) for nuclear education and training (E&T) in the EU. The site should cater for the EU, national and international levels, be comprehensive and provide access to information on E&T opportunities at universities in applied sciences as well as vocational opportunities in the nuclear field. The consortium should elaborate on the governance and funding model in order to keep the site updated after the action ends.

The Commission encourages international cooperation and mobility exchange beyond Euratom – particularly with international organisations (e.g. IAEA ETKM and OECD/NEA

[56] https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101213280

NEST[57]) and institutions from non-EU countries that have the most advanced nuclear research programmes.

Proposals could pool the necessary financial resources from national (or regional) research programmes with a view to implementing transnational proposals, thereby resulting in grants to third parties to implement some of this action's activities.

Grants to individual third parties will be capped at an estimated maximum of EUR 20 000 in order to enable students and young researchers to participate in the activities.

Where appropriate, the Commission recommends that consortia use the JRC's services. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of the proposal. The JRC would bear the operational costs for its own staff and research infrastructure operational costs. The JRC's facilities and expertise are listed in General Annex H to this work programme.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-04: Strengthening a European user facility for nuclear research

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 7.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 7.00 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. The following exceptions apply: The page limit of the application is 40 pages.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. Financial support provided by the participants to third parties is one of the primary

[57] Nuclear Education, Skills and Technology (NEST) Framework launched by Nuclear Energy Agency (https://www.oecd-nea.org/), aiming at address important gaps in nuclear skills capacity building, knowledge transfer and technical innovation

	activities of this action in order to be able to achieve its objectives. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 300 000 for actions providing access to and securing availability of research infrastructures. This maximum amount is justified by the significant cost for providing key access to and securing the availability of unique research infrastructures. Eligible costs may take form of unit costs for decision authorising the use of unit costs for the costs of providing trans-national and virtual access as defined in the corresponding Decision (unit-cost-decision-research-infrastructures_horizon-euratom_en.pdf (europa.eu)

Expected Outcome: the project results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- access to cutting-edge infrastructure for researchers and research teams from Euratom and Associated Countries to EU and international state-of-the-art nuclear research infrastructures;
- enhancing the network developed under the OFFERR project for optimised use of nuclear research infrastructures identified in the EU, thus supporting the implementation of the Euratom programme's objectives and the establishment of the European Research Area (ERA) in the nuclear safety and radiation protection field;
- strengthened cross-border collaboration in nuclear safety and radiation protection research in the EU, a significant increase in transnational nuclear research and the fostering of shared expertise and resources;
- preservation of critical facilities, possibly increasing their number to ensure the long-term availability of key experimental facilities for research into safety, security, safeguards, radioactive waste management and radiation protection (e.g. materials testing research reactors in operation, irradiation infrastructure, hot cells and laboratories, mechanical and thermal hydraulic test facilities, light water reactor sustainability, fuel cycle research and development, advanced modelling and simulation (including digital twins) and safety of advanced reactor technology programmes) or innovative solutions and research approaches;
- synergies with ongoing initiatives to complement (wherever applicable and beneficial) on-going Euratom projects and European Partnerships (e.g. EURAD-2, CONNECT-NM and PIANOFORTE), providing open access to the most advanced research infrastructures, large-scale and small-scale facilities, and expertise.

Scope: ensuring access to EU and international research infrastructures is key to scientific progress in the nuclear field (including radiation protection, which is one of the foundation blocks of the European Research Area). Euratom support will be provided to cover the costs of transnational access for researchers or research teams from Member States and Associated

States to EU and international state-of-the-art nuclear research infrastructures in other countries.

Users will be provided with access (at no cost to the researcher) to world-class nuclear research facilities; technical expertise from experienced scientists and engineers; and assistance with experiment design, assembly, safety analysis and examination.

The objective is to promote and enhance access to infrastructures that provide essential and unique services to the EU research community and are typically beyond the reach of individual laboratories. This will advance research in all the areas (except for fusion research, which is undertaken by the European Partnership in fusion research) covered in Annex I of the Council Regulation establishing the Euratom Programme.

The Commission encourages international cooperation with non-EU countries and international organisations within the scope of this action (partly in order to avoid any duplication with the OECD/NEA's FIDES initiative), while encouraging investigating their complementarities. Support for researchers from non-EU stakeholders (including academia, research centres and industrial laboratories), non-EU countries and international organisations is envisaged where such access would be part of the promotion of international cooperation with the countries or international organisations concerned and researchers from Euratom Member States would have equivalent access to their infrastructures.

Based on the lessons learnt from former and current user facility projects, a framework and a set of common rules will be further improved for the future sustainable operation of a network of 'Euratom User Facilities'. Dedicated support for the mobility of learners and/or linkage with the proposal submitted for topic HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-03 could be an advantage.

The active participation of major infrastructure operators will be required in order to achieve these objectives. The support scheme should operate through open calls and offer infrastructure access; technical expertise from experienced scientists and engineers; and assistance with experiment design, assembly, safety analysis and examination.

Proposals could pool the necessary financial resources from the participating national (or regional) research programmes with a view to implementing transnational proposals that result in grants to third parties to implement activities of this action.

The proposal should include an option for the JRC to use the future project's operational environment (as a centralised platform supported by Euratom for facilitating the access to the JRC's nuclear research infrastructures) for the implementation of the dedicated complementing coordination and support action between DG JRC and DG RTD on open access to the JRC's nuclear infrastructures.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-05: Towards a European production of stable isotopes for novel nuclear medicine therapies (SAMIRA/ERVI)

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 2.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 2.00 million.
Type of Action	Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) [58].

Expected Outcome: the project results are expected to contribute to the following outcomes:

- support for the development of EU production of stable isotopes that are essential for the manufacturing of radionuclides used in novel nuclear medicine therapies;
- strengthening of the resilience and security of the EU medical radioisotope supply chain by securing access to source materials, reducing dependence on third countries and enhancing industrial-scale production (including the sourcing of stable isotopes);
- leveraging of the knowledge and expertise of nuclear scientists, physicists and engineers in order to develop and optimise the processes for the EU-based production of stable isotopes, while contributing to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan and implementing the Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA).

[58] This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

Scope: radiological and nuclear technologies are integral to modern healthcare. They play a crucial role in cancer care – from early detection and diagnosis to treatment and palliative support. They also support the diagnosis and management of a wide range of other conditions (including cardiovascular and neurological diseases). Each year, patients throughout the EU benefit from the application of nuclear medicine in the diagnosis and treatment of cancer and other serious conditions.

Innovations such as targeted radionuclide therapy (also known as radioligand therapy) are reshaping medicine by enabling more precise and personalised treatment. Medical radioisotopes are essential both for diagnostics and for an expanding array of therapeutic applications (particularly in oncology).

The EU's supply of innovative radiopharmaceuticals for cancer therapy faces growing risks due to uncertainties over the availability of rare stable isotopes that are imported from Russia. One key concern is the availability of precursor materials for medical radioisotope production (particularly Yb-176, which is essential for innovative medicines in the EU). The EU's reliance on Russia for Yb-176 and other stable isotopes is a strategic vulnerability. Reducing dependence on foreign suppliers and diversifying the supply chain will enhance the EU's resilience and security of supply.

This action aims to mitigate supply risks by establishing the secure and sustainable production of stable isotopes. These include Yb-176, which is essential for Lu-177 manufacturing and is the main component of radiopharmaceuticals like Lutetium-177-PSMA (used to treat prostate cancer) and Lutetium-177 Dotatate (used in therapies against neuroendocrine tumours). The production of other stable radioisotopes to produce emerging alpha and beta emitters for targeted radiotherapy is considered in this call (e.g. Gadolinium (Gd) essential for Terbium (Tb) isotopes manufacturing). This will widen the portfolio of therapeutic radioisotopes and theragnostic pairs of radioisotopes in order to provide patients with personalised options in nuclear medicine for both diagnostics and therapy.

A key objective is to develop innovative, scalable and cost-effective methods for producing stable isotopes (particularly Yb-176), thereby reducing dependency on external suppliers and enhancing strategic autonomy. Ensuring a consistent and reliable isotope supply will enhance nuclear medicine therapies, thus benefit patients while strengthening the EU's long-term resilience in the field. Interdisciplinary collaboration will be essential in achieving this goal.

The initiative should also foster partnerships with industry, policymakers and healthcare professionals, thus ensuring a comprehensive approach that aligns production capacity with clinical and commercial needs. Engaging stakeholders throughout the nuclear medicine value chain will enhance feasibility, scalability and market integration.

In addition to securing isotope supply, this action should stimulate innovation, attract investment and drive economic growth, thus reinforcing the EU's leadership in nuclear medicine while also creating new opportunities in the sector.

This action should focus on closer-to-the-market activities (including prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting and scaling up new or improved products or processes). Proposals may include limited R&D activities. Activities are expected to focus on technology readiness levels 5 to 7 (indicative but not mandatory, depending on the innovative potential of the field).

The Commission recommends that consortia should use the JRC's services where appropriate. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of the proposal. The JRC would bear the operational costs for its own staff and research infrastructure operational costs. The JRC's facilities and expertise are listed in General Annex H to this work programme.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-06: Support for the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform to address cross-sectoral challenges and non-power applications of ionising radiation

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 0.50 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 0.50 million.
Type of Action	Coordination and Support Actions
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) [59].

Expected Outcome: the project results are expected to contribute to all the following outcomes:

- structuring of the Sustainable Nuclear Energy Technology Platform (SNETP) activities and consolidation of networks in the different technology areas covered by the Euratom programme, together with the Implementing Geological Disposal Technology Platform (IGDTP) and the consortium following the European Radiation Research Platforms (MEENAS). The focusing will be on cross-cutting nuclear energy applications (e.g.

[59] This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

nuclear for heat or/and electricity production, energy supply in space and maritime propulsion) and on non-energy applications (including cross-cutting or medical applications of ionising radiation and improved optimisation of protection in this area);

- integrating the different energy roadmaps (nuclear and non-nuclear) by fostering collaboration between European Technology and Innovation Platforms in order to address cross-sectorial challenges. This will include (a) integration of NPPs into sustainable low-carbon and smart energy systems to complement the achievement of Horizon Europe's objectives (including in the context of the energy transition); and (b) development of power systems for space applications;

- supporting the integration of SNETP in Horizon Europe's cross-sectorial activities, with particular emphasis on non-power applications and associated radiation protection, education and training. Cross-cutting actions to maximise the societal benefits of nuclear and radiation technologies should be identified;

- supporting the identification of research priorities and key actions for the nuclear R&I community within various EU policy instruments (e.g. SET Plan updates and annual reports);

- communicating the platform's activities to policymakers and stakeholders (including stakeholders outside the power generation sector);

- facilitating cooperation between projects throughout the EU in order to ensure the accessibility and reusability of produced data.

Scope: SNETP is a European technology and innovation platform (ETIP) that supports and promotes the safe, secure, reliable and efficient operation of nuclear systems. Rapidly developing non-power applications of ionising radiation (e.g. in the health, industrial and space sectors) will require long-term effort to reduce safety risks and support the development of safe nuclear technologies and optimal radiation protection.

In this context, SNETP should, in 2026-2027, continue to integrate research and innovation in nuclear safety at the EU level. It should also stimulate innovation in nuclear technologies beyond their more traditional areas of implementation because they can play a vital role in improving standards of living and health in the EU.

Euratom funding will be devoted to specific studies, data collection, analysis and workshops for the further development of technology roadmaps, implementation plans and deployment strategies, as well as to the dissemination of the platform activities to the various stakeholders. Due attention should be given to integrating the different energy roadmaps (nuclear and non-nuclear). Activities should aim to foster collaboration between ETIPs in order to address cross-sectoral challenges (i.e. involving both nuclear and non-nuclear energy sources), with a particular emphasis on materials, digital and AI, and the medical and other non-power applications of ionising radiation.

This action should support SNETP in structuring its activities and orienting them towards cross-sectoral and non-power applications. It should enable the consolidation of sustainable networks across the different technology areas covered by the Euratom Research and Training Programme and should facilitate cooperation with other ETIPs and similar stakeholder forums. It should support SNETP efforts to foster more interconnected activities with other industrial sectors (particularly the health sector), in terms of both content and implementation mechanisms. It should also help nuclear scientists to more closely integrate into relevant Horizon Europe actions (e.g. Europe's Beating Cancer Action Plan and Cancer Mission) and thus help communicate the platform and Programme activities to policymakers and stakeholders outside the power generation sector.

The proposal should include actions to facilitate cooperation with other projects across the EU and to ensure the accessibility and reusability of data produced in the course of the projects. The proposal should also include a financial and sustainability plan for the continuation of activities beyond the duration of the funded action. SNETP's secretariat and other running costs are not eligible for funding under this action.

The indicative project duration is three years.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-08: Co-funded European partnership for research in nuclear materials

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 15.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 15.00 million.
Type of Action	Cofund Actions
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. The following exceptions apply: The page limit of the application is 100 pages.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding. The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposal must be submitted by the coordinator of the consortium funded under HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01-04. This eligibility condition is without prejudice to the possibility to include additional partners.

Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: This action is intended to be implemented in the form of an amendment of the grant agreement concluded pursuant to HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01-04. For the additional activities covered by this action: The funding rate is 55 % of the eligible costs as it reflects the need to establish a fully integrated research Partnership for nuclear materials that makes use of the assets of laboratories and industries all around Europe. Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 300 000. Financial support provided by the participants to third parties, to support e.g. securing availability of research infrastructures could be part of the activities of the action to be able to achieve its objectives. When implementing financial support to third parties in Co-funded Partnerships, the beneficiaries must avoid any conflict of interest or unequal treatment of applicants[60].
Evaluation Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: If the proposal is successful, the next stage of the procedure will be a grant agreement amendment preparation. If the outcome of amendment preparations is an award decision, the coordinator of the consortium funded under HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01-04 will be invited submit an amendment to the grant agreement, on behalf of the beneficiaries.

Expected Outcome: this topic is a continuation for the co-funded European partnership for research in nuclear materials (CONNECT-NM) and constitutes the EU's contribution to the 2026-2027 budgetary period.

This action aims to provide additional funding to the co-funded European partnership on nuclear materials that brings together European entities that have a national mandate for research in materials science and deal with nuclear materials. It aims to pool their resources in order to achieve critical mass and improve safety, as well as efficiency and effectiveness, when implementing materials solutions in the nuclear domain across Europe.

[60] Notably through appropriate communication/exchange of information channels and independent and fair complaints procedures.

The scope of the partnership on nuclear materials covers the research interests of all Member States and Associated Countries dealing with nuclear materials research. It is not limited to countries that generate nuclear power.

The grant to the partnership will contribute to the expected outcomes specified in topic HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01-04.

The consortium that won the grant under topic HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01-04 is uniquely placed to submit a proposal to continue the envisioned partnership.

The consortium for the present topic may include additional partners and is expected to add new activities outside the scientific scope of the CONNECT-NM.

In line with the objectives of the Nuclear Safety Directive, this European partnership should contribute to the safe operation of existing and future advanced nuclear installations, including small modular reactors (SMRs). The extended partnership on nuclear materials will further contribute to enhancing interaction and cross-fertilisation between national players in the relevant key areas and ensuring improved knowledge management at the EU and Member State levels.

Project results are expected to contribute to:

- further deepening knowledge about the main types of nuclear structural materials and fuels, with an emphasis on research into innovative materials solutions for the reactor systems under development (including light-water SMRs and other advanced reactors);
- improving the holistic approach to the simulation and predictive modelling for the materials of interest (in line with the ‘materials by design’ strategy);
- safely and securely assisting the NPP lifetime extension programmes via the integration of obtained knowledge into the relevant technical assessment and licencing procedures;
- further developing experimental abilities for the qualification of nuclear materials and fuels (encouraging, inter alia, neutron irradiation experiments);
- assuring the further development of robust and functional knowledge management approaches for this domain (including by contributing to the development of necessary nuclear design codes);
- widening the scope of the materials and fuels under investigation, by comparison with those that have already been dealt with in the CONNECT-NM European Partnership (e.g. polymers).

Scope: materials science is one of the main drivers of technological development and industrial innovation. In the nuclear area, materials research plays a crucial role in improving the safety, efficiency and economy of nuclear installations. It supports technological and safety improvements in existing nuclear reactors and new builds. It also enables the development of advanced reactor concepts (including SMRs).

Materials science also addresses several classes of materials. These include those that are essential to nuclear reactor cores (e.g. metallic alloys and ceramics; fuel cladding and fuels; substances for neutron control; concrete; and polymers for cables). Innovative solutions for research into the development, manufacturing and qualification of these nuclear materials are necessary if the EU's nuclear sector is to not only maintain the highest safety standards but also be competitive with other energy-generating technologies (as well as with a range of international players in this area).

This action is therefore expected to significantly contribute to the development and qualification of materials and related advanced manufacturing techniques, thus ensuring the highest safety standards for nuclear components and reducing time to market. This will require a shift from the traditional 'observe and qualify' materials science approach to the modern 'design and control' one that is already pursued in CONNECT-NM and is further targeted in its extension. Accurate materials-health-monitoring methods also need to be developed for application during operations, along with advanced predictive methodologies that incorporate modern digital techniques blended with physics-based models[61].

Drawing on the advisory bodies already established in CONNECT-NM, the partnership should consolidate its exploitation and innovation group (comprising members from industrial bodies and other relevant institutions) and should also have expertise in innovation and the exploitation of results. In addition, the consolidation of the independent international scientific advisory board established by CONNECT-NM will benefit the partnership's activities.

The partnership should be goal-oriented and have well-defined major milestones to enable proper monitoring. Its scope should include all scientific and technical areas, as well as all the horizontal activities related to KM that have been described above.

Research lines should continue to be proposed with specific projects that cover the scientific and technical priorities identified in the strategic research agenda. Projects that are expected to be launched in the partnership via new calls for proposals should correspondingly cover areas of interest for the relevant national actors and allow new partners to be included if relevant. The projects should be defined by technical scope and the corresponding calls should be open to any participant.

The allocation of project tasks and funding to partners should be revised annually through the preparation of an annual work programme. Emerging research priorities that are relevant for the Euratom programme should be considered (taking into account the opinion of the advisory boards) during this annual revision of the partnership.

To maximise KM (especially its impact on smaller and less advanced national programmes), a set of horizontal activities on knowledge-transfer and education and training should continue to be designed and implemented within the partnership. The partnership should be open to

[61] https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/899997

international R&D cooperation. Its managers should be expected to represent it in areas of competence in international events and forums.

Commitments by the partners regarding their financial and/or in-kind contributions to the European partnership are expected to be provided in the governance structure (through the open calls and in other dedicated implementation actions and efforts for national coordination). Proposals should pool the necessary financial and/or in-kind resources from the participating national (or regional) research programmes with a view to implementing joint research activities that are described in the proposed research lines and/or open calls for transnational proposals that also result in grants to third parties.

