MONTHLY REVIEW OF GRANT PROPOSALS

№2, May, 2026

HELIOS
WHITE-EMITTING ORGANIC LIGHTING SYSTEMS

Top Grants

HORIZON Europe

EIC Pathfinder Challenges

MSCA Doctoral Networks

This information overview was prepared as part of the **HELIOS project**. Here you will find current grant proposals, competition programs, and other important events in the fields of organic lighting, modern technologies, and biocircular economy.

https://helios-euproject.eu

Build the future together!

2026

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Contents

MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026

CALL: MSCA Doctoral Networks 2026 (HORIZON-MSCA-2026-DN-01)

The call aims to establish international consortia for the implementation of doctoral training programs (PhD). The goal is to train creative and innovative researchers capable of transforming knowledge into products and services. Projects must be based on the "Triple i" principles: inter-sectoral, inter-disciplinary, and international (international mobility). Funding covers the costs of recruiting researchers, their training, conducting research, as well as the consortium's management expenses. Separate tracks are designated for Industrial Doctorates (joint supervision with business) and Joint Doctorates (joint degrees).

DEADLINE: 24 November 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

Advanced integrated photonic devices for extended features and ultra-low power consumption (RIA) (Photonics Partnership)

CALL: HORIZON-CL4-2027-05-DIGITAL-EMERGING-03 (Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

The call is focused on developing the next generation of integrated photonic devices that ensure a significant reduction in power consumption and enhanced functionality. Priority is given to breakthrough research in the field of energy-efficient light sources, sensors, and data transmission systems. Projects must demonstrate innovation at the level of materials or device architecture to achieve the goals of the EU's digital and green transition. The expected technology readiness level is TRL 2-5.

DEADLINE: 18 March 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

Circular innovative advanced materials: facilitating the transition from design to markets (RIA) (Innovative Advanced Materials for the EU and Made in Europe partnerships)

CALL: HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-06

The call aims to create new advanced materials developed according to the principles of a circular economy ("circular by design"). The main goal is to accelerate the transition from laboratory development to industrial implementation, minimizing the use of critical raw materials and ensuring easy recyclability or biodegradability. Projects must focus on enhancing the durability, functionality, and sustainability of materials for key strategic EU sectors (energy, electronics, construction).

DEADLINE: 02 February 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

Fast Track to Innovation for breakthroughs in the Chemical Industry Action Plan (Research and Innovation Action)

CALL: HORIZON-CL4-2027-01-MAT-PROD-62

The call aims to support radical innovation in the EU chemical sector to ensure its competitiveness and environmental sustainability. The main focus is on accelerating the transition from scientific discoveries to the practical implementation of new synthesis and processing methods. Projects must propose solutions for the decarbonization of chemical processes, waste minimization, and the substitution of hazardous substances with safe alternatives ("safe-and-sustainable-by-design"). The results are expected to contribute to the digitalization of production and enhance Europe's strategic autonomy in obtaining high-performance chemical compounds and materials.

DEADLINE: 02 February 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing

CALL: HORIZON-EIC-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01-02

This call aims to translate decades of ageing biology research into tangible biotechnology-based solutions. Projects must deliver a proof of concept in one of three areas: an innovative preventative or therapeutic intervention targeting a fundamental molecular or cellular process of ageing; a biomarker-based tool to enable the responsible deployment of ageing interventions; or a non-animal method (NAM) to model ageing. The project must be based on a high-risk, high-gain scientific idea (TRL 1-4). A distinct feature is active project management by EIC programme managers to build a collaborative portfolio around the chosen approach. A successful application must demonstrate not only scientific excellence but also a vision for the future clinical deployment of the intervention.

DEADLINE: 28 October 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems

CALL: EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2026 (HORIZON-EIC-2026-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01)

This call aims to push AI systems beyond current pattern-recognition limitations by developing novel architectures and algorithms that enable genuine deep reasoning, abstraction, and planning capabilities. Priority is given to breakthrough research, including neuro-symbolic AI and hybrid approaches, that builds AI systems capable of causal reasoning, transfer learning, and adaptive planning in complex real-world environments. Projects must demonstrate integrated cognitive AI systems at TRL 4 on tasks such as scientific discovery or decision support. A distinct requirement is the development of new evaluation benchmarks and alignment with EU AI Act standards. Applications must demonstrate scientific excellence and a vision for trustworthy, resource-efficient AI that strengthens Europe's technological sovereignty.

DEADLINE: 28 October 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems

CALL: EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2026 (HORIZON-EIC-2026-PATHFINDERCHALLENGES-01)

This call aims to develop a new generation of advanced materials enabling highly efficient, miniaturised energy-harvesting systems with performance superior to existing solutions. Priority is given to innovative materials that harness new physical or chemical phenomena and reduce reliance on critical raw materials. Projects must implement these materials in miniaturised harvesting modules – such as small solar cells, thermoelectric generators, or piezoelectric devices – and integrate them into energetically autonomous systems such as IoT devices or wireless sensor networks. Research must reach TRL 4, demonstrating significant efficiency improvements in a laboratory environment. Projects are evaluated based on their potential for a radical shift in application range and contribution to Europe's energy autonomy.

DEADLINE: 28 October 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026

CALL: MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships 2026 (HORIZON-MSCA-2026-PF-01)

The call aims to support the professional development and mobility of experienced researchers (who already hold a PhD). The program allows scientists to implement their own research project at a foreign institution, acquiring new skills and working in an interdisciplinary environment. The call is divided into European Fellowships (mobility within Europe) and Global Fellowships (mobility outside Europe with a mandatory return). Evaluation is based on the scientific quality of the project, the researcher's qualifications, and the host organization's capacity to provide an appropriate level of mentorship and infrastructure. The grant covers 100% of the costs for the researcher's salary, mobility, as well as funds for research, training, and networking.

DEADLINE: 09 September 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

ERC Proof of Concept Grants 2026

CALL: Call for proposals for ERC Proof of Concept (ERC-2026-POC)

The call is designed exclusively for researchers who already hold an active or recently completed ERC grant (Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, or Synergy). The objective of the grant is to provide funding to verify the innovation potential of ideas that arose during the execution of the main fundamental project. The funds (a fixed amount of €150,000) can be used for technical validation, intellectual property protection, market analysis, searching for business partners, or developing a commercialization strategy. The PoC project does not involve new fundamental research, but instead focuses on the early stages of turning laboratory results into a real product, service, or social solution.

DEADLINE: 17 September 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

LINK TO THE CALL

Find out more

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// HELIOS PROJECT OVERVIEW

Organic Lighting: Science And Market Applications

Efficiently bridge cutting-edge organic material science with advanced lighting technology for a sustainable future. Empower researchers with unique methodologies that shape the future of white light-emitting organic devices (WOLEDs), integrating theoretical advancements with real-world applications. Seamlessly integrate innovation into market-ready solutions, ensuring an eco-conscious approach to next-generation lighting systems.