

RECTORS' FORUM NEWSLETTER 18 February 2025

HORIZON CALLS	
NGI Mobifree open call (2025-04M)	
	Call website
Deadline:	1. 4. 2025
Description:	<p>Mobifree is a pilot programme designed to push beyond the status quo of mobile software, and create a virtuous cycle of innovation through free and open source software, libre hardware and open standards. It has brought together a number of the "movers and shakers" of the open mobile ecosystem, in order to deliver a comprehensive development effort and advance a number of important free and open source technologies.</p> <p>Together we work towards better technologies to restore and maintain European sovereignty and to secure democratic ownership of the digital society. Our goal is to help mobile technology evolve to a more healthy state, provide people with concrete new tools and more reliable infrastructure, in order to provide better security and allow users more agency and choice. But this is a vast domain, with many more challenges than what any preconceived effort could tackle by itself. This is why we invite your contribution to help us reshape the state of play, and together create an open, trustworthy and reliable internet for all.</p>
Budget:	5.000 - 50.000 EUR
NGI TALER open call (2025-04T)	
	Call website
Deadline:	1. 4. 2025
Description:	<p>NGI TALER is a project funded by the European Commission and the Swiss State to roll out a new electronic payment system that benefits everyone: people, merchants, banks, financial authorities, auditors and anti-corruption researchers. The project doesn't have to start from scratch either, but builds on the strong foundations of GNU Taler — the privacy-preserving digital payment system developed by the GNU community and Taler Systems SA.</p> <p>This offers privacy for those that make payments, while enforcing transparency on those that sell. By providing micro payments at very low overhead, GNU Taler permits internet business models to shift away from advertising revenue or subscription models, especially for online publishers. No-risk transactions can lower transaction fees and open online payments for the underbanked population and citizens marginalized from digitalisation.</p> <p>Part of the budget of NGI TALER (15% to be precise) is reserved for open calls to fund additional free and open source efforts that are aligned with the topics and approach of NGI TALER. We invite your contributions to help reshape the state of play of digital payment systems, and to help create an open, trustworthy and reliable internet for all.</p>
Budget:	5.000 - 50.000 EUR
NGI Fediversity open call (2025-04F)	
	Call website
Deadline:	1. 4. 2025
Description:	<p>Fediversity is a comprehensive effort to bring easy-to-use, hosted cloud services with service portability and personal freedom at their core to everyone. It wants to provide everyone with high-quality, secure IT systems for everyday use. Without tracking, without exploitation, in a way that runs everywhere and scales effortlessly. Fediversity is based on NixOS, a disruptive Linux distribution with a unique approach to package and configuration management.</p> <p>Built on top of the Nix package manager, NixOS is completely declarative, makes upgrading systems reliable, and has many other advantages. Because it is reproducible, it is ideally suited for complex deployment scenario's where consistent behaviour, stability and configurability matter.</p> <p>One such "complex" deployment scenario is running state-of-the-art services for the Fediverse, like PeerTube, Mastodon, Owncast or Lemmy — especially if you want to for instance add services like live chat or transcoding. But even running more traditional services like modern e-mail servers with possible whistles and bells can be daunting.</p> <p>The same holds for deploying a VPN, private cloud storage, wiki, etc. Fediversity will enable all of these use cases, and more — finally bringing these to the market in a way that is as convenient as using a hosted service.</p> <p>Fediversity will deliver an ambitious development effort, but this is a vast domain with many more challenges than what any preconceived effort could tackle by itself. This is why we invite your contribution to help us reshape the state of play, and together create an open, trustworthy and reliable internet for all.</p>
Budget:	5.000 - 50.000 EUR

NGI Zero Commons Fund (2025-04Z)	
	Call website
Deadline:	1. 4. 2025
Description:	<p>It is clear that the <i>commons</i> model works, and continues to gain ground. Free and open source software and hardware, open standards, open data & AI, open science, creative commons and open educational resources are democratising innovation and learning, and are together driving society and industry forward at an unprecedented pace. But it is also obvious that there are major gaps that need to be fixed still. The answer to market failure and dystopian runaway technology lies in collective action and public investment.</p> <p>The goal of the NGI Zero Commons Fund is to help deliver, mature and scale new internet commons across the whole technology spectrum, from libre silicon to middleware, from P2P infrastructure to convenient end user applications. We have a holistic, full-stack approach, simply because there is no other way. If we want to reclaim the public nature of the internet and yield the full benefits from technology as a society, we need to have full coverage — period.</p> <p>Between now and 2027 we will award an unprecedented 21.6 million euro in small to medium-size R&D grants towards solutions that bring the next generation of the internet closer.</p>
Budget:	5.000 - 50.000 EUR