The proposal should comply with the criteria for selecting and implementing European partnerships as well as for their monitoring, evaluation, phasing-out or renewal (as set out in Annex III to the Horizon Europe Regulation [62]).

Partnerships' impacts are expected to be achieved in a concerted manner across EU Member States and Associated Countries and would otherwise be difficult to achieve through national programmes.

The award of a grant to continue the partnership in accordance with this call should be based on a proposal submitted by the coordinator of the consortium funded under GA.101165375 and the additional activities (which may include additional partners) to be funded by the grant should be subject to an evaluation. This evaluation should take into account the existing context, the scope of the initial evaluation (as relevant) and any related obligations enshrined in the grant agreement.

The present action is a continuation of the HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01-04 topic and requires an amendment to an existing grant agreement. The proposal should therefore primarily present the additional activities (including additional partners) to be covered by the award in terms of grant agreement revisions.

The financial support to third parties is for actions that provide key access to and secure the availability of unique research infrastructures, thus strengthening a true European user facility for nuclear research.

Where appropriate, the Commission recommends that consortia should use the JRC's services. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of the proposal. The JRC would bear the operational costs for its own staff and research infrastructure operational costs. The JRC facilities and expertise are listed in General Annex H to this work programme.

[62] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation, laying down its rules for participation and dissemination, and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1290/2013 and (EU) No 1291/2013, OJ L 170, 12.5.2021, p. 1–68.

HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-09: European Partnership for research in radiation protection and detection of ionising radiation

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 15.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 15.00 million.
Type of Action	Cofund Actions
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A. The following exceptions apply: The page limit of the application is 100 pages.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: The Joint Research Centre (JRC) may participate as member of the consortium selected for funding. The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposal must be submitted by the coordinator of the consortium funded under HORIZON-EURATOM-2021-NRT-01-09. This eligibility condition is without prejudice to the possibility to include additional partners.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: This action is intended to be implemented in the form of an amendment of the grant agreement concluded pursuant to HORIZON-EURATOM-2021-NRT-01-09. For the additional activities covered by this action: The funding rate is 65 % of the eligible costs as this funding rate reflects the high impact of radiation research for the health policies and the need to involve a wider research community. Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 500 000 for actions justifying the establishment of a Ph.D. or post doc contract. It is EUR 100 000 in other cases of activities for the implementation of the roadmap for research in radiation protection. These maximum amounts are justified for the Partnership to achieve one of its primary objectives,

	which is the organisation of open calls to ensure wide participation of the radiation protection research community, resulting in significant costs for the third parties. When implementing financial support to third parties in Co-funded Partnerships, the beneficiaries must avoid any conflict of interest or unequal treatment of applicants[63].
Evaluation Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: If the proposal is successful, the next stage of the procedure will be a grant agreement amendment preparation. If the outcome of amendment preparations is an award decision, the coordinator of the consortium funded under HORIZON-EURATOM-2021-NRT-01-09 will be invited submit an amendment to the grant agreement, on behalf of the beneficiaries.

Expected Outcome: this topic is a continuation of the co-funded European partnership for research into radiation protection and detection of ionising radiation (PIANOFORTE) and constitutes the EU's contribution for 2026-2027. The establishment of the partnership will contribute to the expected outcomes specified in topic HORIZON-EURATOM-2021-NRT-01-09.

The partnership is expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes:

- establishing improved risk estimates for the justification of practices and optimisation of radiological protection of members of the public, patients, workers and the environment in all exposure situations (medical, natural, occupational and accidental – including co-exposure and overlapping risks) to support the implementation of the Basic Safety Standards Directive;

- advancing state-of-the-art understanding of the link between exposure characteristics (radiation quality, dose, dose-rate and dose effects versus gravity) and cancer and non-cancer effects (including optimised detection and dosimetry);

- developing a knowledge base and analytical tools for the major features of variability in radiation response (including tissue reactions, cancers and cellular aging, and radio-induced immunoresponse) in humans and ecosystems;

- advancing integrative radiobiology, from basic mechanisms to clinic and epidemiology (including human and social sciences) to further characterise and evaluate ionising radiation effects;

[63] Notably through appropriate communication/exchange of information channels and independent and fair complaints procedures

- providing a scientific basis for, and establishment of, priorities for medical applications of ionising radiation (taking a broad approach to the public health impact) in order to address knowledge gaps that are relevant for decision-making; reinforce the risk/benefit analysis; advance individual patient dosimetry by using radiobiology research results; develop recommendations, procedures and tools for improving radiation protection of patients; and supporting the effective transfer of new and optimised medical procedures into clinical practice;

- providing a scientific basis for recommendations, procedures and tools for improving radiation protection of workers and the public in line with the Basic Safety Standards Directive;

- providing a scientific basis for recommendations, procedures and tools for assuring and improving preparedness for nuclear and radiological emergency response and recovery (including improved knowledge of which values need to be accounted for in stakeholder involvement); direct monitoring of the radiological population and indirect monitoring through environment sampling and measurement (also based on computational techniques that use big data and AI); and improving hospital capabilities in emergency support;

- providing quality assurance for all measurements. This includes traceability and the assignment of uncertainties to results;

- reinforcing training through research in the field of radiation protection and encouraging continuous training and career upgrades;

- facilitating access to research infrastructure and promoting the integration of data and FAIRisation processes (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable);

- improving public engagement and the understanding of public perception of radiation risks; identifying different target groups among stakeholders; and communicating to and involving the general public on radiation risks and protection measures in order to promote public acceptance.

Scope: the Commission invites proposals for the establishment of the European Partnership for research into radiation protection and detection of ionising radiation. Proposed partnerships should fulfil the requirements set out in this topic as well as meet the criteria for the selection and implementation of European partnerships and their monitoring, evaluation, phase-out or renewal as set in the Horizon Europe Regulation.

Radiation protection research funded under this Partnership should provide solutions and recommendations for protecting people and the environment from the potentially harmful effects of ionising radiation (as required by the Basic Safety Standards Directive). A reinforced multidisciplinary approach to research, innovation and citizen involvement is needed in order to further develop the knowledge base and enable implementation of innovations regarding risks from different exposures to radiation, thereby enabling the

application of that knowledge to direct gains in radiation protection culture and practice. The influence of individual's characteristics (e.g. their sex and age) and interaction with other risk factors will have to be addressed as part of research into individual sensitivity, susceptibility and degenerative fragility. This is a significant concern in medical applications, which are to be justified and optimised on the basis of sound evidence and scientific outcomes.

Implementation of this Partnership would require the cooperation of the entire European research community in order to exploit synergies between different scientific disciplines. This implies the potential involvement of all research institutions and universities – encompassing both fundamental and applied research as well as the human and social sciences. The Partnership would need to take account of the present state of knowledge and priorities identified in the Strategic Research Agenda of MELODI (low dose radiation), ALLIANCE (radioecology), the European Metrology Network for Radiation Protection (EMN RP), EURADOS (dosimetry), NERIS (nuclear emergency preparedness), EURAMED (medical exposures), SHARE (social sciences and humanities) and SNETP (the sustainable nuclear energy technology platform).

Furthermore, citizens should continue to be involved by supporting open and participatory approaches to research and innovation in the field of radiation protection. Good decisions require societal issues and citizen involvement to be taken into consideration in the options and assessment of risks associated with radiation exposure.

To deliver the expected outcomes, the Partnership would build on and further develop its strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA). The Partnership would also need to consider the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee's opinion on the research roadmap, the SAMIRA initiative and the roadmap [64] for medical applications of ionising radiation, developed in the EURAMED rocc-n-roll [65] project funded under Euratom.

The Partnership should address the identified research and innovation priorities through at least one open call. Call priorities should be determined in close connection with stakeholders. The governance structure within the Partnership should ensure transparent, open calls, project proposal evaluation and selection.

Links with other partnerships and international cooperation beyond Euratom (particularly with international organisations) are encouraged. Other synergies across programmes (e.g. the Horizon Europe Health cluster and the proposed cancer mission) will continue to be explored through dedicated working groups. There should also be collaboration with industry on technological developments and on bringing scientific and technological breakthroughs a step closer to the market for the benefit of citizens and society.

64 Roadmap for medical applications of ionising radiation for better patients' lives. The roadmap is a result of the European Commission's Strategic Agenda for Medical Ionising Radiation Applications (SAMIRA), established as a contribution to Europe's Beating Cancer Plan.

65 EURAMED Rocc-N-Roll – European Medical Application and Radiation Protection Concept, https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/89999

The Partnership should ensure the availability of, and facilitate access to, state-of-the-art research infrastructures required to implement the SRIA. This should be done consistently with action HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01-04 (European Facility in Nuclear Research).

The Partnership should also develop competences in radiological protection, with a special focus on radiological protection culture. Solutions should be proposed to the challenge of communicating results in radiological protection to, and engaging with, non-specialist audiences (such as policymakers and the general public).

The consortium partners are expected to make financial commitments and in-kind contributions to support the governance structure, joint calls, and other dedicated implementation actions and efforts for national coordination.

Proponents could pool the necessary financial resources from participating national (or regional) research programmes with a view to implementing joint calls for transnational proposals, resulting in grants to third parties.

The Commission also invites consortia to propose innovative solutions and research approaches (in addition to those already listed above) in order to achieve the expected outcomes.

The award of a grant to continue the Partnership in accordance with this call should be based on a proposal submitted by the coordinator of the consortium funded under GA. 101061037. The additional activities, which may include additional partners, to be funded by the grant should be evaluated. This evaluation should consider the existing context and the scope of the initial evaluation (as relevant) as well as related obligations enshrined in the grant agreement.

The present action is a continuation of the HORIZON-EURATOM-2021-NRT-01-09 topic and foresees an amendment to an existing grant agreement. The proposal should therefore present the additional activities (including additional partners) to be covered by the award primarily in terms of grant agreement revisions.

The Commission recommends that consortia should use the JRC’s services where appropriate. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of the proposal. The JRC would bear the operational costs for its own staff and research infrastructure operational costs. The JRC facilities and expertise are listed in General Annex H to this work programme.

Call - Innovation actions under the co-programmed European partnership on fusion energy (1st call)

HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-01

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[66]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)[67]	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2026		
Opening: 15 Sep 2026 Deadline(s): 04 Mar 2027				
HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-01-01	EURATOM-IA	32.00	Around 10.00	3
Overall indicative budget		32.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	The criteria are described in General Annex D.

66 The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening. The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months. All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time. The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2026 and 2027.

67 Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-01-01: Key enabling technologies for fusion power plants (European Partnership on Fusion Energy)

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 10.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 32.00 million.
Type of Action	Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: In order to achieve the expected outcomes and safeguard the Union's strategic assets, interests, autonomy and security[68], participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States and in countries associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme (Ukraine and Switzerland). Proposals including entities established in countries outside the scope specified in the call/topic/action will be ineligible.
Technology Readiness Level	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: The evaluation committee will be composed partially by representatives of EU institutions. To ensure a balanced portfolio covering all key technology areas set out in the scope, grants will be awarded to applications not only in order of

[68] Namely, to support EU competitiveness in achieving commercialisation of fusion energy, to contribute to the achievement of the EU's energy security and independence and to ensure effective safeguards of dual-use materials, technologies and knowledge used or developed under the Fusion PPP.

	ranking but at least also to one proposal that is the highest ranked within each key area, provided that the proposals attain all thresholds.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: The funding rate is 60% of the eligible costs, except for non-profit legal entities where the funding rate is up to 100% of the total eligible costs. Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) [69].

Expected Outcome: The action is expected to mature and demonstrate (TRL 6-8) innovative technologies in one of the key areas set out under the scope of the topic:

- developing and advancing the technology readiness of innovative individual components and/or integrated systems that perform the key functions of fusion power plants (FPPs), in line with the key area targeted;
- testing the innovative components and/or systems developed in close-to-real-life conditions, demonstrating the ability to deliver fusion-grade components and/or systems;
- providing a credible business case, clarifying the potential and perspectives for commercialisation of the components and/or systems developed, and showing the benefits for the competitiveness and growth of EU companies from the fusion field.

Scope: to ensure a successful transition to commercially viable fusion power plants, the Commission is establishing a co-programmed public-private partnership, maximising the convergence of publicly funded action and privately led initiatives. This European Partnership on Fusion Energy is being established with the support of a coordination and support action funded under the Euratom programme. It will contribute to the EU's strategic autonomy and competitiveness.

The EU can build on an extensive record of scientific endeavours and achievements in the field of fusion. The EU's major contribution to the ITER [70] project and the successful development of the EUROfusion [71] co-funded partnership clearly illustrate this record. However, despite recent advances and encouraging results (notably in the field of magnetic

69 This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

70 https://www.iter.org/

71 https://euro-fusion.org/

confinement [72]), further innovation is needed in key areas with a view to the commercial deployment of FPPs.

Delivering innovation in these key areas is not only an opportunity to help the fusion sector consolidate in the EU but will also increase the maturity of technologies (e.g. plasma heating and current drive, high-temperature superconducting magnets, advanced monitoring and control solutions, and robotics) that could be applied in other fields.

Actions funded under this topic are expected to address one of the following key technology areas [73]:

- plasma heating and current drive;
- high-temperature superconducting magnets;
- diagnostics and control.

Proposals should clearly indicate which one of these key areas they address.

Actions funded under the topic should perform activities to address critical gaps in the selected key area:

- heating and current drive: delivering and demonstrating high-performance, compact, efficient and cost-effective heating and current-drive technologies for FPPs (e.g. gyrotrons and neutral-beam injectors) that can operate reliably in a harsh reactor environment (e.g. high neutron flux and heat loads);
- high-temperature superconducting (HTS) magnets: delivering and demonstrating HTS magnet technologies that enable stronger, smaller and more efficient magnetic confinement, with high resistance to mechanical stress and degradation under neutron irradiation and also opening the way for large-scale and cost-effective manufacturing.
- diagnostics and control: delivering and demonstrating (hardware and software) components and systems that enable enhanced monitoring and management of FPPs operation (e.g., for magnetic confinement, mitigation of edge-localised modes and runaway electrons), relying, for example, on AI-driven control systems, advanced modelling and simulation, and innovative sensors.

For this purpose, and for the key area targeted, proposals should:

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72 E.g., world record fusion plasma, https://euro-fusion.org/member-news/cea/world-record-fusion-plasma-in-europe/

73 The key technology areas targeted in this topics have been selected on the basis of previous studies and consultations (e.g., Analysis on a strategic public-private partnership approach to foster innovation in fusion energy, see https://link.europa.eu/NM9WqM, and the Interim evaluation of the 2021-2025 Euratom research and training programme (Staff Working Document), see https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/HTML/?uri=CELEX:52025SC0054). They are aligned with early findings in the preparation of the Fusion PPP's Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, at the time this Work Programme was finalised.

- clarify the technology gaps / bottlenecks addressed by the proposed projects, demonstrating a thorough understanding both of the needs and drivers towards viable FPPs and of the state of the art for the considered key area;

- set out the envisioned technology advances, making clear how the proposed innovation would improve the performance of the components and/or systems developed (relying as much as possible on quantitative targets and / or key performance indicators);

- describe in detail the approaches to testing and demonstrating the components and/or systems developed, clearly indicating both the technology readiness level targeted and the process by which technology maturation will be monitored;

- enable close cooperation between public research and private companies (start-ups, SMEs and industry). This should materialise in the composition of the consortium and in the proposed project's activities;

- demonstrate the business potential of the proposed innovation, within and (where relevant) also beyond the fusion field, including its potential to support EU's energy security independence and competitiveness, by contributing to the achievement of the commercialisation of fusion energy;

- where relevant, demonstrate a thorough understanding of the safety constraints pertaining to the deployment in FPPs of the components and/or systems developed;

- where relevant, outline how the proposed work would build on, and articulate with, the results and activities of other relevant EU initiatives (e.g. the EUROfusion partnership and the Fusion4Energy joint undertaking [74]).

This topic implements the co-programmed European Partnership on Fusion Energy [75]

[74] https://fusionforenergy.europa.eu/

[75] It is expected that the co-programmed European Partnership on Fusion Energy will be established and its strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) will be available at the time the call opens. Proposals should therefore explain how the proposed action aligns with the SRIA's technology priorities and proposed projects should include activities to contribute to the European Partnership on Fusion Energy (e.g. contributing to the monitoring of the Partnership, supporting the Partnership's communication and dissemination activities, and ensuring an effective liaison with the Partnership's Board and the European Commission).

Call - Innovation actions under the co-programmed European partnership on fusion energy (2nd call)

HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-02

Conditions for the Call

Indicative budget(s)[76]

Topics	Type of Action	Budgets (EUR million)	Expected EU contribution per project (EUR million)[77]	Indicative number of projects expected to be funded
		2027		
Opening: 15 Apr 2027 Deadline(s): 04 Nov 2027				
HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-02-01	EURATOM-IA	45.00	Around 15.00	3
Overall indicative budget		45.00		

General conditions relating to this call	
Admissibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex A.
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B.
Financial and operational capacity and exclusion	The criteria are described in General Annex C.
Award criteria	The criteria are described in General Annex D.

[76] The Director-General responsible for the call may decide to open the call up to one month prior to or after the envisaged date(s) of opening. The Director-General responsible may delay the deadline(s) by up to two months. All deadlines are at 17.00.00 Brussels local time. The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for years 2026 and 2027.

[77] Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.

Documents	The documents are described in General Annex E.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G.

Proposals are invited against the following topic(s):

HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-02-01: Key enabling technologies for fusion power plants (European Partnership on Fusion Energy)

Specific conditions	
Expected EU contribution per project	The Commission estimates that an EU contribution of around EUR 15.00 million would allow these outcomes to be addressed appropriately. Nonetheless, this does not preclude submission and selection of a proposal requesting different amounts.
Indicative budget	The total indicative budget for the topic is EUR 45.00 million.
Type of Action	Innovation Actions
Eligibility conditions	The conditions are described in General Annex B. The following exceptions apply: In order to achieve the expected outcomes and safeguard the Union's strategic assets, interests, autonomy and security[78], participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States and in countries associated to the Euratom Research and Training Programme (Ukraine and Switzerland). Proposals including entities established in countries outside the scope specified in the call/topic/action will be ineligible.
Technology Readiness Level	Activities are expected to achieve TRL 6-8 by the end of the project – see General Annex B.
Procedure	The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply: To ensure a balanced portfolio covering as many as possible of the key technology areas set out in the scope, grants will be awarded within available budget to applications not only in order of ranking but at least also to one proposal that is the highest ranked within the different

[78] Namely, to support EU competitiveness in achieving commercialisation of fusion energy, to contribute to the achievement of the EU's energy security and independence and to ensure effective safeguards of dual-use materials, technologies and knowledge used or developed under the Fusion PPP.

	technology areas , provided that the proposals attain all thresholds. The evaluation committee will be composed partially by representatives of EU institutions.
Legal and financial set-up of the Grant Agreements	The rules are described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply: Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum as defined in the Decision of 7 July 2021 authorising the use of lump sum contributions under the Horizon Europe Programme – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (2021-2027) – and in actions under the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community (2021-2025) [79]. The funding rate is 60% of the eligible costs, except for non-profit legal entities where the funding rate is up to 100% of the total eligible costs.

