

AI Cross-Cluster Funding Opportunities

AI Factories

[AI Factories](#) are specialised ecosystems designed to support the widespread adoption and development of artificial intelligence technologies across Europe. Central to these ecosystems are high-performance computing (HPC) facilities equipped specifically for AI workloads, including generative AI models and complex data processing tasks. These factories provide the necessary infrastructure and computing capabilities to accelerate AI research, facilitate experimentation, and enable industrial-scale deployment of AI solutions, promoting competitive advantages for European industries in global markets.

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AI for Science and Collaborative Projects

The [AI for Science and Collaborative EU Projects](#) access mode will support AI applications for science, with a focus on ethical AI, Machine Learning, and cutting-edge foundation Models and Generative AI, including Large Language Models. This mode is intended for scientific research activities that rely on AI models in their research workflow. This access mode is open and free of charge to eligible public and private users, primarily for publicly funded research, as well as for industrial applications in collaborative projects which are funded by Horizon Europe or the Digital Europe Programme.

RAISE

With its [AI in science strategy](#), the European Commission aims to make science in the EU more impactful and productive by fostering the responsible adoption of AI. In this context, the initiative RAISE, Resource for AI Science in Europe, will support the use of AI in science and science for AI by pooling efforts on data, infrastructures, talent and funding. A pilot for the Science for AI pillar of RAISE is expected within the Horizon Europe Work Programme (WP) 2026, with the aim of setting up a network of excellent AI labs in the EU and associated countries jointly addressing fundamental AI research topics.

AI for SMEs, Innovators, and Industry

WP2026 will also offer funding opportunities to enhance adoption of AI technologies in real-world applications, with a focus on autonomous systems and four key industrial verticals: healthcare, advanced manufacturing, autonomous driving, environment and climate change. Selected projects under these topics will be expected to link to the resources offered by the AI Factories.

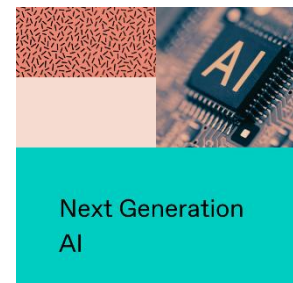
The European Innovation Council (EIC) WP 2026 will offer funding opportunities as well to innovators with a dedicated focus on advancing applications and breakthroughs in AI.

AI Factories Access Modes

The [AI Factories Industrial Innovation](#) track includes three access mode, targeting different use cases and compute needs. Different access modes and types are available to meet the needs of users with different levels of requirements and expertise.

- **Playground access**, providing limited resources for entry-level users.
- **Fast Lane access**, for users already familiar with HPC requiring up to 50 000 GPU hours.
- **Large Scale access**, catering to AI models and applications requiring more than 50 000 GPU hours.

The Industrial Innovation Access modes are open and free-of-charge to AI SMEs (including startups) for innovation purposes. Other industrial applications can benefit from pay-per-use commercial access.



Cluster 1 - Health and related Missions

Cluster 1 has many topics that require AI in order to submit a successful proposal. Focus is on **AI for healthcare** and AI for **personalized disease prediction**. For example one topic that is part of the "Developing and using new tools, technologies and **digital solutions for a healthy society**" destination and aligns with the EU's AI strategies and Digital Transition objectives and one call topic on **Virtual Human Twin (VHT) Models** of the cancer mission call aims to **take advantage of technological advances in AI tools** which open new opportunities to collect, combine and analyse large datasets of diverse types.

2026 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-01
- HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-STAYHLTH-02
- HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-03
- HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-TOOL-03
- HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-IND-03

2027 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-HLTH-2027-02-TOOL-01-two-stage
- HORIZON-HLTH-2027-03-TOOL-08 CSA

Total indicative budget 2026: €115M

Cluster 2 - Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Societies

Cluster 2 calls prioritize responsible **AI integration in Cultural and Creative Sectors** by fostering innovation, protecting copyright, and establishing a dedicated support platform for creatives. Simultaneously, the program addresses broader societal challenges by examining the impact of deepfakes on democracy and exploring the ethical use of AI tools in early childhood education addressing the area of **AI impact on democracy and societies**.

2026 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-03
- HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-04

2027 Call Topics Identifiers

- HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-DEMOCRACY-04
- HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-HERITAGE-02
- HORIZON-CL2-2027-01-TRANSFO-05

Total indicative budget 2026: €27M

Cluster 3 - Civil Security for Society

Cluster 3 calls prioritize the critical intersection of **cybersecurity applications** and artificial intelligence to build a more resilient digital infrastructure. A "**SecureAI**" initiative addresses the vulnerabilities of the intelligence systems themselves, seeking to **immunize AI models against sophisticated threats** such as adversarial attacks, backdoor injections, and data poisoning to ensure they remain robust and trustworthy.