PartArt4OW First Call	
	Call website
Deadline:	3. 4. 2025
Description:	<p>The PartArt4OW Open Call is intended to support the implementation of participatory art initiatives (PAIs) addressing the following challenge: “Engage local communities for protecting and restoring marine and freshwater ecosystems and biodiversity”. PartArt4OW is looking for interdisciplinary and intersectoral projects mixing art, science and participatory practices in innovative ways.</p> <p>The overall goal of the supported PAI will be to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. increase citizens' ocean literacy 2. increase awareness on the challenges and pressures faced by the ocean and inland waters 3. mobilise citizens and stakeholders for the protection and restoration of oceans and inland waters.
Budget:	MAX: 50.000 EUR

FRONTIERS Science Journalism Residency Program (round 3)	
	Call website
Deadline:	6. 5. 2025
Description:	<p>The FRONTIERS initiative aims to empower science journalists to bridge the gap between complex scientific discoveries and public understanding. As an essential link between scientific endeavours and society, journalists play a crucial role in communicating high-risk/high-reward frontier research responsibly and accurately.</p> <p>By fostering independent journalism, this initiative wants to give journalists opportunities to learn and work on in-depth reporting projects by immersing themselves in the research environment and interacting with scientists and scholars.</p> <p>The main aims are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhance journalists' professional development • Foster critical thinking and ethical reporting • Bolster public trust in scientific institutions • Promote curiosity about frontier research • Strengthen mutual learning of scientists and journalists
Budget:	MAX: 4.000 EUR per month

HE-NEO-02 - INCREASE NETWORKING OF MS ASSETS LUNAR IMPACT OBSERVATIONS	
	Call website
Deadline:	10. 3. 2025
Description:	<p>The aim of this action is to keep the observation capabilities of European observing facilities capable of performing lunar impact monitoring observations. This will be done in terms of observation time. These are crucial observations to enable more in-depth research on both individual asteroids as well as the overall asteroid population in the solar system. Output from this process shall be provided in compliance with the information exchange standards for lunar impacts. Further to that, the researchers within this activity shall actively contribute to shaping and improving those standards. The addition of related data in a public portal shall recognise EU as the funding source for that information.</p>
Budget:	--

EVENTS

Simulation Technologies for Space Engineering Workshop

Brussels, February 26, 2025

More information [here](#)

Third Plenary Meeting of the Investors Dialogue on Energy

Brussels/Online, February 27, 2025

More information [here](#)

SNS JU opens Mobile World Congress 2025 with a session on the future of Europe's digital infrastructure

Barcelona, March 03, 2025

More information [here](#)

Global Multistakeholder High Level Conference on Governance of Web 4.0 and Virtual Worlds

Brussels/Online, March 31 and April 01, 2025

More information [here](#)

European Defence Fund Info Days

Brussels/Online, April 02 and 03, 2025

More information [here](#)

EMMC 2025 Brokerage event,

February 18, 2025

More information [here](#)

ADRA Partnership event "Future-Ready: On-Demand Solutions with AI, Data, and Robotics"

Brussels, February 18 and 19, 2025

More information [here](#)

ADRA Partnership Brokerage Event 2025,

Brussels, February 20, 2025

More information [here](#)

EuroHPC Summit

Krakow, March 18 - 20, 2025

More information [here](#)

European Robotics Forum

Stuttgart, March 25 - 27, 2025

More information [here](#)

Global Multistakeholder High level Conference on Governance for Web 4.0 and Virtual Worlds,

Brussels, March 31 and April 1, 2025

More information [here](#)

ADRA Partnership "European Convergence Summit"

Brussels, April 9, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Europe 2025 Cluster 4 Info Days,

Online, May 13 and 14, 2025

More information [here](#)

Photonics Partnership Annual Meeting

Brussels, May 15 and 16, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Implementation Day: Finding opportunities and submitting a proposal in Horizon Europe

Online, March 13, 2025,

More information [here](#)

Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Agreement Preparation in Horizon Europe

Online, March 29, 2025

More information [here](#)

Lump Sum Funding in Horizon Europe: How does it work? How to write a proposal?

Online, March 27, 2025

More information [here](#)

Horizon Implementation Day: Grant Management in Horizon Europe

Online, April 3, 2025

More information [here](#)

HORIZON EUROPE Cluster 4 Info Days

Online, May 13-14, 2025,

More information [here](#).

NEWS

1. Horizon Europe Work Programme 2025

New Horizon Europe Work Programme has been published. [Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment](#)

2. European Defence Fund: Work Programme 2025 published

On 30 January, the EU Commission published the 2025 Work Programme of the European Defence Fund (EDF). With a budget of EUR 1.065 billion, it covers 33 topics which contain seven thematic calls and two non-thematic calls for proposals, supplemented by two measures to support the Alliance for Defence Medical Countermeasures.