Expected Outcome: the action is expected to mature and demonstrate (TRL 6-8) innovative technologies in one of the technology areas set out within the scope of the topic:

- developing and advancing the technology readiness of innovative individual components and/or integrated systems that perform the key functions of fusion power plants (FPPs), in line with the technology area targeted;
- testing the innovative components and/or systems developed in close-to-real-life conditions, demonstrating the ability to deliver fusion-grade components and/or systems;
- providing a credible business case, clarifying the potential and perspectives for the commercialisation of the components and/or systems developed, and showing the benefits for the competitiveness and growth of EU companies from the fusion field.

Scope: actions funded under this topic are expected to address one of the following technology areas of relevance that are key to the development of future fusion power plants:

- tritium breeding;
- fuel cycle;
- high-power lasers and optical technologies for inertial confinement fusion;
- targets for inertial confinement fusion;
- fusion-grade materials;

[79] This decision is available on the Funding and Tenders Portal, in the reference documents section for Horizon Europe, under 'Simplified costs decisions' or through this link: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/horizon/guidance/ls-decision_he_en.pdf

- qualification of reactor components in a relevant operational plasma scenario (including high neutron load);
- digital technologies (including modelling and simulation);
- the engineering design of future key enabling fusion facilities;
- any other technology relevant to FPPs.

Proposals should clearly indicate which one of these key areas they address and should, for this purpose and for the technology area(s) targeted:

- clarify the technology gaps / bottlenecks addressed by the proposed projects, demonstrating a thorough understanding of the needs and drivers towards viable FPPs, and of the state of the art for the technology area under consideration;
- set out the envisioned technology advances, making clear how the proposed innovation would make it possible to improve the performance of the components and/or systems developed, relying as much as possible on quantitative targets and / or key performance indicators;
- describe in detail the approaches to testing and demonstrating the components and/or systems developed, clearly indicating the technology readiness level targeted and the process by which technology maturation will be monitored;
- enable close cooperation between public research and private companies (start-ups, SMEs and industry). This should be reflected in the composition of the consortium and in the proposed project's activities;
- demonstrate the business potential of the proposed innovation within and also (where relevant) beyond the fusion field, including its potential to support EU's energy security independence and competitiveness, by contributing to the achievement of the commercialisation of fusion energy;
- where relevant, demonstrate a thorough understanding of the safety constraints on the deployment in FPPs of the components and/or systems developed;
- where relevant, outline how the proposed work would build on and articulate with the results and activities from other relevant EU initiatives (e.g. the EUROfusion partnership and the Fusion for Energy joint undertaking [80]).

This topic implements the co-programmed European Partnership on Fusion Energy [81] and will probably be amended in order to align its scope with the Partnership's SRIA, once this has been published.

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80 https://fusionforenergy.europa.eu/

81 It is expected that the European Partnership on Fusion Energy will be established and its strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) will be available when the call opens. Proposals should

Others actions not subject to call for proposals

Grants to identified beneficiaries

1. Co-funded European Partnership for fusion research (EUROfusion)

This topic is a continuation of the co-funded European partnership implementing the European fusion research programme (EUROfusion) and constitutes the EU's contribution for 2026-2027.

Expected outcome: the Partnership is expected to contribute to the following outcomes.

- European fusion leadership: EUROfusion will take a leading role in shaping the EU's scientific priorities on fusion and coordinating the joint use of major EU and international research infrastructures. It will focus on fundamental and early-stage, low-technology readiness level (TRL) research. It will also drive progress towards a future fusion pilot plant.

- Streamlined work packages: the project's work packages will be carefully streamlined, thus ensuring that activities implemented through direct collaboration with F4E and the ITER Organisation are entirely complementary.

- Support the inertial confinement (ICF) approach: building on the results of past and ongoing Enabling Research projects, the focus will be on the conceptual design of a direct-drive ICF facility. In addition to the main magnetic confinement fusion (MCF) approach, exploring alternative concepts like ICF and fostering synergies between different fusion methodologies is essential. This will drive innovation and deepen scientific understanding, advancing fusion energy technologies. Other high-potential, high-risk concepts will be carefully evaluated.

- Sustain a world-leading EU fusion talent pipeline: key initiatives (e.g. FuseNet, EUROfusion grants and doctoral programmes) will be continued and extended to emerging areas (e.g. inertial confinement and laser-based fusion technologies). Collaboration with industry will be strengthened. Institutional knowledge will be safeguarded. Diversity and inclusion will be actively promoted to ensure the attraction, training and retention of the skilled professionals needed to drive the advance and eventual commercialisation of fusion energy.

- Foster technology transfer: increasing technology transfer opportunities and commercial exploitation will raise industry's and society's awareness of the benefits of fusion technologies. The Programme will foster productive collaboration between industry and

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therefore explain how the proposed action aligns with the SRIA's technology priorities and proposed projects should include activities designed to contributing to the European Partnership on Fusion Energy (e.g. contributing to the monitoring of the Partnership, supporting the Partnership's communication and dissemination activities, and ensuring an effective liaison with the Partnership's Board and the European Commission).

academia, transforming scientific discoveries into innovative products and manufacturing processes. The growing synergy between EUROfusion and F4E will facilitate the sharing of best practices and streamlined engagement with the industry. It will broaden support for investors, accelerate technical adaptation to the market and combine intermediary support networks.

- Maximise EU benefits in ITER Operations [82]: ITER's start of research operations (SRO) phase will require a fully trained experimental team to be available well in advance. The Programme will, in collaboration with F4E and the ITER Organisation, ensure readiness and coordination by engaging the entire fusion community in ITER preparation and operations. Dedicated support for training, education programmes and the scientific exploitation of EU fusion devices is crucial. This will ensure that EU science and industry fully benefit from ITER's outcomes, laying the groundwork for future fusion power plants.

- Advance critical fusion infrastructures: priority will be given to key projects such as the conceptual design of a fusion pilot plant (to demonstrate key enabling technologies) and to the scientific exploitation of major facilities that are essential for testing and validating integrated fusion technologies in relevant operational environments. For the FPP, all major design integration issues will be addressed (in consultation with industry) in order to enable progress to engineering design activities under subsequent actions of the Euratom programme (notably the co-programmed PPP on fusion energy).

Introduction:

Since 2024, the European Commission has been shaping the core elements of the EU Fusion Strategy with the support of the Fusion Expert Group (FEG) [83]. This strategy is set to be released in 2026. It aims to accelerate the transition from achieving energy gain through fusion to full commercialisation by leveraging cutting-edge research, contributions from Member States and insights from ITER.

One central priority is to foster private sector engagement and build a competitive fusion industrial ecosystem that will encourage investment and support the development of an FPP. Accelerating progress in fusion energy will require stronger collaboration between public research institutions and the private sector along with a reassessment of the EU fusion programme's organisation and management. The EU aims to establish itself as a global leader in fusion energy by driving technological advances and ensuring the efficient transfer of technology from research to industry.

EUROfusion remains a key driver of the EU's fusion ambitions in this evolving landscape. Its mission and programme have been redefined in order to maintain this role and in view of the

[82] Operations here refers to the commissioning, nuclear operation, scientific exploitation and maintenance and upgrade activities of ITER

[83] In 2024, the EC established the Commission Fusion Expert Group (FEG), comprising representatives from Member States and chaired by the EC, with EUROfusion and F4E participating as observers. The FEG's mandate focuses on enhancing EU-level fusion Research and Innovation (R&I) governance by providing advice on implementing the Euratom R&T Programme and ITER research activities

forthcoming EU Fusion Strategy. EUROfusion will not only focus on advancing foundational science and technology but will also oversee the development and management of existing and future research infrastructures. Its efforts will increasingly focus on early-stage research and low-maturity technologies. EUROfusion will also continue supporting the preparation of ITER operations, driving the development of a future fusion pilot plant and exploring alternative fusion concepts (including stellarators and inertial confinement fusion). EUROfusion will further scale up the efforts in education and training initiatives to equip future generations with the skills and knowledge needed in the field of fusion.

Scope: the aim is to support this transition and align EUROfusion's programme with (a) the FEG's strategic guidance; (b) the findings from the interim evaluation of the Euratom programme 2021-2025 (including the independent review of the EUROfusion Roadmap Addendum); (c) the most urgent technological challenges identified in the Addendum; (d) the new ITER baseline; and (e) the upcoming public-private partnership (PPP) with the EU fusion industry and the strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA) developed by the GO4Fusion consortium in collaboration with all EU stakeholders. We therefore expect the following actions for the 2026-2027 work programme extension.

1. Revising the scope of the Partnership: EUROfusion's roadmap has provided a strong framework but now requires revision in order to adapt it to the evolving fusion landscape. Key activities should continue, but a more transformative approach is needed in specific areas. EUROfusion's role and programme are being redefined in alignment with the emerging EU Fusion Strategy, thus ensuring that it leads on the scientific priorities while also focusing on the joint exploitation and operation of existing and future research infrastructures (both within the EU and globally (e.g. WEST, ASDEX Upgrade, JT-60SA, ITER, IFMIF-DONES, DTT and W7-X). In this context, particular emphasis should be placed on the fusion pilot plant as a future joint EU structuring project that would be the central objective around which R&D efforts would converge. The fusion pilot plant would represent the key step towards demonstrating the integration of fusion technologies in an operational environment. EUROfusion will also oversee the JET data centre, advance foundational science and technology, support the preparations for ITER operations and coordinate the EU's various contributions to the realisation of the fusion pilot plant and the broader transition towards fusion energy.

2. Streamlining work packages (WPs): the Programme should consolidate the current 26 WPs by merging overlapping activities; restructuring overly complex or unclear WPs; and discontinuing those that no longer offer significant scientific value.

3. Strengthen interactions with the industry: within the framework of the future fusion public-private partnership (PPP), the Programme is expected to enhance its collaboration with industry by transitioning specific activities to the fusion PPP from 2026 onward. This shift should prioritise areas that have a stronger engineering focus over purely scientific research. This prioritisation should be guided by a well-defined strategic research and innovation agenda (SRIA). The goal is to bridge critical gaps in key technologies, drive innovation and support EU industry in mastering fusion technologies,

while also establishing a competitive EU supply chain. In addition, EUROfusion is expected to scale up its tailored programme for technology transfer in order to connect the industry with academia and to exploit fusion research with market potential (including non-power applications).

4. Building a skilled workforce: a highly qualified workforce is essential for fusion innovation and maintaining the EU's leadership in the field. The next generation of EU scientists and engineers will be crucial to the successful exploitation of ITER. As the fusion sector grows, challenges arise concerning (a) the training of engineers; (b) the lack of widespread access to comprehensive education in fusion sciences and engineering; (c) the shortage of vocational training for technical staff; and (d) the retention of existing knowledge and talents in the EU. EUROfusion should build on its knowledge management strategy, workforce-development activities, graduate and doctoral student support, education resource production and outreach activities. EUROfusion's objective in education continues to be to train and retain scientists, engineers and technicians, as well as to provide highly qualified personnel for ITER exploitation. Collaboration with industry should be strengthened. Stronger industry-academia partnerships and training programmes that blend technical, managerial and entrepreneurial skills are essential when preparing researchers to deliver technologically robust and commercially successful innovations.

5. Support alternative fusion concepts: one of the EU's strengths is the breadth of its fusion R&D. The primary focus remains on magnetic confinement (particularly the tokamak as the most advanced concept and the stellarator as a promising alternative for the commercialisation phase). However, the timeline for deploying commercially viable FPPs remains uncertain. Recent scientific advances suggest that alternative fusion concepts (e.g. inertial confinement) hold significant potential. To accelerate progress and address critical technological challenges, the Programme should gradually diversify its support for fusion research and innovation by promoting a broader range of approaches to fusion energy development.

This transition and these efforts will be crucial to ensuring EUROfusion's success and establishing a solid foundation for the future of fusion energy.

Cooperation with international organisations and non-Euratom countries should continue to be pursued in 2026-2027 with a view to pooling resources and sharing risks at both the bilateral level (e.g. with Japan and the Republic of Korea) and the multilateral level (e.g. the International Energy Agency's Technology Collaboration Programmes on fusion power).

The criteria for the selection and implementation of European Partnerships and for their monitoring, evaluation, phase-out and renewal are set in Annex III to the Horizon Europe Regulation.

The general conditions (including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, the legal and financial set-up for grants, financial

and operational capacity, and exclusion and procedure) are set out in parts A to F of the General Annexes.

The following **specific conditions** apply for the co-funded European Partnership for fusion research.

The procedure is described in General Annex F but with the following exceptions applying.

- The Programme co-fund action grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 198(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Regulation. The award of such a grant is provided for in point (c) of Annex I to Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304.
- The proposal must be submitted by the coordinator of the consortium implementing the 'co-funded European Partnership for fusion research' funded under the Euratom Work Programme 2021-2022.
- If the proposal is successful, the next stage of the procedure will be to prepare the amendment of the grant agreement.
- If the outcome of amendment preparations is an award decision, the coordinator of the consortium funded under Euratom Work Programme 2021-2022 will be invited to submit an amendment to the grant agreement on behalf of the beneficiaries.
- This action is to be implemented in the form of an amendment to the grant agreement concluded pursuant to call EURATOM-2021-ADHOC-IBA.

The legal and financial set-up of the grant agreements is described in General Annex G. The following exceptions apply:

- the Euratom funding rate will be limited to a maximum of 55% of the total eligible costs of the action;
- beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. Financial support provided by the participants to third parties is one of the activities of this partnership so that it can achieve its objectives. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60 000;
- identified beneficiaries from third countries may become beneficiaries only after their country of establishment is fully associated with the Euratom programme. Transitional arrangements may apply according to the General Annexes;
- beneficiaries may provide financial support for the costs of mobility of personnel on the basis of unit costs (as defined in the decision authorising the use of unit costs for mobility in co-funded actions under the Euratom programme);
- beneficiaries may provide financial support for access to infrastructures as they are defined in the decision authorising the use of unit costs for the costs of providing

transnational and virtual access in research infrastructures actions under the Horizon Europe Programme (2021-2027) and the Euratom programme;

- purchases of equipment, infrastructure or other assets used for the action must be charged as depreciation expense. Equipment, infrastructure and other assets that are purchased specifically for the action (or developed as part of the action tasks) and that are listed in the proposal / Annex 1 to the grant agreement may exceptionally be treated as assets in the balance sheet.

- The starting date of a grant awarded under this topic may be retroactively set as 1 January 2026. Applicants must justify the need for such a retroactive starting date in their application. Only costs incurred after the action's starting date may be considered as eligible.

The admissibility conditions are described in General Annex A but with the following exceptions applying:

- The page limit of the application is 100 pages

- Application should be accompanied by an annex with work plan providing details on research actions. This part is not included in the page limit.

Total indicative budget for the duration of the Partnership and rate of co-financing: the table below provides an overview of the 2026-2027 appropriations that will be committed to the co-funding grant to support the European Partnership. The total indicative budget for the duration of the co-funded Partnership is EUR 145 million. This will be committed in annual instalments over the two years 2026 and 2027 (EUR 72.5 million from the 2026 budget and EUR 72.5 million from the 2027 budget).

Year (million EUR)	2026 budget	2027 budget	Total
Co-funded European Partnership for fusion research	72.50	72.50	145.00

Legal entities:

List of legal entities nominated by Member States or Associated Countries (regarding Associated Countries, please refer to specific conditions for this action) to participate in the co-funded European Partnership for fusion research in accordance with Annex 1, point (c) of the Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304.

GRADEL S.A.,, 38 route de Luxembourg, L-8440, Steinfort, Luxembourg

Dublin City University (DCU),, Glasnevin EI - Dublin, Ireland

Institute of Atomic Physics,, Strada Atomiștilor 407, Măgurele 077125, Romania

Instituto Superior Técnico (IST),, Av. Rovisco Pais, 1049-001 Lisboa, Portugal

Instytut Fizyki Plazmy i Laserowej Mikrosyntezy im. Sylwestra Kaliskiego (IPPLM),, 23 Hery street, 01-497 Warszawa, Poland

Stichting Nederlandse Wetenschappelijk Onderzoek instituten (DIFFER),, Winthontlaan 2, 3526 KV, Utrecht, Netherlands

University of Malta,, Msida MSD 2080, Malta

Univerzita Komenského v Bratislave,, Šafárikovo námestie 6 440, 814 99, Bratislava, Slovakia

Jožef Stefan Institute (JSI), Jamova 39, SL - 1000 Ljubljana, Slovenia

Centro de Investigaciones Energéticas, Medioambientales y Tecnológicas (CIEMAT),, Avenida Complutense 40, E - 28040 Madrid, Spain

Swedish Research Council (VR),, Västra Järnvägsgatan 3 1035, 111 64, Stockholm, Sweden

Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne EPFL,, Bâtiment PPB Station 13 CH CH - 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland

United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority,, Culham Science Centre GB - Abingdon, OX14 3DB, United Kingdom

National Science Center "Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology" (KIPT),, 1, Akademicheskaya St., Kharkov, 61108, Ukraine

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Max-Planck-Gesellschaft, represented by Max-Planck-Institut für Plasmaphysik,, Hofgartenstrasse 8, Muenchen, 80539 Germany

Institute for Nuclear Research and Nuclear Energy,, Boul. Tzarigradsko Chaussee 72, Sofia, Bulgaria

Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie l’energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile (ENEA),, Lungotevere Grande Ammiraglio Thaon di Revel 76 000, 000196, Roma, Italy

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University of Tartu,, Ülikooli 18 000, 50090, Tartu, Estonia

Ruđer Bošković Institute (RBI),, Bijenicka 54, HR-10000 Zagreb, Croatia

Forschungszentrum Jülich GmbH, represented by its Board of Directors, for: Institute of Energy and Climate Research - Plasma Physics IEK-4,, Wilhelm-Johnen-Straße, 52428, Jülich, Germany

Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA),, Rue Leblanc 25, 75015, Paris 15, France

NATIONAL CENTRE FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH "DEMOKRITOS" (NCSRD), END OF PATRIARCHOU GRIGORIOU E AND 27 NEAPOLEOS STREET, 153 41 AGIA PARASKEVI, Greece

Institute of Plasma Physics v. v. i. (IPP.CR),, Za Slovankou 3, CR-182 00 Praha 8, Czech Republic

Centre for Energy Research (EK),, Konkoly-Thege Miklós út 29-33 49, 1121, Budapest, Hungary

Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Latvia (ISSP-UL),, 8 Kengaraga Str., LV - 1063 Riga, Latvia

Lithuanian Energy Institute, 3 Breslaujos str., LT-44403 Kaunas, Lithuania

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Programme co-fund action

Indicative timetable: 1st Quarter 2026 – 4th Quarter 2027

Indicative budget: EUR 72.50 million from the 2026 budget (Annual instalments) and EUR 72.50 million from the 2027 budget (Annual instalments)

2. Co-funded European partnership on radioactive waste management

This topic is a continuation of the co-funded European partnership on radioactive waste management (EURAD-2) and constitutes the EU contribution for 2026-2027. This phase of the partnership will contribute to achieving the expected outcomes specified for the co-funded

European partnership on radioactive waste management in the Euratom Work Programme 2023-2025[84].