2026 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL3-2026-02-CS-ECCC-01
- HORIZON-CL3-2026-02-CS-ECCC-02

2027 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL3-2027-02-CS-ECCC-01

Total indicative budget 2026: €41M

Cluster 4 - Digital

Cluster 4 calls represent a comprehensive strategic initiative to establish **European sovereignty** and leadership across the entire AI ecosystem, starting from infrastructure and data to fundamental research and high-level application. The infrastructure pillar focuses on the "**end-to-end AI compute continuum**," seeking decentralized, federated, and energy-efficient data processing architectures, alongside innovations to improve sustainability in data centers. This is underpinned by a push for compliant data management systems and a significant investment in "**AI Science**," which includes establishing a network of excellence (RAISE) and

2026 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-02
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-19
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-03
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-08
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-09

developing safe, computationally efficient, sovereign European frontier AI models.

On the application and deployment side, the calls target the **practical integration of AI and robotics into critical sectors** such as manufacturing, healthcare, aerospace, and energy. This includes "Challenge-Driven Boosters" that utilize cascade funding to spark innovation in specific industries, as well as research into **next-generation autonomous agents** and agile, human-centric robotics platforms. The scope extends to **societal benefits and industrial sustainability**, with funding for local digital twins for disaster preparedness, international cooperation for developing nations, and AI solutions designed to optimize energy-intensive industries while enhancing human-machine collaboration for the **workforce of the future**.

Total indicative budget 2026: €194M

- HORIZON-CL4-2026-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-51
- HORIZON-CL4-2026-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-53

2027 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DATA-03
- HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DATA-09
- HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11
- HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-05
- HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-06
- HORIZON-CL4-2027-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-52

Cluster 5 - Climate, Energy, and Mobility and related Missions

Cluster 5 calls focus on **AI for next generation digital energy systems** to enhance situational awareness and support safe decision-making, using digital twins and artificial intelligence for relevant models, simulation tools, and advancing the way the control rooms are designed and operated, increasing observability and entailing enhanced support for the operators, providing more automation and enhanced support for decision, faster response times and less room for error. **Data sharing in support to the training of AI models** for energy sector and **AI-assisted digital aircraft design**.

Total indicative budget 2026: €33M

2026 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL5-2026-10-D6-03
- HORIZON-CL5-2026-03-D3-19

2027 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL5-2027-07-D3-26
- HORIZON-MISS-2027-01-CLIMA-02

Cluster 6 - Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment and related Missions

Cluster 6 calls focus on **AI built advice for competitiveness and sustainability for farmers** spanning from a) human-centric, **generative AI solutions for consumers** and food service professionals to support them in the processes of food purchasing, preservation and preparation, b) **AI-based demonstrators** for Earth Intelligence tools integrating observations and socio-economic data, for **evidence-based decision making**, c) **innovative farming techniques** that integrate the latest technological advancements including artificial intelligence (AI), d) increased knowledge generated through the **use of AI and existing digital tools on how to help people improving their eating habits** by choosing healthy diets to prevent cardiovascular disease, e) investigating existing and new supporting technologies such as multi-omics technologies, high-throughput sampling/phenotyping systems, predictive models, AI, federated learning, cultivation methods and/or *in-vitro* validated models, and f) enhanced adoption of impactful sustainable **soil management solutions and strategies supported by AI-powered decision support systems** by land managers.

Total indicative budget 2026: €71M

2026 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-08
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-01-two-stage
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-06
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-09
- HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-11
- HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-04

2027 Call Topics Identifiers:

- HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-01
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-02-FARM2FORK-08
- HORIZON-CL6-2027-03-GOVERNANCE-04

Research Infrastructures

Research infrastructure calls represent **digital twins** and/or their major components for environment, climate and security including further development of the **data lab infrastructure around Destination Earth** in line with the AI continent Action Plan. Ebrains 2.0 aims for innovative **brain-inspired AI tools**, that are based on insights from brain research, for example, in learning, decision process, plasticity, with application in research, robotics, and neurotech.

- 2026 Call Topics Identifiers:
- HORIZON-INFRA-2026-TECH-01-02
 - HORIZON-INFRA-2026-SERV-01-01

- 2027 Call Topics Identifiers:
- HORIZON-INFRA-2027-TECH-01-02

Total indicative budget 2026: €47M

Horizontal Activities

Establish networks of **excellent labs** across Europe, dedicated to collaborative research **using AI in strategic and promising scientific areas** or domains, piloting RAISE and aligning research efforts. Development of **closed-loop scientific experimentation systems** that integrate automation with AI-driven, trustworthy decision-making processes in existing laboratory environments

- 2026 Call Topics Identifiers:
- HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-01
 - HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-02
 - HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-03

- 2027 Call Topics Identifiers:
- HORIZON-RAISE-2027-01-01
 - HORIZON-RAISE-2027-01-02

Total indicative budget 2026: €58M

EIC – Pathfinder and Advanced Innovation Challenges

Innovative ideas put forward under the **DeepRAP** Challenge must explore novel approaches, including combinations of existing techniques (i.e. neuro-symbolic AI), or the creation of entirely new frameworks that **go beyond current, traditional, deep learning and reinforcement learning paradigms**. These could be inspired by developments in diverse fields such as neuroscience, biology, physics, philosophy and more.

The DARPA style pilot Advanced Innovation Challenges includes the **integration of AI into physical systems** to accelerate the development towards integration, deployment and commercialisation of breakthrough Physical AI solutions that will **enhance Europe’s technological sovereignty**, sustainability, and global competitiveness.