In this context, we would like to draw your attention to the [EDF Info Days 2025 on 2 and 3 April](#) (see KoWi Newsletter of 24.01.2025). More information [here](#)

3. Public consultation on the European Water Resilience Strategy

The EU Commission has started a public consultation to gather feedback for a Water Resilience Strategy. Different stakeholders, including universities, researchers and innovation policymakers, have until 4 March 2025 to provide their input to this initiative. The results of the consultation will be incorporated in the Commission Communication on the European Water Resilience Strategy. The cross-sectoral and long-term strategy aims to ensure that water sources are properly managed and to combat water scarcity. Further objectives are the expansion of the water industry and greater use of the circular economy. In addition, the EU Commission will be holding a stakeholder workshop on 6 March 2025 as part of the European Ocean Days (3-7 March) in Brussels. Registration for this event is open until 10 February. More information [here](#)

4. Knowledge Valorisation: European Commission seeks input on Socially Responsible Licensing

The EU Commission's Directorate General for Research and Innovation (RTD) has launched a [survey](#) to collect experiences on Socially Responsible Licensing practices. It is mainly addressed to professionals working in and with universities and public research organisations. The initiative comes under the EU Commission's efforts to boost Knowledge Valorisation of its funded projects, which is likely to gain further importance within the next EU Framework Programme. Within the EU context, the concept of Knowledge Valorisation goes beyond the more traditional tech transfer and also includes societal considerations. There is also a Horizon Europe funded project on Impact Licensing which was launched last year. More information [here](#)

5. Magna Charta Observatory's Work and Upcoming Events

The original Magna Charta Universitatum (MCU) was first signed by 388 universities from around the world in 1988 on the 900th anniversary of the founding of the University of Bologna. The document contained the fundamental principles of academic freedom and institutional autonomy. Its purpose was to guide universities in achieving good governance and self-understanding in the future. Its purpose was to guide universities in achieving good governance and self-understanding in the future. Since then, universities and the environments in which they operate have changed greatly. In the context of these changes, a multi-national group was formed to review the Magna Charta Universitatum which consulted globally. The outcome of this collective effort was a revised MCU which was adopted by the Governing Council of the Magna Charta Observatory (MCO) in July 2020. The new MCU is a document for the higher education sector which was prepared by the sector. While preserving the essence of the original foundational document, the revised MCU strives to be responsive to and resonate with contemporary challenges and concerns. Its tone recognises that the pursuit of the fundamental values has worth along with their actual attainment, which, in practice, is a constant quest. Moreover, it recognises the more global nature of what universities do and the wider range of local responsibilities which they have in serving local communities. To date, nearly 1000 universities from 94 countries have signed either one or other version of the MCU.

- **Recent and Upcoming Conferences:** Following the success of our 2023 Anniversary Conference in Poland on the role of universities in reconstruction and our 2024 Anniversary Conference in Washington, D.C., on "Universities, Governments, and Democracy," the 2025 Anniversary Conference in London (11-13 November) will explore the theme: "What Are Universities For? Higher Education Principles, Values, and Responsibilities in a Fragmented World." We welcome your participation; further details and registration information will follow.
- **Research & Publications:** The results of our research on *The Responsive and Responsible University* will soon be published, with a free book available at the 2025 MCU Anniversary in London.
- **Student Engagement:** Building on the success of our annual essay competition (97 entries from 24 countries in 2023, 144 entries from 45 countries in 2024), we are preparing the 2025 edition with a new theme and developing resources to help student leaders contribute more effectively to their universities.
- **Strategic Vision 2025-2030:** The MCO Council is finalizing its new strategy, setting a roadmap for how the Observatory will serve universities in the future. This will be published soon on our website.
- **For full reports and details, please visit website:** www.magna-charta.org

PUBLISHED PLANS AND PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

European Commission published plans (calls for evidence) areas of European policy:

- [EU-Gabon fisheries agreement - negotiation mandate for a new protocol](#)
- [Water Efficiency First - Guiding principles](#)

The European Commission has opened public consultations in the following areas:

- [GreenData4All - updates rules on geospatial environmental data and access to environmental information](#)
- [EU competition rules on technology transfer agreements \(revision\)](#)

PUBLICATIONS

- [Identifying, measures and reducing low-value care in the context of health system performance assessment](#)
- [Empowering girls and women in entrepreneurship, science and technology](#)
- [Unlocking the full potential of behavioural insights for policy: From influencing the individual to shaping the system](#)
- [Single programming document 2025-2027](#)
- [European civil protection pool](#)
- [Probabilistic Natech risk analysis in the defence sector](#)
- [A European model for artificial intelligence](#)
- [Assessing the risk to public health of multiple detections of poliovirus in wastewater in the EU/EEA](#)
- [Coordinated One Health investigation and management of outbreaks in humans and animals caused by zoonotic avian influenza viruses](#)
- [A training catalogue for civil protection and disaster management professionals](#)
- [Ten issues to watch in 2025: In-depth analysis](#)
- [Clean Energy Technology Observatory: Overall strategic analysis of clean energy technology in the European Union](#)