The Programme's co-fund action grant will be awarded without a call for proposals according to Article 198(e) of the Financial Regulation and Article 24(3)(b) of the Horizon Europe Regulation.

The general conditions (including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, evaluation and award procedure, the legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity, and exclusion and procedure) are provided in parts A to F to the General Annexes.

Introduction

The first European Joint Programme on Radioactive Waste Management (EURAD) ended in May 2024. It has delivered substantial results over the past five years. The EURAD-2 partnership builds on EURAD and PREDIS. It advances a joint programme for research, development and knowledge management for radioactive waste across the EU Member States and Associated Countries. It also assists national RD&D programmes in the long-term management of various types of radioactive waste. The detailed roadmap developed by EURAD enables waste management organisations and other stakeholders to access existing knowledge, ongoing work and future plans within EURAD and elsewhere. The content focuses on the knowledge and competencies (including infrastructure) that is considered most critical for the implementation of radioactive waste management.

The Finnish and Swedish national programmes focus on the construction and operational phases of their respective geological disposal repositories. In France, the authorisation to create a deep geological disposal facility for storing highly radioactive long-lived waste is currently under review by the French safety authority and is expected to be granted around 2025. Other Member States are yet to define/implement their national programmes for spent fuel and radioactive waste management. The challenges in this field for the next decade include:

1. building on the structure, network and tools that EURAD has established to maintain a sound and efficient knowledge management system. This ensures that information and competences are retained over time. It also promotes knowledge-transfer and the sharing of best practices between more advanced Member States and those at an earlier stage;

2. improving, innovating and developing science, technology and public participation in the management and disposal of radioactive waste; and addressing the different radioactive waste streams when appropriate;

3. consolidating the knowledge needed for a safe start to operating the first geological disposal facilities; and supporting all Member States' national programmes in line with

[84] C(2024)3263 of 24 May 2024https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/euratom/wp-call/2023-2025/wp_euratom-2023-2025_en.pdf

the requirements of Directive 2011/70/Euratom and with Commission report on progress of implementation of Council Directive 2011/70/EURATOM and an inventory of radioactive waste and spent fuel present in the Community's territory and the future prospects[85];

4. providing input to the next set of Member States that have mature site selection programmes and therefore have construction and operation in sight in order to promote broadly accepted industrialisation of radioactive waste disposal in the EU.

In view of the shared goals and clear scope for synergies in this field, the Commission invites the radioactive waste management community to update the ongoing programme of the co-funded European partnership on radioactive waste management for the five years 2024-29 (EURAD-2).

Expected impacts

EURAD-2's expected impacts are still relevant. The European partnership on radioactive waste management should set out a credible pathway that helps to:

1. support compliance with EU/Euratom Directives;
2. support the long-term passive safety features of radioactive waste disposal facilities/repositories;
3. help build or maintain public confidence, awareness and participation in radioactive waste management;
4. support radioactive waste management innovation and optimisation;
5. address scientific/technical challenges;
6. address the evolving regulatory concerns;
7. boost knowledge-transfer to early-stage programmes;
8. encourage the efficient use of R&D resources at the EU level;
9. encourage better knowledge-transfer between generations of experts and between experts from different fields of expertise.

EURAD's expected impacts are similar to the ones listed above, but the new partnership will build on the lessons learned from it. In particular, it will focus on enhancing the efficiency and robustness of the established knowledge-management system for radioactive waste management. This will in turn help achieve impacts 3, 7 and 9. Strategic issues are addressed by bringing together implementers, the R&D scientific technical community, technical support organisations, waste generators, regulators and civil society (all through their different roles as mandated actors or as end-user group members).

[85] COM(2017)236 https://energy.ec.europa.eu/topics/nuclear-energy/radioactive-waste-and-spent-fuel_en and https://ec.europa.eu/transparency/documents-register/detail?ref=COM(2017)236&lang=en

The budget granted for the first two years does not cover all the actions described in the grant agreement. A complementary budget is therefore needed to finance the last three years of the R&D work packages and to finance new activities as a second wave of work packages. The EURAD-2 Bureau has therefore developed a selection process to implement new work packages.

The strategic studies initiated in October 2024 are expected to last two years and will result in the issue of strategic recommendations on the next priorities that EURAD-2 should address for the second wave of work packages. The additional budget will provide sufficient funding to cover the most relevant research aspects.

Expected outcomes

EURAD-2's expected outcomes remain relevant and have therefore been left unchanged. In line with the objectives of Directive 2011/70/Euratom, this COFUND action should support, within the next decade and across the EU, the safe start of operations of the first geological disposal facilities. It should also pave the way for more Member States to reach the stage of site selection and implementation and make geological disposal a more broadly applied solution. The implementation of this action should result in greater cross-fertilisation and interaction between national programmes in key areas of general interest. It should also improve knowledge management and knowledge transfer between actors. In particular, the European partnership is a unique opportunity for less advanced programmes to benefit from the integration process in radioactive waste management.

The partnership's results are expected to contribute to all of the following outcomes (linked to the impacts described above).

1. Support for the definition and implementation of a radioactive waste management research programme in the Member States by developing competences and solutions for their radioactive waste (see Articles 8 and 12.1(f) of the Waste Directive).

2. Delivery of science-based and technology-based, socially robust solutions for the safe management of spent fuel and radioactive waste in the EU. This will build on a number of factors, including the lessons learned during the safe implementation of the first geological disposal facilities for high-level and long-lived radioactive waste and spent nuclear fuel. It will also improve, innovate and develop science and technology for the management and disposal of other radioactive waste categories.

3. Sharing and development of best practices and methodologies in all matters related to radioactive waste management (from generation to disposal) in order to improve operational excellence and minimise operations, dismantling and induced secondary waste.

4. Safer management of radioactive waste at all stages from generation to final disposal. An integrated approach to waste management would, for instance, address the different steps from start to finish as well as identify the needs and prerequisites for waste disposal from the point in time when the waste is generated. Applying such an approach would help

target the key technological obstacles and make waste management safer. In particular, it would help in evaluating the potential impacts of advanced fuel types and the deployment of innovative reactor types on waste management strategies.

5. The development of elements of a strategy for predisposal operations (including treatment solutions and interim storage) and the disposal of challenging radioactive waste streams.

6. The establishment of an inclusive collaborative framework that feeds the EURAD roadmap and keeps it up to date. This would enable users to access existing information and knowledge as well as active work or plans related to all phases of a radioactive waste management programme. The partnership should ultimately provide an opportunity for less advanced national programmes in radioactive waste management (particularly those in the early stages of implementing geological disposal programmes) to benefit from cross-EU integration in this field.

7. Consolidated knowledge transfer between Member States and across generations by providing a platform and network for training, mobility and available facilities in radioactive waste management. This would allow existing knowledge, facilities and infrastructure to be shared, thus avoiding repetition and duplication. Knowledge management should allow the scientific-technical community to conclude that, from a scientific-technical point of view, processes are well enough known for it to be possible to judge potential system evolutions with a high degree of certainty (and therefore promote technical readiness for licensing). A thorough reflection process should be launched on the question of creating a sustainable network of laboratories at the EU level that all EU partners would be able to use for their programme needs.

8. Promotion of public debate and interactions with civil society in order to increase public confidence in the national radioactive waste management programmes by encouraging transparency, credibility and scientific excellence (see Article 10 of the Radioactive Waste Directive).

Scope

The EU is a global leader in radioactive waste management. In particular, it has the first operational geological repository, strong governance and steady progress. The aim is to implement an ambitious partnership (EURAD-2) in the safe management and disposal of radioactive waste. This will bring together a broad range of parties that (a) have scientific and technical responsibilities and a national mandate for research into radioactive waste management; and (b) are willing to pool resources to improve critical mass, efficiency and effectiveness in implementing solutions across the EU.

The EURAD Partnership entered its second phase in October 2024 and remains central to these efforts. However, EURAD’s limited budget restricts its ability to tackle the issues prioritised by the Colleges. Its research focuses on high-impact areas and often sidelines niche

or early-stage needs. EURAD nevertheless brings together about 1 000 experts from over 150 entities, benefits from international co-funding and complies closely with EU directives.

By the end of its first year, in September 2025, EURAD-2 launched a call for a second wave of work packages. In addition to topics that the Colleges will prioritise within the framework of the second-wave selection process, the strategic studies that were launched in October 2024 addressed urgent needs (e.g. waste from new and advanced reactors, SMRs, alternative disposal methods and impacts of climate change). Their conclusion in 2026 will identify the key research topics that should be the priorities for the second wave of work packages.

Additional funding is necessary in order to enhance EURAD's capacity to respond dynamically to evolving industrial needs and policy changes as well as to cover a broader scope of second-wave work packages. It would also enable more substantial support for countries with smaller nuclear inventories or countries that are in the early stages of RWM programme development (such as through the Small Inventory Member States initiative (SIMS)). Increasing resources would enable EURAD to expand its collaboration with international organisations (cf. IAEA and OECD-NEA). It would also promote greater diversity, enhance student participation, encourage cross-border cooperation and boost scientific excellence.

EURAD benefits from strong political support and a culture of inclusivity. It has proven to be an effective platform for knowledge-sharing and collaboration (a particular advantage for small and medium-sized nuclear programmes). The social sciences and humanities remain underrepresented, and opportunities are being missed to promote international collaboration and leverage data-driven approaches in order to measure impact. The role of regulatory scientific research should also be strengthened.

The following specific conditions apply:

The procedure is described in General Annex F. The following exceptions apply.

The award of a grant to continue the Partnership in accordance with this call should be based on a proposal submitted by the coordinator of the consortium funded under GA. 101166718 and the additional activities (which may include additional partners) to be funded by the grant should be subject to an evaluation. This evaluation should take into account the existing context and the scope of the initial evaluation (as appropriate) and related obligations enshrined in the grant agreement.

The present action is a continuation of the topic HORIZON-EURATOM-2023-NRT-01 Identified Beneficiary Action on a 'European partnership on radioactive waste management' and foresees an amendment to an existing grant agreement. The proposal should therefore present the additional activities (including additional partners) to be covered by the award primarily in terms of grant agreement revisions.

The Euratom funding rate will be limited to a maximum of 60% of the total eligible costs of the action.

The 2026-2027 appropriations that will be committed for the co-fund grant to support the European partnership amount to EUR 30 million and will be committed in instalments over the two years 2026 and 2027.

Budget year (EUR million)	2026	2027	Total 2026-27
Co-funded European partnership for radioactive waste management research EURAD-2	15	15	30

Legal entities:

List of legal entities nominated by Member States or Associated Countries (on Associated Countries, please refer to the General Annexes, section on eligibility) to participate in the co-funded European partnership on radioactive waste management. Eligible participants are legal entities owning (typically national ministries/regional authorities responsible for defining, financing or managing programmes carried out at national or regional level) or mandated (such as research councils or funding agencies or other entities that implement national or regional research and innovation programmes under the supervision of the programme owners) to manage national research and innovation programmes. The participation of programme managers has to be mandated by the national/regional authorities in charge. When implementing financial support to third parties in Co-funded Partnerships, the beneficiaries must avoid any conflict of interest or unequal treatment of applicants (notably through appropriate communication/exchange of information channels and independent and fair complaints procedures).

STUDIECENTRUM VOOR KERNENERGIE / CENTRE D'ETUDE DE L'ENERGIE NUCLEAIRE (SCK•CEN),, AVENUE HERRMANN DEBROUX 40, 1160 BRUSSELS, Belgium

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UNIVERSITY OF CYPRUS (UCyprus),, KALLIPOLEOS STREET 75, NICOSIA 1678, Cyprus

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EKOTEH DOSIMETRY RADIATION PROTECTION CO.,, VLADIMIRA RUŽDJAKA 21, HR-10000 ZAGREB, REPUBLIC OF CROATIA

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ENERGIATUDOMANYI KUTATOKOZPONT (EK-CER),, KONKOLY THEGE MIKLOS UT 29-33, Budapest 1121, Hungary

AGENCE NATIONALE POUR LA GESTION DES DECHETS RADIOACTIFS (ANDRA),, 1-7 rue Jean Monnet - Parc de la Croix Blanche, CHATENAY MALABRY 92298, France

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KIT/PROJEKTTRAEGER KARLSRUHE,, HERMANN VON HELMHOLTZ PLATZ 1, 76344 EGGENSTEIN LEOPOLDSHAFEN, Germany

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NUCLEAR RESEARCH AND CONSULTANCY GROUP (NRG),, WESTERDUINWEG 3, PETTEN 1755 LE, Netherlands

NUCLEAR WASTE SERVICES, HERDUS HOUSE INGWELL DRIVE WESTLAKES SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY PARK MOOR ROW, CUMBRIA CA24 3HU, United Kingdom

ÖSTERREICHISCHE AGENTUR FÜR GESUNDHEIT UND ERNÄHRUNGSSICHERHEIT GMBH (AGES), 1220 WIEN, SPARGELFELDSTRAßE 191, Austria

PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT (PSI),, FORSCHUNGSTRASSE 111, VILLIGEN PSI 5232, Switzerland

POSIVA OY (POSIVA),, OLKILUOTO, EURAJOKI 27160, Finland

NEDERLANDSE ORGANISATIE VOOR TOEGEPAST NATUURWETENSCHAPPELIJK ONDERZOEK TNO (TNO),, ANNA VAN BUERENPLEIN 1, THE HAGUE 2595 DA, Netherlands

RADIOACTIVE WASTE REPOSITORY AUTHORITY (SÚRAO),, DLAZDENA 6, PRAGUE 110 00, CZECHIA

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NUCLEAR ENGINEERING SEIBERSDORF GMBH (NES),, FORSCHUNGSZENTRUM, SEIBERSDORF 2444, Austria

REGIA AUTONOMA TEHNOLOGII PENTRU ENERGIA NUCLEARA – RATEN (RATEN), STRADA CAMPULUI 1, MIOVENI 115400, Romania

PUBLIC UNION CHORNOBYL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (ChRDI),, PECHERSKIY DISTRICT, STARONAVODNITSKA ST. 6B OFFICE 272, KYIV 01015, Ukraine

SOCIETA' GESTIONE IMPIANTI NUCLEARI PER AZIONI (SOGIN),, VIA MARSALA 51C, ROME 00185, Italy

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STRÅLSÄKERHETSMYNDIGHETEN (SSM),, 171 16 STOCKHOLM, SWEDEN

SLOVENSKA TECHNICKA UNIVERZITA V BRATISLAVE (STUBA), , VAZOVOVA 5, BRATISLAVA 81243, Slovakia

SVENSK KARNBRANSLEHANTERING AKTIEBOLAG (SKB),, BOX 3091, SOLNA 169 03, Sweden

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Programme co-fund action

Indicative timetable: Q1-2026 – Q4 2026

Indicative budget: EUR 15.00 million from the 2026 budget (Annual instalments) and EUR 15.00 million from the 2027 budget (Annual instalments)

3. Training and education capacity building, and networking actions to support Ukrainian nuclear research domain

This action should support:

- further integration of Ukrainian research entities and academia into European Research Area with goal to improve the participation of their researchers in co-funded Euratom research and training activities

- nuclear education and training programmes in Ukraine to ensure that adequate nuclear knowledge and capabilities are maintained so that nuclear installations can be operated safely in Ukraine, in normal and accident conditions, including emergency actions and preparedness.

- realisation of the full potential of Ukrainian research entities and infrastructures, and research programmes in the specific areas pertinent for the Euratom Research and Training Programme. This includes the support for metrology of ionising radiation, which is fundamental for quality assurance.

Scope:

Nuclear expertise is a key to mastering nuclear technology and to safely operating nuclear installations. Having 15 nuclear power plants, Ukraine is one of the biggest NPP operators in Europe, which also uses a wide range of other nuclear research installations.

The ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine endangers the safe operation of Ukrainian nuclear installations. Notable damage was caused to the overall education and training academic framework, in addition to infrastructures and loss of human capacity, as many people sought refuge in non-occupied parts of Ukraine or even abroad.

To counter these negative tendencies, the EU is providing support for maintaining high-level of the nuclear education and training, including compliance with Euratom legal safety framework, knowledge management and competences in Ukraine. To preserve the pre-invasion level of nuclear education and training in the country and to cover the country's human capital needs, the major nuclear education and training providers in Ukraine will take part in this action. Nuclear research and training institutions, operators and regulatory technical support organisations are also expected to participate, including EU Member State and Associated Countries institutions experienced in implementing technical assistance programmes.

This action should also benefit from close interactions with the Ukrainian National Contact Point for Euratom. This should result in a better integration of Ukrainian research entities into EU/Euratom nuclear research networks and vice versa. Supported activities should be tailored by the area and the priorities of the organisations concerned, such as promoting and continuously delivering university teaching and courses, joint workshops, better cross-border brokerage events or specific training linked to this field.

Special attention should be given to boosting competences and high-level safety standards of Ukrainian entities. This includes MSc/PhD students, researchers, the availability of teachers, all actors helping to acquire the know-how accumulated in other countries, facilitating transnational cooperation to identify and share good practices, and raising the general standards, including support to programme applicants.

Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 20 000 in order to enable participation of students, researchers, teachers and other actors in the activities.

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198(e) of the Financial Regulation and the relevant provisions of the Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, the evaluation and award procedure, the legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion are provided in Parts A to G of the General Annexes.

Legal entities:

National Technical University of Ukraine “Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", 37 Peremohy Av., Kyiv, 03056, Ukraine

Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv, 64/13 Volodymyrska St., Kyiv, 01601, Ukraine

National Technical University "Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute, 2 Kyrpychova St., Kharkiv, 61002, Ukraine

Lviv Polytechnic National University, 12 Bandery St., Lviv, 79000, Ukraine

National Science Centre Kharkov Institute of Physics and Technology, 1 Akademichna St., Kharkiv, 61108, Ukraine

V. N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, 4 Svobody Sq., Kharkiv, 61022, Ukraine

Odessa Polytechnic National University, 1 Shevchenko Av., Odessa, 65044, Ukraine

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Q3-2026 – Q4-2027

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2026 budget

4. Open access to JRC research infrastructure in coordination with OFFERR

Expected outcome:

- Enabling access to the unique nuclear research infrastructure of the JRC to the European nuclear research and training community from Member States and Associated Countries.