- 2026 Call Topics Identifiers:
- EIC Pathfinder - DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems
 - EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges - Accelerating Physical AI: Embodied Intelligence for the Next Frontier of AI Powered Robotics

Total indicative budget 2026: €27M

Call Topics Identifier		Indicative Budget (M€)	CH Eligibility	Lump Sum
↳ <u>Health and related Missions</u>	HORIZON-MISS-2026-02-CANCER-01	35	✓ (1)	-
	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-STAYHLTH-02	21	✓ (1)(5)	-
	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-DISEASE-03	39	✓ (1)(5)	✓
	HORIZON-HLTH-2026-01-IND-03	20	✓ (1)(5)	✓
↳ <u>Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Societies</u>	HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-03	15	✓ (1)	✓
	HORIZON-CL2-2026-01-HERITAGE-04	12	✓ (1)	✓
↳ <u>Civil Security for Society</u>	HORIZON-CL3-2026-02-CS-ECCC-01	20	✓ (2)	✓
	HORIZON-CL3-2026-02-CS-ECCC-02	21	✓ (2)	✓
↳ <u>Digital</u>	HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-01	17	✓ (1)	-
	HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-02	38	✓ (3)	-
	HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-19	45	✓ (3)	-
	HORIZON-CL4-2026-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-03	25	✓ (3)	-
	HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-08	18	✓ (3)	-
	HORIZON-CL4-2026-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-09	6	✓ (1) (4) (5)	✓
	HORIZON-CL4-2026-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-51	30	✓ (6)	✓
	HORIZON-CL4-2026-02-DIGITAL-EMERGING-53	15	✓ (6)	✓
↳ <u>Climate, Energy, and Mobility</u>	HORIZON-CL5-2026-10-D6-03	13	✓ (1) (5)	✓
	HORIZON-CL5-2026-03-D3-19	20	✓ (5)	-
↳ <u>Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment and related Missions</u>	HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-08	15	✓ (1) (7) (8)	✓
	HORIZON-CL6-2026-03-GOVERNANCE-01-two-stage	12	✓ (5) (6)	✓
	HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-06	12	✓ (8)	✓
	HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-09	12	✓ (1)	✓
	HORIZON-CL6-2026-02-FARM2FORK-11	11	✓ (1) (8)	✓
	HORIZON-MISS-2026-05-SOIL-04	9	✓ (8)	✓
↳ <u>Research Infrastructures</u>	HORIZON-INFRA-2026-TECH-01-02	15	✓ (1) (5) (9)	✓
	HORIZON-INFRA-2026-SERV-01-01	32	✓ (1) (10)	-
Horizontal Activities	HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-01	15	✓	-
	HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-02	13	✓	-
	HORIZON-RAISE-2026-01-03	30	✓	-
↳ <u>EIC Pathfinder and Advanced Innovation Challenges</u>	EIC Pathfinder - DeepRAP	24	✓	-
	EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges - Accelerating Physical AI	3	✓	-
Total		613	31	17

- ✓ = Swiss participation as beneficiary (associated country from 1st January 2025).
- ✓ = Swiss participation as beneficiary (associated country from 1st January 2025) is conditional on a positive security assessment by the European Commission. The assessment will be published prior to the call opening date and [tbd] will be replaced.

- (1) Subject to restrictions for the protection of European communication networks
- (2) Participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States and Associated Countries. Entities established in an eligible country which are which are directly or indirectly controlled by a non-eligible country or by a non-eligible country entity, shall not participate in the action.
- (3) Participation is limited to legal entities established in Member States, Iceland and Norway and the following additional associated countries [tbd]. Entities established in an eligible country which are directly or indirectly controlled by a non-eligible country or by a non-eligible country entity, shall not participate in the action unless it can be demonstrated, by means of guarantees positively assessed by their eligible country of establishment.

- (4) Due to the scope of this topic, relevant international organisations with headquarters in a Member State or Horizon Europe Associated Country are exceptionally eligible for funding.
- (5) If projects use satellite-based earth observation, positioning, navigation and/or related timing data and services, beneficiaries must make use of Copernicus and/or Galileo/EGNOS (other data and services may additionally be used).
- (6) Applicants submitting a proposal for a blind evaluation (see General Annex F) must not disclose their organisation names, acronyms, logos nor names of personnel in the proposal abstract and Part B of their first-stage application (see General Annex E).
- (7) In line with the “restriction on control in innovation actions in critical technology areas” delineated in General Annex B of the General Annexes, entities established in an eligible country but which are directly or indirectly controlled by China or by a legal entity established in China are not eligible to participate in the action.
- (8) The following additional eligibility criteria apply: The proposals must apply the multi-actor approach. See definition of the multi-actor approach in this work programme part.
- (9) Beneficiaries must make use of the European Commission’s Destination Earth system.
- (10) Given the specific nature of this topic, access provision activities must be included in the proposal. Please read carefully the provisions under the section “Specific features for Research Infrastructures” of this work programme part before preparing your application.