Expected impact:

- Ability for the nuclear research community to perform, free of charge, advanced experiments using JRC experimental capacity.
- Contribution to the education and training capacity building in the nuclear technology domain.
- Facilitating cross-border collaborative research effort in the nuclear field at the European level, fostering shared expertise and resources.
- Enhance the dissemination of scientific knowledge at European level.
- Contribute to bridge the gap between research and industry, as well as the capacity gap between EU Member States.
- Supporting the implementation of the Euratom programme's objectives and contributing to establishing the European Research Area in the nuclear field.
- Supporting critical infrastructure by ensuring the long-term availability and continued operation of these key experimental facilities.
- Creating synergies and complementarity with ongoing and foreseen Euratom projects by providing open access to state-of-the-art infrastructures and expertise.

Scope:

The Euratom programme has supported research contributing to increasing knowledge in nuclear safety via both collaborative projects (indirect actions) or via direct research actions implemented by JRC. Mapping of European Research infrastructures has been developed by NUGENIA and STC, however rather low mobility has been noticed, preventing these infrastructures from offering their full value to the research community.

To enhance access to nuclear research infrastructure, the Euratom R&T programme launched in 2022 the OFFERR project[86] aiming at facilitating the access of the European researchers to the nuclear research infrastructure for both experimental, and education and training purposes.

Through the JRC, the European Commission directly manages unique research infrastructures, which are deeply integrated into the nuclear research efforts in Europe. The JRC open access programme to its research facilities already facilitates access for research centres, academic institutions and the industry.

Under this action, community support will be provided to facilitate access to JRC nuclear research facilities to users from research organisations and academia based in Member States and associated countries. Users will get free (of charge) access to the facilities, technical expertise from experienced JRC scientists and engineers, and assistance with experiment design, assembly, safety analysis, and examination.

[86] https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/101060008

This will lead to promoting research and training activities and mobility, as well as maintaining multi-disciplinary nuclear competences and broadening the availability of suitably qualified nuclear researchers, engineers and technicians in the EU. Furthermore, JRC can provide technical and scientific support to develop best practices and identify bottlenecks for mobility, as well as to develop a protocol or methodology that would hopefully catalyse further mobility actions.

The JRC personnel costs of its facilities are expected to be covered by the JRC direct actions budget. It is expected that the open access to the JRC facilities explores synergies with the governance of the OFFERR platform.

Beneficiaries may provide financial support to third parties. The support to third parties can only be provided in the form of grants. The maximum amount to be granted to each third party is EUR 60 000 to enable access for users from research organisations and academia.

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198(e) of the Financial Regulation and the relevant provisions of the Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304.

Funding rate: 100%

Legal entities:

Joint Research Centre (JRC), Rue de la Loi 200, 1049 Brussels, Belgium

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Q4-2026 – Q4-2030

Indicative budget: EUR 0.50 million from the 2027 budget

5. FISA – EURADWASTE 2028 conference on Euratom fission research and training (Presidency event)

Support will be provided for the organisation of FISA – EURADWASTE 2028 conference on the outcomes and perspectives for the Euratom Research and Training Programme. They are organised every 3 to 4 years, with the last conferences having taken place in Warsaw in 2025.

This edition should capitalise the successful edition from 2025, a 3-in-1 event of FISA-EURADWASTE conference and SNETP Forum. Three conferences connected by a common DNA - shaping the future of nuclear research and fostering collaboration for sustainable, safe nuclear solutions. One common agenda, joint plenary and parallel sessions, joint experts, panellists - all together to better understand different points of view and act more effectively to achieve the set goals and ensure safety.

The next conference should take place in 2028 during the Italian Presidency of the EU Council. The objectives will be:

- to take part in discussions on the state of play of R&D and key challenges addressed at national, European and international level, synergies and partnerships, and future perspectives;

- to share updated information on the achievements of some 60 projects carried out since the previous edition in 2025 (as part of the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2021-2027);

- to interact within dedicated parallel and poster sessions, workshops or forums, exhibitions, business and Young Generation nuclear researchers' matchmaking, e.g. ENS YGN, SNETP, SITEX, IGDTP or MEENAS;

- to reward relevance and excellence performed in nuclear research and innovation: ENEN PhD Event & Prize, calls for PhD/MSc/R&D posters, and award of the Nuclear Innovation Prize;

- to learn more about the latest European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation for the period 2021-27, Horizon Europe and Euratom Research and Training programmes, and forward-looking key 2028-33 policy recommendations from all stakeholders and policymakers.

FISA – EURADWASTE 2028 conference will address and engage with all relevant stakeholders involved: research and training organisations, academia, industry, European technology platforms, European forums, European civil society, and international organisations. There will also be many opportunities for interaction in dedicated parallel and poster sessions, thematic workshops, R&D awards, and nuclear innovation prizes.

This grant will be awarded without a call for proposals in accordance with Article 198(e) of the Financial Regulation and the relevant provisions of the Regulation establishing the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2026-2027.

The general conditions, including admissibility conditions, eligibility conditions, award criteria, the evaluation and award procedure, the legal and financial set-up for grants, financial and operational capacity and exclusion, are provided in Parts A to G of the General Annexes.

Legal entities:

Agenzia nazionale per le nuove tecnologie l'energia e lo sviluppo economico sostenibile (ENEA), Lungotevere Grande Ammiraglio Thaon di Revel 76 000, 000196, Roma, Italy

Form of Funding: Grants not subject to calls for proposals

Type of Action: Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e) - Coordination and support action

Indicative timetable: Q2-2027 – Q4-2028

Indicative budget: EUR 0.30 million from the 2027 budget

Prizes

1. SOFT Innovation Prize 2028

Europe is at the forefront of developing next-generation clean energy technologies like fusion. The European Commission supports investments in innovation as a driver of competitiveness and an opportunity to create leading markets, where new concepts can thrive. It aims at putting in place the necessary conditions for excellence to emerge and turn into concrete flagship initiatives. In the cutting-edge fields of fusion research and innovation, the European Commission is especially active, backing the cooperation between the industry and academia, valorising intellectual property, and incentivising risk-taking initiatives to produce practical and scalable solutions.

Objectives

The SOFT Innovation Prize[87] is the award of the European Commission that recognises and rewards excellence in the field of fusion innovation. It is held under the Euratom Research & Training Programme. It encourages research ideas that have market potential and can be commercialised or further developed for commercialisation. The Prize offers an opportunity to talented researchers and ambitious entrepreneurs to showcase their work to the global audience of the Symposium on Fusion Technology (SOFT), connecting with industry experts, and collaborating with like-minded scientists and engineers.

This Prize has been key to promote fusion innovation in Europe and its international partners for more than twelve years, pioneering innovative methodologies and collaborative projects that harness expertise from world-leading research centres. Considering this extensive story of success, the European Commission is holding another edition of the SOFT Innovation Prize in 2028.

Contestants are invited to submit applications based on inventions, discoveries and/or studies that they have developed in the context of Euratom national fusion programmes or ITER-related activities. In general, the absence of specific categories within the Prize is meant to provide contestants maximum flexibility. The work presented in the application should stem from the contestants' professional activity in any field directly related to nuclear fusion research and innovation. All the sound methodological approaches to fusion (including magnetic confinement and inertial confinement) will be considered eligible. Contestants will also be required to detail the innovative features of the work presented and its possible commercial applications. The Prize has a primary focus on fusion innovation, but possible transfer of fusion technology to other sectors is also in scope, as it contributes to the successful development and deployment of fusion technologies. Non-fusion applications of fusion research will thus be considered eligible in this contest.

[87] The Prize is named after the biennial Symposium on Fusion Technology (SOFT), during which the recipients of the prize are made public.

The specific Rules of Contest will be published by the European Commission[88], which will launch and manage the contest and award the prize on the basis of an independent experts' evaluation. The published rules will provide further specifications and clarifications to ensure a fair running of the contest. Contestants will be required to provide proof of their eligibility and, if relevant, clarify the legal status of the intellectually property.

The Commission will award the Prize following the decision of an independent jury and the finalists will be invited to present their work at the SOFT Conference. Prize amounts: 1st Prize: EUR 50 000, 2nd Prize: 30 000, 3rd Prize: EUR 20 000.

Furthermore, the Commission services will request the European Fusion Technology Marketplace[89] to review the winning proposals and, where relevant, to provide an opinion about their market potential.

Essential award criteria: The prize will be awarded, after closure of the contest to the contestant(s) who according to the jury addresses the following cumulative criteria. Clarification of these criteria will be published in the Rules of Contest.

1. Technical excellence: The extent to which the submission is demonstrably state-of-the-art and based on excellent science and engineering.

2. Commercial potential: The extent to which the submission can reach the market, exploit business opportunities, or (directly or indirectly) meet the industry needs.

3. Originality: The extent to which the submission is original and represents a pioneering application of the technology. The description should be clear, logically presented and well-illustrated.

Eligibility criteria: The contest is open to any of the following categories:

1. Researchers, research teams, or industrial participants active in the field of fusion research and eligible for funding under the Euratom programme;

2. Researchers or research teams working (or having worked) in fusion research for a national programme in an ITER partner country[90];

3. Researchers or research teams working (or having worked) in fusion research for a national programme in any third country that has a bilateral fusion cooperation agreement with Euratom in force;

4. Industrial participants working (or having worked) in fusion within the ITER project[91].

88 On the Funding & Tenders Portal (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/euratom2027).
89 https://fusion-technology-transfer.europa.eu/
90 Except for Russia, see exceptions indicated in the General Annex B.
91 Except for Russia, see exceptions indicated in the General Annex B.

The researcher, research team or industrial participant must obtain permission from the owner of the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) to submit an application and provide supporting documentation.

Applicants must submit evidence of their eligibility and, if relevant, clarify the legal status of the intellectual property mentioned in the submitted documents.

Expected results: With the "SOFT Innovation Prize", the European Commission aims to highlight advancements in the fusion research sector also in consideration of potential applications in other sectors, offering recognition to the most dynamic, forward-thinking, and innovative researchers, research teams, or industrial participants. This recognition will enhance the potential for commercialisation of fusion research. Additionally, the competition will encourage the EU Member States and the ITER community to cultivate a stronger culture of innovation and entrepreneurship in fusion research.

The European Commission applies an equal opportunities policy. With a view to promoting gender balance in the nuclear field, the Commission would particularly welcome applications from women.

Indicative timetable of contest(s):

Stages	Date and time or indicative period
Opening of the contest	Q3 2027
Deadline for submission of application	Q1 2028
Award of the prize	Q3 2028

Form of Funding: Prizes

Type of Action: Recognition Prize

Indicative timetable: 3rd Quarter 2027 - 3rd Quarter 2028

Indicative budget: EUR 0.10 million from the 2027 budget

2. Nuclear Innovation Prize 2028

Euratom-funded research in fission that encompasses radioactive waste management, safety of reactor systems and radiation protection benefits from consistent success in pursuing excellence across a broad range of nuclear science and technologies. Researchers and engineers are constantly challenging state of the art in the field and improving evolving technologies. This creates conditions for innovations beyond technologies and scientific breakthroughs, leading to a more dynamic and competitive European industry for the benefit of all citizens and society as a whole.

The Euratom programme, together with Member States' actions, has continuously helped maintain a high level of competences, underpinned by sound and advanced research. The

Commission, in its efforts to further engage with the public and private sectors and all relevant stakeholders in the nuclear field, is seeking to identify potential disruptive innovations across product developments and their supply chain – from research to market, where researchers and engineers play a critical role.

Objectives:

The Nuclear Innovation Prize highlights and rewards excellence in nuclear innovation in this field of research as well as the quality of the talented researchers and companies involved. The second contest will be organised at the next Euratom Research and Training Conference(s) in Safety of Reactor Systems and Radioactive Waste Management (FISA – EURADWASTE 2028).

There are three specific categories:

1. Nuclear Innovation Prize in safety of reactor systems and nuclear installations, including fuel cycle capabilities.
2. Nuclear Innovation Prize in safety of radioactive waste management and spent fuel.
3. Nuclear Innovation Prize in radiation protection.

Participants are free to submit an application(s) on any technological innovation in the areas of application of fission safety that encompass radioactive waste management, reactor systems and radiation protection science and technology and have been developed within fields covered in Annex I of the Euratom Research and Training Programme 2026-27. A separate application must be submitted for each category. These applications should have a market potential or should have been taken up (or recognised) by the industry, safety or radiation protection stakeholders to be further developed for the market or for use by regulators.

The European Commission will publish the specific rules of the contest in 2027[92] . It will launch and manage the contest and award the prizes based on the decision of independent experts.

The complete application should include:

- a technical description of the innovation;
- a state-of-the-art assessment of the innovation;
- an account, in general terms, of the market potential for exploiting the innovation.

The Funding and Tenders Portal contains the Model Rules of Contest for prizes.

Prize amounts:

[92] On the Funding & Tenders Portal (https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/programmes/horizon), but also actively publicised elsewhere to maximise participation.

(1) Nuclear Innovation Prize in safety of reactor systems.

1st prize: EUR 50 000, 2nd prize: 30 000, 3rd prize: EUR 20 000.

(2) Nuclear Innovation Prize in safety of radioactive waste management.

1st prize: EUR 50 000, 2nd prize: 30 000, 3rd prize: EUR 20 000.

(3) Nuclear Innovation Prize in radiation protection.

1st prize: EUR 50 000, 2nd prize: 30 000, 3rd prize: EUR 20 000.

Essential award criteria: The prizes will be awarded, after the contest has closed, to the participants(s) who, in the opinion of the jury, best address the following cumulative criteria:

1. Originality and replicability: The extent to which the idea is innovative, original and a first-of-a-kind use of the technology in industry or in the domain of application. The description should be clear, logically presented and well-illustrated.

2. Technical excellence: The extent to which the innovation is demonstrably state-of-the-art and based on excellent science and engineering.

3. Economic impact and exploitation of the innovation: The extent to which the submission demonstrates understanding and awareness of the relevant innovation aspects, including market potential, needs and business opportunities.

Eligibility criteria:

1. The contest is open to researchers, research teams or industrial participants eligible for funding under the Euratom programme.

2. The researcher, research team or industrial participant must obtain permission from the owner of the intellectual property rights to submit an application and provide supporting documentation.

Expected results: By awarding the Nuclear Innovation Prize, the Commission will showcase at both FISA and EURADWASTE conferences innovations in this research sector. This will give visibility to the most dynamic, forward-looking and innovative researchers, research teams or industrial participants. This visibility will provide greater potential for valorising research, and the contest will stimulate nuclear research in the EU to develop a stronger innovation and entrepreneurial culture in line with the Commission’s industrial strategy.

The Commission applies an equal opportunities policy. With a view to promoting gender balance in the nuclear field, the Commission would particularly welcome applications from women.

Indicative timetable of contest(s):

Stages	Date and time or indicative period
Opening of the contest	Q2 2027
Deadline for submission of application	Q4 2027
Award of the prize	Q2 2028

Form of Funding: Prizes

Type of Action: Recognition Prize

Indicative timetable: Q2 2027 - Q2 2028

Indicative budget: EUR 0.30 million from the 2027 budget

Subscription actions

1. Contribution to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (Nuclear Energy Agency) / Secretariat for the Generation-IV International Forum (GIF)

This action will provide a Euratom subscription for the operations of the Generation-IV International Forum (GIF) Secretariat for 2026 and 2027 in accordance with Article 245 of the Financial Regulation.

The GIF Charter was signed by nine countries in 2001 to address nuclear safety radioactive waste management, proliferation and public perception concerns. Euratom signed the Charter on 30 July 2003. A framework agreement (FA) for multilateral international collaboration on research and development, setting the conditions for subsequent system and project arrangements, was concluded in 2005.

The present FA entered into force in 2025, and the current and expected signatories are Australia, Canada, China, Euratom, France, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, Switzerland, the UK and the USA. The FA depository is the OECD Secretary-General.

The Council of the EU approved Euratom joining the FA in Decision 14929/05 of 20 December 2005. Euratom formally joined in May 2006 and renewed its commitment in November 2016 on the basis of Council Decision 2016/2116. Euratom will join the newest FA as approved by Council Decision 2025/2031 of 29 September 2025[93].

Euratom GIF membership brings certain obligations, including an annual membership fee for GIF's technical secretariat provided by the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA – OECD). The

[93] Council Decision (Euratom) 2025/2031 of 29 September 2025 concerning the accession of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) to the new Framework Agreement for international collaboration on research and development of Generation IV Nuclear Energy Systems https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dec/2025/2031/oj/eng

level of this funding from each signatory is established by the GIF Policy Group at its annual policy meetings.

Type of Action: Subscription action

Indicative timetable: Q1-2026 – Q4-2027

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2026 budget and EUR 0.25 million from the 2027 budget

Expert contract actions

1. External expertise

This action will support:

1. The use of appointed independent experts for the evaluation of grant proposals and prize applications (including the ethics review) for the call and prize contests.

2. The use of appointed independent experts for the monitoring of actions (grant agreement, grant decision, public procurement actions, financial instruments), including mid-term reviews, and where appropriate ethics checks.

3. The use of appointed, independent experts to advise on or support the design and implementation of Euratom Research and Training Programmes. The activities carried out by the experts will be essential to the development, monitoring and evaluation of the policy and actions in this area. Advice on and support for the programme's design may include the preparation of inputs to the *ex ante* impact assessment of the Commission's proposals. The evaluations will look into the Euratom programme's effectiveness, efficiency, relevance, coherence and Community added value. It will cover the rationale, implementation and achievements, as well as the longer-term impacts and sustainability of the measures, and will contribute to a decision on whether to renew the programme. Advice and support for the programme's implementation may include preparing inputs to assist the Commission in drafting the Euratom Work Programme. The experts' tasks will include attending meetings, remote drafting and possible preparatory work.

4. The use of appointed, independent experts for preparing inputs to opinions of the Euratom Scientific and Technical Committee.

For all four categories mentioned above, the experts will be highly qualified, specialised and independent, selected on the basis of their competence and knowledge of the nuclear field. A special allowance of EUR 450 per day will be paid to the experts appointed in their personal capacity who act independently and in the public interest. This amount is considered to be proportionate to the specific tasks to be assigned to them, including the number of meetings to be attended and possible preparatory work.

Form of Funding: Other budget implementation instruments

Type of Action: Expert contract action

Indicative timetable: Q1-2026 – Q4-2027

Indicative budget: EUR 0.25 million from the 2026 budget and EUR 0.25 million from the 2027 budget

Support for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) in nuclear research and training

1. MSCA postdoctoral fellowships in research fields covered by the Euratom programme

Researchers in the fields covered by the Euratom programme will be eligible to apply for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) postdoctoral fellowships given the reference to possible synergies between Horizon Europe and the Euratom programme in Annex IV, paragraph 17(a) of the Regulation establishing the Horizon Europe Framework Programme (Regulation (EU) 2021/695) and Article 10(2) of Regulation (Euratom) 2025/1304.

Applicants must comply with all conditions defined in the MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 (HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01) and MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2027 (HORIZON-MSCA-2027-PF-01) calls as set by the Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programmes 2026-2027, including specific eligibility conditions that apply to MSCA postdoctoral fellowships in the research areas covered by the Euratom programme. For detailed information on countries associated to the Euratom programme, see General Annex B. This action will be financed through a budgetary transfer from Euratom programme budget lines 01.030100 fusion and 01.030200 fission to MSCA budget line 01 02 01 02. Provisions in Horizon Europe MSCA Work Programmes on the award of the Seal of Excellence certificate also apply to applications in the fields covered by the Euratom Treaty.

Form of Funding: Budget transfer

Type of Action: Contribution to MSCA

Indicative timetable: Q1-2026 – Q4-2027

Indicative budget: EUR 0.80 million from the 2026 budget and EUR 0.80 million from the 2027 budget

Budget[94] [95]

	Budget line(s)	2026 Budget (EUR million)	2027 Budget (EUR million)
Calls			
HORIZON-EURATOM-2026-01		35.75	38.75
	from 01.030200	*35.75*	*38.75*
HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-01		32.00	
	from 01.030100	*32.00*	
HORIZON-EURATOM-2027-02			45.00
	from 01.030100		*45.00*
Other actions			
Grant to identified beneficiary according to Financial Regulation Article 198(e)		88.00	88.30
	from 01.030100	*72.50*	*72.50*
	from 01.030200	*15.50*	*15.80*
Prize			0.40
	from 01.030100		*0.10*
	from 01.030200		*0.30*
Subscription action		0.25	0.25

94 The budget figures given in this table are rounded to two decimal places.
The budget amounts are subject to the availability of the appropriations provided for in the general budget of the Union for 2026 and 2027.

95 A contribution of EUR 10 000 000 in 2026 and 2027 will be transferred to the EIC budget line for the financing of EIC Challenges in 2026 - 2027. Companies (principally SMEs, including start-ups) in the field of fusion energy will be able to apply for support under a Challenge dedicated to fusion energy in the EIC Accelerator scheme.

	from 01.030200	*0.25*	*0.25*
Expert contract action		0.25	0.25
	from 01.030100	*0.17*	*0.17*
	from 01.030200	*0.08*	*0.08*
Euratom contribution to MSCA		0.80	0.80
	from 01.030100	*0.55*	*0.55*
	from 01.030200	*0.25*	*0.25*
Estimated total budget		157.05	173.75

General Annexes to the Euratom Work Programme 2026-2027

Introduction

These General Annexes set out the general conditions applicable to calls and topics for grants and other forms of funding under this Euratom work programme. They also describe the evaluation and award procedures and other criteria for Euratom funding. In particular, the General Annexes outline the:

- admissibility and eligibility criteria for participation and for receiving funding, the criteria for having the financial and operational capacity and for exclusion (Annexes A-C);
- award criteria, mandatory documents and evaluation procedure (Annexes D-F);
- legal and financial set-up of the grant agreements (Annex G);
- JRC infrastructure and expertise in nuclear safety, radiation protection and education & training available to applicants for grants (Annex H).
- The Work Programme's chapter on multiannual approach and strategic orientations for Euratom indirect actions during 2026-2027 outlines the guidance on the structure and priorities of the Euratom Research and Training Programme ('Euratom Programme').

If a topic deviates from the general conditions or includes additional conditions, this is explicitly stated under the specific conditions for the topic.

Applicants are invited to read the call documentation on the topic page of the Funding & Tenders Portal ('Portal') carefully, and particularly these General Annexes, the Work Programme's chapter on multiannual approach and strategic orientations for Euratom indirect actions during 2026-2027, the Horizon Europe Programme Guide[96], the EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual[97] and the EU Grants AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement[98]. These documents provide clarifications and answers to questions on preparing the application.

[96] The Horizon Europe Programme Guide outlines the detailed guidance on the structure, budget and political priorities of Horizon Europe.
[97] The Online Manual outlines the procedures to register and submit applications online via the EU Funding & Tenders Portal and recommendations on preparing the application.
[98] The AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement contains detailed annotations on all the provisions in the grant agreement that must be signed to obtain the grant.

General conditions

A — Admissibility

Admissibility

Applications must be submitted before the **call deadline**.

Applications must be submitted **electronically** via the Funding & Tenders Portal electronic submission system (accessible via the topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Applications must be submitted using the forms provided *inside* the electronic submission system (not the templates available on the topic page, which are only for information). The structure and presentation must correspond to the instructions given in the forms.

Applications must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory Annexes and supporting documents *(see Annex E below)*.

Applications must be **readable**, **accessible** and **printable**.

Applications must include **a plan for the exploitation and dissemination of results including communication activities**, unless provided otherwise in the specific call/topic conditions. If the expected exploitation of the results entails developing, creating, manufacturing and marketing a product or process, or in creating and providing a service, the plan must include a strategy for such exploitation. If the plan provides for exploitation of the results primarily in non-associated third countries, the applicants must explain how that exploitation is to be considered in the EU's interest.

Page limits

In addition to the above admissibility conditions, page limits will apply to parts of applications. The page limits, and sections subject to limits, will be clearly shown in the application templates in the Funding & Tenders Portal electronic submission system.

Unless provided otherwise in the specific call/topic conditions, **the limit for a full application is 40 pages** (except for 'Coordination and support' actions, where the limit is 25 pages, and for 'Programme co-fund' actions, where the limit is 65 pages). For topics using lump sum funding, the limit for 'Research and Innovation' actions and 'Innovation' actions is 45 pages and the limit for 'Coordination and support' action is 28 pages.

If an application exceeds the limits, there will be an automatic warning and invitation to re-submit a version that conforms to these limits. After the call deadline, excess pages will be automatically made invisible and will not be taken into consideration by the evaluators.

B — Eligibility

Entities eligible to participate

Any legal entity, regardless of its place of establishment, including legal entities from non-associated third countries or international organisations (including international European research organisations[99]) is eligible to participate (whether it is eligible for funding or not), provided that the conditions laid down in the Horizon Europe Regulation[100] have been met, along with any other conditions laid down in the specific call/topic.

A 'legal entity' means any natural or legal person created and recognised as such under national law, EU law or international law, which has legal personality and which may, acting in its own name, exercise rights and be subject to obligations, or an entity without legal personality[101].

Beneficiaries and affiliated entities must register in the Participant Register before submitting their application, in order to get a participant identification code (PIC) and be validated by the Central Validation Service before signing the grant agreement. For the validation, they will be asked to upload the necessary documents showing their legal status and origin during the grant preparation stage. A validated PIC is not a prerequisite for submitting an application.

For more information, *see* Rules for Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment.

Specific cases:

Affiliated entities — Affiliated entities (i.e. entities with a legal or capital link to a beneficiary[102] which participate in the action with similar rights and obligations to the beneficiaries, but which do not sign the grant agreement and therefore do not become beneficiaries themselves) are allowed, if they are eligible for participation and funding.

Associated partners — Associated partners (i.e. entities which participate in the action without signing the grant agreement, and without the right to charge costs or claim contributions) are allowed, subject to any specific call/topic conditions.

Entities without legal personality — Entities which do not have legal personality under their national law may exceptionally participate, provided that their representatives have the capacity to undertake legal obligations on their behalf and offer guarantees to protect the EU's financial interests equivalent to those offered by legal persons[103].

EU bodies — Legal entities created under EU law including decentralised agencies may be part of the consortium, unless provided for otherwise in their basic act.

[99] 'International European research organisation' means an international organisation, the majority of whose members are Member States or Associated Countries, and whose principal objective is to promote scientific and technological cooperation in Europe.
[100] Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 28 April 2021 establishing Horizon Europe (OJ L 170 , 12.5.2021, p. 1).
101 See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.
[102] See Article 190 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.
[103] See Article 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

Joint Research Centre ('JRC')— Where provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, the Commission recommends that consortia make use of the services of the JRC. The JRC may participate in the preparation and submission of the proposal. If the proposal is selected for funding, the JRC would bear the operational costs for its own staff and research infrastructure operational costs. The JRC would accede to the grant agreement as beneficiary requesting zero funding or would participate as an associated partner and would accede to the consortium as a member. The JRC facilities and expertise offered to applicants are listed in *Annex H below*.

Associations and interest groupings — Entities composed of members (e.g. European research infrastructure consortia (ERICs)) may participate as 'sole beneficiaries' or 'beneficiaries without legal personality'[104]. However, if the action is in practice implemented by the individual members, those members should also participate either as beneficiaries or as affiliated entities (otherwise their costs will NOT be eligible).

Restrictions on the participation of legal entities established in China — In accordance with the 2019 "EU-China - A Strategic outlook" communication, the 2021 "Global Approach to Research and Innovation" communication, and the joint conclusions of the 4th EU-China Innovation Cooperation Dialogue of 2019, an exercise to develop a Joint Roadmap for the future of EU-China cooperation in science, technology, and innovation (Roadmap) has been established between the EU and China. It has the objective to stimulate the development of a level playing field for cooperation between the EU and China in the areas of science, technology, and innovation (STI) through the agreement and implementation of a number of framework conditions for engagement. So far, progress in these discussions has mainly taken place on the framework conditions linked to research and not on the ones related to innovation. At the same time, substantive concerns persist, including in relation to the undesired transfer of IP to China which is supported rather than deterred by both legislative and policy initiatives such as China's Made in China 2025 strategy, China's civil military fusion strategy, China's new quality productive forces framework, China's data security law, the National security law, China's cybersecurity law, and a number of other measures aimed at bolstering China's technological base in both civil and military domains.

In view of the persistent lack of progress in the discussions on the Roadmap and the substantive concerns in relation to the undesired transfer of IP to China supported by both legislative and policy initiatives, cooperation involving entities established in China needs to be calibrated accordingly. In particular, taking into account the current persistent imbalance as concerns innovation-related framework conditions and linked effects it is appropriate under Article 22(6) of the HE Regulation that the eligibility of legal entities established in China to participate in innovation-related activities is restricted. Accordingly:

Innovation Actions: Legal entities established in China are not eligible to participate in any Innovation Action;

For IA actions mentioned above this includes participation of legal entities established in China in any capacity (as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties

[104] See Articles 190(2) and 200(2)(c) EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any)). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons. The above eligibility criteria may again be reviewed in the future in accordance with policy developments.

Participation of Chinese universities linked to the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) — Based on Article 22(6) of the HE Regulation, universities (higher education establishments) established in China which are public bodies, that are administered by or fall under the supervision of the Ministry of Industry and Information Technology (MIIT) are not eligible to participate in any action under all parts of this Work Programme. This takes into account China's specific civil military fusion strategy, wider China-related risks[105], Horizon Europe's exclusive civil use application mandate and relevant policy requirements.

Restrictions on participation or control — In line with Article 22(5) of the Horizon Europe Regulation, for actions related to EU strategic assets, interests, autonomy or security, the specific call/topic conditions may limit participation to legal entities established only in EU Member States or in EU Member States and specific associated or non-associated third countries. In this case, the eligible countries will be identified in the specific call/topic conditions. In addition, for duly justified and exceptional reasons, to guarantee protection of the strategic interests of the EU and its Member States, the specific call/topic conditions may also exclude the participation of legal entities directly or indirectly controlled by non-eligible third countries or by legal entities of non-eligible third countries (or make their participation subject to specific conditions).

EU restrictive measures — Entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU)[106] as well as Article 75 TFEU[107], are not eligible to participate in any capacity, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any).

Special rules also apply to entities covered by Commission Guidelines No 2013/C 205/05[108].

Legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine — Given the illegal invasion of Ukraine by Russia and the involvement of Belarus, there is currently no appropriate context allowing the implementation of the actions foreseen in this programme with legal entities established in Russia, Belarus, or in non-government controlled territories of Ukraine. Therefore, even where such entities are not subject to EU restrictive measures, such legal entities are not eligible to participate in any

[105] China's National security law, the National Defence law, the State Secrets Law, the cybersecurity law, the data security law, and a number of other measures aimed at bolstering China's technological apparatus in both civil and military domains.
[106] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.
[107] Please note that the EU Official Journal contains the official list and, in case of conflict, its content prevails over that of the EU Sanctions Map.
[108] Commission guidelines No 2013/C 205/05 on the eligibility of Israeli entities and their activities in the territories occupied by Israel since June 1967 for grants, prizes and financial instruments funded by the EU from 2014 onwards (OJEU C 205 of 19.07.2013, pp. 9-11).

capacity. This includes participation as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any). Exceptions may be granted on a case-by-case basis for justified reasons.

Measures for the protection of the Union budget against breaches of the principles of the rule of law in Hungary — Following the Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2022/2506, as of 16 December 2022, no legal commitments can be entered into with Hungarian public interest trusts established under the Hungarian Act IX of 2021 or any entity they maintain. Affected entities may continue to apply to calls for proposals and can participate without receiving EU funding, as associated partners, if allowed by the call conditions. However, as long as the Council measures are not lifted, such entities are not eligible to participate in any funded role (beneficiaries, affiliated entities, subcontractors, recipients of financial support to third parties, etc.). In the case of multi-beneficiary grant calls, applicants will be invited to remove or replace that entity in any funded role and/or to change its status into associated partner. Tasks and budget may be redistributed accordingly.

Entities eligible for funding

To become a beneficiary, legal entities must be eligible for funding.

To be eligible for funding, applicants must be established in one of the following countries:

- the Member States of the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom), including their outermost regions:

  Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden.

- the Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) linked to the Member States:

  Aruba (NL), Bonaire (NL), Curação (NL), French Polynesia (FR), French Southern and Antarctic Territories (FR), Greenland (DK), New Caledonia (FR), Saba (NL), Saint Barthélemy (FR), Sint Eustatius (NL), Sint Maarten (NL), St. Pierre and Miquelon (FR), Wallis and Futuna Islands (FR).

  Countries associated to the Euratom Programme: Switzerland, Ukraine,

Legal entities which are established in countries not listed above will be eligible for funding if provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, or if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority.

Specific cases:

Affiliated entities — Affiliated entities are eligible for funding if they are established in one of the countries listed above, or in a country identified in the specific call/topic conditions.

Associated partners — Entities not eligible for funding (and therefore not able to participate as beneficiaries) may participate as associated partners, unless specified otherwise in the specific call/topic conditions.

Coordination and Support Actions – To be eligible to participate as beneficiaries (or affiliated entities) in 'Coordination and support' actions, legal entities must be established in a Member State or Associated Country, unless the specific call/topic conditions provide otherwise (in which case the general rules for eligibility for funding apply). Legal entities established in a non-associated third country may, however, participate in 'Coordination and support' actions as associated partners, unless this is explicitly excluded by the specific call/topic conditions.

EU bodies — Legal entities created under EU law may also be eligible to receive funding, unless their basic act states otherwise.

International organisations — International European research organisations are eligible to receive funding. International organisations with headquarters in a Member State or Associated Country are eligible to receive funding for 'Training and mobility' actions or when provided for in the specific call/topic conditions. Other international organisations are not eligible to receive funding, unless provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, or if their participation is considered essential for implementing the action by the granting authority.

Consortium composition

Unless otherwise provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, only legal entities forming a consortium are eligible to participate in actions provided that the consortium includes, as beneficiaries, three legal entities independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:

- at least one independent legal entity established in a Member State; and
- at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.

As affiliated entities do not sign the grant agreement, they do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).

The Joint Research Centre, international European research organisations and legal entities created under EU law are deemed to be established in a Member State other than those in which the other legal entities participating in the action are established.

Applications for 'Programme co-fund' actions may be submitted by one or more legal entities, provided that one of those legal entities is established in a Member State or an Associated Country.

Applications for 'Coordination and support' actions may be submitted by one or more legal entities, which may be established in a Member State, Associated Country or, in exceptional cases and if provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, in another third country.

Eligible activities

Eligible activities are the ones described in the call conditions. Applications will only be considered eligible if their content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic description for which it is submitted.

Projects must focus exclusively on civil applications and must not:

- aim at human cloning for reproductive purposes;
- intend to modify the genetic heritage of human beings which could make such changes heritable (except for research relating to cancer treatment of the gonads, which may be financed);
- intend to create human embryos solely for the purpose of research, or for the purpose of stem cell procurement, including by means of somatic cell nuclear transfer.

Projects must, moreover, comply with EU policy interests and priorities (environment, social, security, industrial policy, etc.).

The following activities are generally eligible for grants under Euratom Programme:

Research and innovation actions (RIA) — Activities that aim primarily to establish new knowledge or to explore the feasibility of a new or improved technology, product, process, service or solution. This may include basic and applied research, technology development and integration, testing, demonstration and validation of a small-scale prototype in a laboratory or simulated environment.

Innovation actions (IA) — Activities that aim directly to produce plans and arrangements or designs for new, altered or improved products, processes or services. These activities may include prototyping, testing, demonstrating, piloting, large-scale product validation and market replication.

Coordination and support actions (CSA) — Activities that contribute to the objectives of the Euratom Programme, excluding R&I activities.

Programme co-fund actions (CoFund) — A programme of activities established or implemented by legal entities managing or funding R&I programmes, other than EU funding bodies. Such a programme of activities may support: networking and coordination; research; innovation; pilot actions; innovation and market deployment; training and mobility; awareness raising and communication; and dissemination and exploitation. It may also provide any relevant financial support, such as grants, prizes and procurement, as well as

blended finance[109] or a combination thereof. The actions may be implemented by the beneficiaries directly or by providing financial support to third parties. In addition to the minimum conditions, other legal entities may participate in programme co-fund actions (CoFund) if this is justified by the nature of the action, in particular entities created to coordinate or integrate transnational research efforts, grouping funding from both national and private sources.

Technology Readiness Levels

Where the specific call/topic conditions require a Technology Readiness Level (TRL), the following definitions apply, unless otherwise specified:

- TRL 1 — Basic principles observed
- TRL 2 — Technology concept formulated
- TRL 3 — Experimental proof of concept
- TRL 4 — Technology validated in a lab
- TRL 5 — Technology validated in a relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 6 — Technology demonstrated in a relevant environment (industrially relevant environment in the case of key enabling technologies)
- TRL 7 — System prototype demonstration in an operational environment
- TRL 8 — System complete and qualified
- TRL 9 — Actual system proven in an operational environment (competitive manufacturing in the case of key enabling technologies, or in space)

Ethics

Projects must comply with ethical principles (including the highest standards of research integrity) and applicable EU, international and national law.

Applicants must have completed the ethics self-assessment as part of their application.

For more information, *see How to complete your ethics self-assessment.*

Projects involving ethics issues will have to undergo an ethics review to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific ethics requirements. These requirements become part of the grant agreement as ethics deliverables, e.g. ethics committee opinions/authorisations required under national or EU law.

[109] "Blended finance" means financial support to a programme implementing innovation and market deployment activities, consisting of a specific combination of a grant or reimbursable advance and an investment in equity or any other repayable form of support.

Security — EU classified and sensitive information

Projects involving classified and/or sensitive information will have to go through the security appraisal process to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific security rules (detailed in the Security Section, which is annexed to the grant agreement). Specific provisions for EU classified information (EUCI) and sensitive information (SEN) will be included in the grant agreement, as necessary and appropriate.

The rules for protecting EU classified information (governed by Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444[110] and/or national rules) provide for instance that:

- projects involving information classified as TRES SECRET UE/EU TOP SECRET (or equivalent) can NOT be funded;
- EU classified information must be marked in accordance with the applicable security instructions in the Security Classification Guide appendix of the Security Aspects Letter (SAL), which is contained in the Security Section of the grant agreement;
- generation of, or access to, information with classification levels CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above (and RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED, if required by national rules) may take place only on the premises of entities which have been granted a facility security clearance (FSC) issued by the competent national security authority (NSA);
- handling of information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above (and RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED, if required by national rules) may take place only in a secured area accredited by the competent NSA;
- access to and handling of information classified CONFIDENTIEL UE/EU CONFIDENTIAL or above may be granted only to individuals with a valid personnel security clearance (PSC) and an established need-to-know, who have been briefed on the applicable security rules;
- access to, and handling of, information classified RESTREINT UE/EU RESTRICTED may be granted only to individuals who have a need-to-know and have been briefed on the applicable security rules;
- at the end of the grant, the classified information must either be returned or continue to be protected according to the applicable rules;
- subcontracting of tasks involving EU classified information is subject to prior written approval by the European Commission, which is the originator of EU classified information. It is only possible to subcontract these tasks to entities established in an EU Member State or in a non-EU country with a security of information agreement with the EU (or an administrative arrangement with the Commission);

[110] See Commission Decision (EU, Euratom) 2015/444 of 13 March 2015 on the security rules for protecting EU classified information (OJ L 72, 17.3.2015, p. 53).

- disclosure of EU classified information is subject to prior written approval by the European Commission.

Depending on the type of activity, FSCs may have to be provided before the grant is signed. The granting authority will assess this for each case and fix the delivery date during the grant preparation stage. It is not possible to sign any grant agreement before at least one of the beneficiaries in the consortium has an FSC.

In certain cases, the project results might not require classification, but they might be sensitive and require restricted disclosure or limited dissemination for security reasons, according to the applicable instructions in the Security Section. This means that, in principle, third parties should have no access to results subject to this type of restriction. Disclosure of this information is subject to prior written approval by the European Commission.

Further security recommendations may be added to the grant agreement in the form of security deliverables (e.g. establishing a security advisory board, appointing a project security officer, limiting the level of detail, using a fake scenario, etc.).

In addition, beneficiaries must ensure that their projects are not subject to national/third-country security requirements that could affect implementation or put into question the award of the grants (e.g. technology restrictions, national security classification, etc.). Any potential security issues must be notified immediately to the granting authority.

Gender equality plans and gender mainstreaming

Beneficiaries must take all measures to promote equal opportunities between men and women in implementing the action and, where applicable, in line with their gender equality plan. They must aim to achieve, to the extent possible, a gender balance at all levels of personnel assigned to the action, including at supervisory and managerial level.

In addition, to be eligible, legal entities from Member States and Associated Countries that are public bodies, research organisations or higher education establishments (including private research organisations and private higher education establishments) applying as beneficiaries or affiliated entities must have at the moment of grant signature and during the duration of the grant a gender equality plan, covering the following minimum process-related requirements:

- publication: a formal document published on the institution’s website and signed and/or adopted by the top management;
- dedicated resources: commitment of resources and expertise in gender equality to implement the plan;
- data collection and monitoring: sex/gender disaggregated data on personnel (and students, for the establishments concerned) and annual reporting based on indicators;
- training: awareness raising/training for staff and decision-makers on gender equality, for instance on unconscious gender biases.

Content-wise, it is recommended that the gender equality plan addresses the following areas, using concrete measures and targets:

- work-life balance and organisational culture;
- gender balance in leadership and decision-making;
- gender equality in recruitment and career progression;
- integration of the gender dimension into research and teaching content;
- measures against gender-based violence, including sexual harassment.

A self-declaration will be requested in the Participant Register. If all the above-mentioned mandatory requirements are met through another strategic document, such as a development plan or an inclusion or diversity strategy, it can be considered as an equivalent. This eligibility criterion does not apply to other categories of legal entities, such as private for-profit organisations, including SMEs, non-governmental or civil society organisations.

Financial support to third parties

Where the specific call/topic conditions allow for financial support to third parties, the applicants must clearly describe in their proposal the objectives and the expected results, including the elements listed in the application template. The following conditions must also be fulfilled:

- projects must publish their open calls widely and adhere to EU standards of transparency, equal treatment, conflict of interest and confidentiality;
- all calls for third parties and all calls that are implemented by third parties must be published on the EU Funding & Tenders Portal, and on the beneficiaries' websites;
- the calls must remain open for at least 2 months;
- if submission deadlines are changed, this must immediately be announced and registered applicants must be informed of the change;
- projects must publish the outcome of the calls without delay, including a description of third-party projects, the date of the award, the duration, and the legal name of the third party and country of establishment;
- the calls must have a clear European dimension.

Further conditions may be stipulated in the specific conditions for the topic.

For more information, *see AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, Articles 6.2.D.1 and 9.4.*

OTHER TYPES OF ACTIONS AND FORMS OF FUNDING

In addition to the eligible activities described in Annex B above, the following types of action and forms of funding are used in Euratom. They are usually placed in the 'Other Actions section of the work programme parts and are not all subject to calls for proposals.

• **Grants to identified beneficiaries** — Exceptionally, a grant may be awarded to legal entities explicitly named in the work programme without a prior call for proposals. The identified beneficiaries must nevertheless submit a proposal to benefit from funding. This proposal will be evaluated and must meet the required threshold. The funding rates will correspond to the type of action indicated.

• **Prizes** — Inducement prizes: a prize to stimulate investment in a given area, by specifying a goal prior to the work being performed. Contests for inducement prizes must address technological and/or societal challenges. The award criteria will define a goal, but without prescribing how to achieve it. Contests for inducement prizes are split into awards for the contestant that first meets the specific goal defined in the rules of the contest, and awards for the best contestant within a given period. Recognition prizes: a prize to reward past achievements and outstanding work after it has been performed. Recognition prizes must help to raise public awareness of EU policies, create role models and support best practice exchange. The rules of the contest of a specific prize describe the eligibility and award criteria, the evaluation procedure, the indicative timetable and the reward. The rules are found on the call topic page on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

• **Public procurement** — In a public procurement action, the contracting authority purchases works, supplies or services, or acquires or rents land, buildings or other immovable property. This is done by entering into a contract with an economic operators chosen by the contracting authority. Before the contracting authority enters into a procurement contract, a call for tenders is published on the Funding & Tenders Portal.

• **Expert contract actions** — Expert contracts are used to appoint independent expert(s) to advise or assist us. Experts are used for evaluating proposals, for evaluating the programme, for ethics screenings and assessments, for advisory bodies, and for expertise related to the objectives of Euratom Programme.

• **Subscription actions** — Subscription actions are used to pay contributions to bodies in which the EU is a member or an observer.

• **Scientific and technical services by the Joint Research Centre** — Scientific and technical services cover research and innovation activities undertaken by the Commission through its Joint Research Centre. These activities are direct actions generating high-quality scientific evidence to support efficient and affordable public policies. The Horizon Europe's Rules for Participation do not apply to these actions.

C — Financial and operational capacity and exclusion

Financial capacity

Applicants must have **stable and sufficient resources** to successfully implement the projects and contribute their share. Organisations participating in several projects must have sufficient capacity to implement all these projects.

The financial capacity check will be done on the basis of the documents uploaded in the Participant Register during the grant preparation stage (e.g. profit and loss account and balance sheet, business plan, audit report produced by an approved external auditor, certifying the accounts for the last closed financial year, etc.). The analysis will be based on neutral financial indicators, but will also take into account other aspects, such as dependency on EU funding and deficit and revenue in previous years.

The check will normally be done for the coordinator if the requested grant amount is equal to or greater than EUR 500 000, except for:

- public bodies (entities established as a public body under national law, including local, regional or national authorities) or international organisations; and
- cases where the individual requested grant amount is not more than EUR 60 000 (low-value grant).

If needed, it may also be done for the other applicants, including affiliated entities. If the financial capacity is structurally guaranteed by another legal entity, the financial capacity of that legal entity will be verified.

If the granting authority considers that the financial capacity is not satisfactory, they may require:

- further information;
- an enhanced financial responsibility regime, i.e. joint and several responsibility of affiliated entities *(see Annex G below)*; and
- prefinancing paid in instalments;

or

- propose no prefinancing;
- request that the applicant concerned is replaced or, if needed, reject the entire proposal.

For more information, *see Rules on Legal Entity Validation, LEAR Appointment and Financial Capacity Assessment*.

Operational capacity

Applicants must have the **know-how, qualifications** and **resources** to successfully implement their tasks in the project and contribute their share (including, when appropriate, sufficient experience in EU/transnational projects of comparable size).

This assessment of operational capacity will be carried out during the evaluation of the award criterion 'Quality and efficiency of the implementation'. It will be based on the competence and experience of the applicants and their project teams, including their operational resources (human, technical and other) or, exceptionally, the measures proposed to obtain the necessary competence and experience by the time the tasks are implemented.

If the evaluation of this award criterion leads to a score above the applicable threshold, then the applicants are considered to have sufficient operational capacity.

For this assessment, applicants will be required to provide the following information in the application form:

- description of the consortium participants; and
- for each participant:
  - identity of researchers involved in the proposal (through the researchers table);
  - up to five most relevant publications, widely-used datasets, software, goods, services, or any other achievements relevant to the call content;
  - up to five most relevant previous projects or activities, connected to the subject of this proposal; and
  - description of any significant infrastructure and/or any major items of technical equipment, relevant to the proposed work.

Additional supporting documents may be requested if they are needed to confirm the operational capacity of any applicant.

Public bodies, Member State organisations and international organisations are exempted from the operational capacity check.

Exclusion

Applicants that are subject to **EU administrative sanctions** (i.e. exclusion)[111] or are in one of the following **exclusion situations**[112] that bar them from receiving EU grants can NOT participate:

[111] See Article 138 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.
[112] See Articles 138 and 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

- bankruptcy, winding up, affairs administered by the courts, arrangement with creditors, suspended business activities or other similar procedures (including procedures for persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);

- they are in breach of social security or tax obligations (including if done by persons with unlimited liability for the applicant's debts);

- they are guilty of grave professional misconduct (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);

- they are guilty of fraud, corruption, having links to a criminal organisation, money laundering, terrorism-related crimes (including terrorism financing), child labour or human trafficking (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);

- they have shown significant deficiencies in complying with their main obligations under an EU procurement contract, grant agreement, prize, expert contract, or similar (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant);

- they are guilty of irregularities within the meaning of Article 1(2) of Regulation No 2988/95[113] (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant); or

- they have created under a different jurisdiction an entity with the intent to circumvent fiscal, social or other legal obligations in the country of origin or created another entity with this purpose (including if done by persons having powers of representation, decision-making or control, beneficial owners or persons who are essential for the award/implementation of the grant).

Applicants will also be refused if they[114]:

- have misrepresented the information required as a condition for participating in the procedure or have failed to supply that information; or

- were previously involved in the preparation of documents used in the award procedure where this entails a breach of the principle of equality of treatment, including distortion of competition, that cannot be remedied otherwise.

[113] Council Regulation (EC, Euratom) No 2988/95 of 18 December 1995 on the protection of the European Communities financial interests, (OJ L 312, 23.12.1995, p. 1).
[114] See Article 143 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

D — Award criteria

Award criteria

If admissible and eligible, the proposals will be evaluated and ranked against the following **award criteria**, depending on the type of action:

	Excellence (The following aspects will be taken into account, to the extent that the proposed work corresponds to the description in the work programme)	**Impact**	**Quality and efficiency of the implementation**
Research and innovation actions (RIA) **Innovation actions (IA)**	- **Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious and goes beyond the state of the art.** **Soundness of the proposed methodology,** including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society and end-users where appropriate.	- **Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme.** - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.
Coordination and support	- **Clarity and pertinence of the**	- **Credibility of the pathways to achieve**	- Quality and effectiveness of the

actions (CSA)	**project's objectives.** - **Quality of the proposed coordination and/or support measures, including soundness of methodology.**	**the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme.** - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.	work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.
Programme co-fund actions (CoFund)	- Clarity and pertinence of the project's objectives, and the extent to which the proposed work is ambitious, and goes beyond the state of the art. - Soundness of the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, inter-disciplinary approaches, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research and innovation content, and the quality of open science practices, including sharing and management of research outputs and engagement of citizens, civil society	- Credibility of the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts specified in the work programme. - Suitability and quality of the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, as set out in the dissemination and exploitation plan, including communication activities.	- Quality and effectiveness of the work plan, assessment of risks, and appropriateness of the effort assigned to work packages, and the resources overall. - Capacity and role of each participant, and the extent to which the consortium as a whole brings together the necessary expertise.

	and end-users where appropriate.		

Scores and weighting

Evaluation scores will be awarded for the criteria, and not for the different aspects listed in the table. For full applications, each criterion will be scored out of 5. The threshold for individual criteria will be 3. The overall threshold, applying to the sum of the three individual scores, will be 10.

To determine the ranking for 'Innovation actions', the score for 'Impact' will be given a weight of 1.5.

Proposals that pass the individual threshold AND the overall threshold will be considered for funding, within the limits of the available call budget. Other proposals will be rejected.

The evaluation procedure is explained further in *Annex F below*.

E — Documents

Submission

All proposals must be submitted **electronically** via the Funders & Tenders Portal electronic submission system (accessible via the topic page in the Search Funding & Tenders section). Paper submissions are NOT possible.

Proposals must be **complete** and contain all parts and mandatory annexes and supporting documents.

The application form will have two parts:

- **Part A** (to be filled in directly online) contains administrative information about the applicant organisations (future coordinator and beneficiaries and affiliated entities), the summarised budget for the proposal and call-specific questions;
- **Part B** (to be downloaded from the Portal submission system, completed and then assembled and re-uploaded as a PDF in the system) contains the technical description of the project.

Annexes and supporting documents will be directly available in the submission system and must be uploaded as PDF files (or other formats allowed by the system).

Proposals should be designed to stay as close as possible to the award criteria *(see Annex D above)*. The application form will help to achieve this.

When submitting the proposal, the coordinator will have to confirm that they have the mandate to act for all applicants. Moreover, they will have to confirm that the information in the application is correct and complete and that all participants comply with the conditions for receiving Euratom funding (especially eligibility, financial and operational capacity, exclusion, etc.). Proposals not complying with these requirements will be rejected. Before signing the grant, each participant will have to confirm this again by signing a declaration of honour.

For lump sum grant proposals, the estimated budget must be described in a detailed budget table. This will be used as a basis for justifying and/or fixing the lump sum amount. As the lump sum must be an approximation of the costs actually incurred, the costs included in this detailed budget table must comply with the basic eligibility conditions for EU actual cost grants *(see AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement, Article 6)*. This is particularly important for purchases and subcontracting, which must ensure best value for money (or, if appropriate, the lowest price) and be free from any conflicts of interest. If the budget table contains ineligible costs, the grant may be reduced (even later on during implementation of the project or after its end). Exceptionally, the Decision authorising the use of lump sum funding for a specific action might specify that a detailed budget table is not required.

⚠ Applicants may be asked at a later stage for further documents (for legal entity validation, financial capacity check, bank account validation, etc.).

F — Procedure

Evaluation procedure and ranking

Calls are subject to a **single-stage submission procedure**. The **evaluation procedure** may be organised in one (standard) or several steps.

Proposals will be checked for formal requirements (admissibility and eligibility) and then evaluated (for each topic separately) for operational capacity and award criteria *(see Annexes C and D above)* by an **evaluation committee** composed of independent external experts and then ranked according to their quality score.

For lump sum grant proposals, comments on the detailed lump sum budget table will be provided in the Evaluation Summary Report only for proposals invited to grant agreement preparation (or placed in the reserve list) and ones rejected (in part) due to significant overestimation or underestimation of costs.

Exceptionally, where indicated in the specific call/topic conditions, the evaluation committee may be composed partially or, in the case of 'Coordination and support actions', partially or fully of representatives of EU institutions.

For proposals with the same score within a single budget envelope a method to establish the **priority order** will be determined, taking into consideration the objectives of the specific topic. In the absence of special arrangements in the specific call/topic conditions, the following method will apply:

For each group of proposals with the same score, starting with the group achieving the highest score and continuing in descending order:

1) Proposals that address aspects of the call that have not otherwise been covered by more highly ranked proposals will be considered to have the highest priority.

2) The proposals identified under 1), if any, will themselves be prioritised according to the scores they have been awarded for 'Excellence'. When these scores are equal, priority will be based on scores for 'Impact'. In the case of 'Innovation actions', priority will be given to the score for 'Impact', followed by that for 'Excellence'.

3) If necessary, the gender balance among the researchers with a leading role named in the researchers table in the proposal, will be used as a factor for prioritisation.

4) If necessary, any further prioritisation will be based on geographical diversity, defined as the number of Member States or Associated Countries represented in the proposal, not otherwise receiving funds from projects higher up the ranking list (and if equal in number, then by budget).

5) If a distinction still cannot be made, the panel may decide to further prioritise by considering other factors related to the objectives of the call, or to Euratom in general. These may include, for example, enhancing the quality of the project portfolio through

synergies between projects or, where relevant and feasible, involving SMEs. These factors will be documented in the panel report.

6) The method described in 1), 2), 3) and 4) will then be applied to the remaining equally ranked proposals in the group.

At the end of the evaluation, all applicants will be informed of the result in an evaluation result letter. Successful proposals will be invited to the next stage, 'grant preparation'; the other proposals will be put on the reserve list or rejected.

⚠ No commitment to provide funding — Invitation to the grant preparation stage does NOT constitute a formal commitment to funding. Various legal checks are still needed before the grant can be awarded, such as legal entity validation, financial capacity verification, exclusion check, etc.

⚠ If indicated in the specific call/topic conditions, proposals which were judged to deserve funding but did not succeed because of budget limits will receive a **Seal of Excellence**[115]. With prior authorisation from the applicant, the granting authority may share information concerning the proposal and the evaluation with interested financing authorities, subject to the conclusion of confidentiality agreements.

⚠ **Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP**[116]**)** — If provided for in the specific call/topic conditions, proposals that have been assessed positively and comply with the minimum quality requirements (including eligibility, exclusion, and award criteria) may be awarded a 'STEP Seal', if the project contributes to any of the STEP objectives. Information about the project will be, upon consent, displayed in the STEP Portal with the aim of enhancing the visibility of the project, which may help it attract public or private funding by certifying its quality and contribution to the STEP objectives.

⚠ Budget flexibility — The budgets set out in the calls and topics are indicative. Unless otherwise stated, final budgets may change following evaluation. The final figures may change by up to 20% compared to the total budget indicated in this work programme. Changes within these limits will not be considered substantial within the meaning of Article 110(5) of Regulation (EU, Euratom) No 2024/2509.

⚠ Joint calls for proposals — In cases of applications for **joint calls** with third countries (including scientific and technological organisations or agencies from third countries), international organisations or non-profit legal entities, the joint selection and evaluation procedures will be indicated in the specific call/topic conditions.

Evaluation review procedure

[115] https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/funding/funding-opportunities/seal-excellence_en.
[116] Regulation (EU) 2024/795 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 February 2024 establishing the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) (OJ L, 2024/795, 29.2.2024).

If the consortium believes that the evaluation procedure was flawed, the coordinator can submit a **complaint** (following the deadlines and procedures also set out in the evaluation result letter).

Only the procedural aspects of an evaluation may be the subject of a request for an evaluation review. The evaluation of the merits of a proposal will not be the subject of an evaluation review.

A request for an evaluation review must relate to a specific proposal and must be submitted within 30 days after the beneficiary accesses the evaluation results. The deadlines will be counted from the date of opening/access. The maximum size limit of the request is 7 000 characters. Notifications of evaluation results which have not been opened in the Funding & Tenders Portal within 10 days after sending are considered to have been accessed *(see also Funding & Tenders Portal Terms and Conditions).*

An evaluation review committee will provide an opinion on the procedural aspects of the evaluation. The evaluation review committee may recommend a re-evaluation of the proposal, to be carried out primarily by evaluators who were not involved in the previous evaluation, or a confirmation of the initial evaluation.

Indicative timetable for evaluation and for signature of the grant agreement

Unless otherwise stated in the specific call/topic conditions, the timing for evaluation and grant preparation is as follows:

- information on the outcome of the evaluation: around 5 months from the deadline for submission;
- indicative date for the signing of grant agreements: around 8 months from the deadline for submission.

G — Legal and financial set-up of the grant agreements

During the grant preparation stage, the consortium will be asked to prepare the grant agreement, together with the Commission project officer.

This grant agreement will set out the framework for the grant and its terms and conditions, particularly concerning deliverables, reporting and payments. The applicable model with the complete text of the provisions is available on the topic page, together with the other call documentation.

Starting date & project duration

The project starting date and duration will be fixed in the grant agreement (*see Data Sheet, point 1*). Normally, the starting date will be after the grant has been signed. A starting date before the date the grant is signed (retroactive) can be granted exceptionally for duly justified reasons, if agreed with the granting authority[117].

The project duration is provided in months (extensions will be possible only exceptionally, for duly justified reasons and if the granting authority agrees).

Milestones and deliverables

The milestones and deliverables for each project will be managed through the grant management system in the Portal and are reflected in Annex 1 of the grant agreement.

The standard deliverables will be set out in the specific call/topic conditions.

Form of grant, funding rate and maximum grant amount

The grant parameters (maximum grant amount, funding rate, total eligible costs, etc.) will be fixed in the grant agreement *(Data Sheet, point 3 and Article 5).*

The project budget is provided in EUR. The amount of the grant awarded may be lower than the amount requested.

For **actual cost grants**, the grant will be a budget-based, mixed actual cost grant. This means that it will reimburse ONLY certain types of costs (eligible costs) and ONLY those costs *actually* incurred for the project (NOT the *budgeted* costs).

The costs will be reimbursed at the funding rate fixed in the specific call/topic conditions and in the grant agreement.

Such grants may NOT produce a profit. If there is a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs), it will be deducted from the final grant amount.

Moreover, the final grant amount may be reduced in case of non-compliance (e.g. improper implementation, breach of obligations, etc.).

[117] See Article 196 EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509.

The maximum Euratom funding rates are as follows:

– Research and innovation action: 100%

– Innovation action: 70% (except for non-profit legal entities, where a rate of up to 100% applies)

– Coordination and support action: 100%

– Programme co-fund action: between 30% and 70%

Other funding rates may be set out in the specific call/topic conditions.

For **lump sum and unit grants**, the funding rate is already applied as part of the methodology for fixing the amounts and is therefore not shown in the grant agreement.

Budget categories and cost eligibility rules

The budget categories and cost eligibility rules are fixed in the grant agreement *(see Data Sheet, point 3 and Article 6).*

Budget categories:

– actual costs (i.e. costs which are real and not estimated or budgeted) for:

  - personnel costs (unless declared as a unit cost; see below);

  - subcontracting costs;

  - purchase costs (unless declared as a unit cost; see below); and

  - costs of providing financial support to third parties (if provided for in the specific call conditions);

– units (i.e. an amount per unit) for:

  - personnel unit costs

  - personnel costs of SME owners/natural persons not receiving a salary;

  - personnel costs calculated by the beneficiaries according to their usual cost accounting practices (average personnel costs);

  - costs of internally invoiced goods and services calculated by the beneficiaries according to their usual cost accounting practices; and

  - specific unit costs (if provided for in the specific call/topic conditions; see also Annex 2a of the grant agreement);

– flat-rate (i.e. costs calculated by applying a percentage fixed in advance to other types of eligible costs) for:

- indirect costs (25% flat-rate of the total eligible direct costs, excluding eligible direct costs for subcontracting, financial support to third parties and any unit costs or lump sums which include indirect costs);

– lump sum (i.e. a global amount deemed to cover all costs of the action or a specific category of costs, if provided for in the specific call/topic conditions).

Within a grant, different forms of costs can be used.

Costs can also be declared under several EU Synergy grants, if the cumulative funding under the grants does not exceed 100% of the eligible costs and the contributions declared to them.

Reporting & payment arrangements

The reporting and payment arrangements are fixed in the grant agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and Articles 21 and 22).*

After the grant has been signed, the consortium will normally receive a float to start working on the project (normally, pre-financing of 160% of the average EU funding per reporting period (i.e. maximum grant amount/number of periods); exceptionally, less or no pre-financing). For actions with only one reporting period, it will be less, since 100% would mean the totality of the grant amount.

Programme co-fund actions may receive additional pre-financing payments.

Payments will be automatically lowered if one of the consortium members has outstanding debts towards the EU (granting authority or other EU bodies). Such debts will be offset by the granting authority, in line with the conditions set out in the grant agreement *(see Article 22).*

At the moment of the prefinancing payment, an amount ranging from 5% to 8% of the maximum grant amount will be deducted from the prefinancing payment and transferred to the mutual insurance mechanism. This mechanism covers the risks associated with non-recovery of sums due from the beneficiaries.

There will be one or several interim payments linked to a periodic report, depending on the duration of the project.

At the end of the project, the consortium will be invited to submit a report on the basis of which the final grant amount will be calculated. If the total of earlier payments is higher than the final grant amount, the beneficiaries concerned (or the coordinator) will be asked to pay back the difference (recovery).

Certificates

Depending on the size of the grant amount and on the type of beneficiaries, beneficiaries may be required to submit a certificate on the financial statements. The thresholds for this certificate are fixed in the grant agreement *(Data Sheet, point 4 and Article 24).*

Liability regime for recoveries

The liability regime for recoveries is that of individual financial responsibility. Each beneficiary is liable only for their own debt (and those of its affiliated entities, if any) *(Data Sheet point 4.4 and Article 22)*.

Provisions concerning project implementation

- Proper implementation of the action *(Article 11)*.
- Conflict of interest *(Article 12)*.
- Confidentiality and security (EU classified information) *(Article 13 and Annex 5)*.
- Ethics (research integrity) and values (gender mainstreaming) *(Article 14 and Annex 5)*.
- Data protection *(Article 15)*.
- Intellectual Property Rights (IPR), background and results, access rights and rights of use *(Article 16 and Annex 5)*. In addition to the standard provisions, the following specific provisions in the model grant agreement will apply to all grants awarded under this work programme:

  Additional exploitation obligations in case of a public emergency: If requested by the granting authority, beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licences to their results – for a limited period of time specified in the request and on fair and reasonable conditions – to legal entities that need the results to address the public emergency. These legal entities must commit to rapidly and broadly exploiting the resulting products and services on fair and reasonable conditions. This provision will apply up to 4 years after the end of the action.

  Additional information obligation relating to standards: Unless stated otherwise in the specific call conditions, beneficiaries must, up to 4 years after the end of the action, inform the granting authority if the results could reasonably be expected to contribute to European or international standards.

  Granting authority right to object to transfers or licensing — Euratom actions: The granting authority may, up to 4 years after the end of the action, object to a transfer of ownership or to the exclusive or non-exclusive licensing of results, as set out in the specific provision of Annex 5.

- Communication, dissemination, open science and visibility *(Article 17 and Annex 5)*. In addition to the standard provisions, the following specific provisions in the model grant agreement will apply to all grants awarded under this work programme:

  Open science - additional practices, validation of scientific publications: Beneficiaries must provide (digital or physical) access to data or other results needed to validate the conclusions of scientific publications, to the extent that

their legitimate interests or constraints are safeguarded (and unless they already provided the (open) access at publication).

Open science - additional practices, public emergency: In case of a public emergency, if requested by the granting authority, beneficiaries must immediately deposit any research output in a repository and provide open access to it under a CC BY licence, a public domain dedication (CC 0) or equivalent.

As an exception, if providing open access would be against the beneficiaries' legitimate interests, the beneficiaries must grant non-exclusive licences, on fair and reasonable conditions, to legal entities that need the research output to address the public emergency. These legal entities must commit to rapidly and broadly exploiting the resulting products and services on fair and reasonable conditions. This exception is limited to 4 years after the end of the action.

– Specific rules for carrying out the action *(Article 18 and Annex 5)*.

Other provisions may be set out in the specific call/topic conditions.

Non-compliance and breach of contract

The grant agreement *(Chapter 5)* provides for the measures that may be taken in case of breach of contract (and other violations of law).

For more information, *see the AGA — Annotated Grant Agreement*.

IMPORTANT

- **Do not wait until the end —** Complete the application sufficiently in advance of the deadline to avoid any last minute **technical problems**. Problems due to last-minute submissions *(e.g. congestion, etc.)* will be entirely at applicants' own risk. Call deadlines can NOT be extended at the request of applicants.
- **Consult** the topic page on the Portal regularly. The granting authority will use it to publish updates and additional information on the call (call updates).
- **EU Funding & Tenders Portal electronic exchange system —** By submitting the application, all applicants **accept** to use the electronic exchange system in accordance with the Portal Terms & Conditions.
- **Registration —** Before submitting the application, all beneficiaries, affiliated entities and associated partners must be registered in the Participant Register. The participant identification code (PIC) (one per participant) is mandatory for the application form. For validation, beneficiaries and affiliated entities will be requested to upload the necessary documents showing their legal status and origin during the grant preparation stage. Associated partners do not need validation.
- **Consortium roles —** When setting up the consortium, applicants should think of organisations that can help them reach objectives and solve problems.

  The roles should be attributed according to the degree of participation of each participant in the project. Main participants should participate as beneficiaries or affiliated entities; other entities may participate as associated partners, subcontractors, or third parties giving in-kind contributions, provided that the related conditions are fulfilled. Associated partners and third parties giving in-kind contributions should bear their own costs (they will not become formal recipients of EU funding). Subcontracting should normally constitute a limited part and must be performed by third parties (not by one of the beneficiaries/affiliated entities, *see section G*).
- **Coordinator —** In multi-beneficiary grants, the beneficiaries participate as a consortium (group of beneficiaries). They will have to choose a coordinator among them, who will manage and coordinate the project and will represent the consortium towards the granting authority. In mono-beneficiary grants, the single beneficiary will automatically be the coordinator.
- **Affiliated entities** — Applicants may participate with affiliated entities. Affiliated entities will get a part of the EU funding and must therefore comply with all the call conditions (just like beneficiaries). But they do not sign the grant agreement and do not count towards the minimum eligibility criteria for consortium composition (if any).
- **Associated partners** — Applicants may participate with associated partners. They participate without funding and without signing the grant agreement and therefore do not need to be validated.
- **Consortium agreement** — For practical and legal reasons, participants must conclude a written consortium agreement to ensure the smooth and successful implementation of the action and to deal with exceptional or unforeseen circumstances, unless otherwise provided for in the specific call conditions. The consortium agreement also gives the possibility to redistribute the EU funding according to internal consortium principles and arrangements (for instance, one beneficiary can reattribute their grant share to another beneficiary). The consortium agreement thus allows the grant to be customised to the needs of the consortium and can also help to protect the members in case of disputes. Consortium agreements are not required for mono-beneficiary projects.
- **Completed/ongoing projects —** Applications for projects that have already been completed will be rejected. Applications for projects that have already started will be assessed on a case-by-case basis (in such cases, no costs can normally be reimbursed for activities that took place before the application was submitted).

- **No-profit rule** — Grants may NOT give a profit (i.e. surplus of revenues + EU grant over costs). This will be checked by the granting authority at the end of the project.

- **No double funding** — There is strict prohibition of double funding from the EU budget. Any given action may receive only ONE grant from the EU budget (except for EU Synergy grants) and same costs may under NO circumstances be declared to two different EU actions.

- **Combination with EU operating grants** — Combination with EU operating grants is possible, if the project remains outside the operating grant work programme and the beneficiary makes sure that cost items are clearly separated in its accounting and NOT declared twice *(see AGA — Annotated Model Grant Agreement, Article 6.2.E)*.

- **Multiple applications** — Applicants may submit more than one application for *different* projects under the same call (and be awarded funding for them).

  Organisations may participate in several applications.

  BUT: if there are several applications for the *same/very similar* project, only one application will be accepted and evaluated.

- **Language** — Applicants can submit their application in any official EU language. However, for reasons of efficiency, it is strongly advised to use English. If applicants need the call documentation in another official EU language, they must submit a request within 10 days after publication of the call (for the contact information, *see topic page*).

- **Rejection** — By submitting the application, all applicants accept the general call conditions set out in the General Annexes and the specific call conditions set out in the topics. Applications that do not comply with all the call conditions will be **rejected**. This applies also to applicants: all applicants need to fulfil the criteria; if any one of them does not, they must be replaced or the entire application will be rejected.

- **Cancellation** — There may be circumstances which may require the cancellation of the call or topic. In this case, applicants will be informed via a call or topic update. Cancellations are without entitlement to compensation.

- **Transparency** — In accordance with Article 38 of the EU Financial Regulation 2024/2509, information about EU grants awarded is published each year on the Europa website.

  This includes:

  - beneficiaries' names;
  - beneficiaries' addresses;
  - the purpose for which the grant was awarded;
  - the maximum amount awarded.

  Publication can exceptionally be waived (following a reasoned and duly substantiated request), if there is a risk that disclosure could jeopardise applicants' rights and freedoms under the EU Charter of Fundamental Rights or harm its commercial interests.

- **Data protection** — The submission of an application under this call involves the collection, use and processing of personal data. This data will be processed in accordance with Regulation 2018/1725. It will be processed solely for the purpose of evaluating the application (and subsequent management of the grant and, if needed, programme monitoring, evaluation and communication). Details are explained in the Funding & Tenders Portal privacy statement.

H — JRC infrastructure and expertise in nuclear safety, radiation protection and education & training available to applicants for grants from the Euratom Programme 2026-2027

For applicant consortia the JRC is offering (contact: JRC-EURATOM-IA@ec.europa.eu), free of charge, its expertise, capacities and infrastructure in key areas of fission and radiation protection research and education and training. The JRC's most relevant know-how and infrastructures in the different domains are the following:

Safety of existing and future nuclear power plants including SMRs, fuel cycle and cogeneration

- Tools for Safety systems and defence in-depth assessment, including severe accident modelling.
- Supply chain of systems, structures and components.
- Modelling of fuel behaviour during irradiation, under normal and off-normal conditions
- Nuclear fuel properties and in-pile and post-irradiation behaviour and micro-characterisation
- Nuclear data to support advanced systems modelling and safety assessments
- Safety aspects of innovative fuels and non-conventional fuel cycles
- Safety and safeguards by design in generic concepts and design analysis in specific concepts
- Materials and fuel studies in relevant environments
- Safe non-energy applications of nuclear science and ionising radiation
- Research on safety, security and safeguards assessment of different concepts of SMR Recycling of Pu in light water reactors (multi-recycling)
- Molten salt systems for recycling of Pu and Am and pyro-chemical separation methods
- Behaviour of transmutation fuel during irradiation, closed fuel cycles incorporating minor actinides
- Basic physical properties of actinide elements, oxides, compounds and complexes to underpin the improvement and development of theoretical models with predictive capabilities.

JRC also offers specific capacities and know how in cogeneration issues.

Advanced materials for nuclear applications

- Structural materials at high thermo-mechanical loads, and exposure to coolants to evaluate stress corrosion cracking.
- Advanced mechanical test methods, including the use of miniaturized samples and validation of accelerated testing methods
- Characterization and testing (including irradiation) of advanced materials (including new irradiation resistant materials, claddings, fuels, etc.)
- Emulation of high dose neutron irradiation damage in structural materials by ion irradiation and associated modelling and validation

Harmonisation of licensing procedures, codes and standards for future fission and fusion plants

JRC offers specific research infrastructures and expertise in this domain such as reference measurements and data, basic and pre-normative research and inter-laboratory comparisons.

Radioactive waste management, decommissioning and geological disposal

- Determination of the inventory of radioisotopes in the spent fuel (destructive and non-destructive analysis), characterisation of legacy waste, proficiency testing of clearance and characterisation measurements and provision of reference materials for methodology validation
- Laboratory simulation of spent fuel ageing
- Research in materials for radioactive waste management
- Model estimates of source term and decay heat by improved data and verification with non-destructive analysis
- Corrosion phenomena and potential mobility of radionuclides in the near-field environment (disposal in deep geological repository)
- Very long term storage of spent fuel and licensing requirements for extended interim storage
- Specific aspects of management of spent fuel and high-level waste forms from advanced nuclear systems or closed systems, and back-end issues of non-conventional fuels
- post-accident clean-up and remediation

Radiation protection and non-power applications

- Emergency preparedness and response including dispersion modelling.
- Radiation environmental monitoring approaches and techniques
- Radio-ecological analysis
- Novel isotopes production methods, accelerator-based nuclear measurements, generator calibration, target development, isolation and characterisation (GELINA and MONNET accelerators)
- Radionuclide therapy research
- Basic properties of radionuclides and associated applications, including supporting the authentication and preservation of cultural heritage and archaeological studies
- Use of radioactive tracers for climate modelling, food fraud detection,
- Space applications

Research Infrastructures, Education, Training and Mobility

JRC offers specific capacities and know-how contributing to develop and optimise a network of European research facilities.

JRC will also continue providing open access to its own nuclear research infrastructure, for more details please visit https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/research-facility/open-access

In the field of education and training, JRC can support development of appropriate programmes and promote opportunities in specific fields.

For more information on the JRC activities in nuclear safety and security, please visit EU Science Hub https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/science-area/nuclear-safety-and-security