

European Startup and Scaleup Hubs pilot

Horizon Europe

● OPEN

Code

HORIZON-EIE-2027-02-CONNECT-01

Scope

International

Location

Europe

Curator

Marlene Faria

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Support type

Non-Refundable

Maximum Funding Rate

50%

Budget

20M€

Eligible Project Value

Up to 20M€

DATES & DEADLINES

Publication Date

October 19, 2026

Opening Date

October 6, 2026

Fase única

January 5, 2027 at 05:00 PM GMT+1 (78 days left)

DESCRIPTION

Objectives

This topic aims to pilot the European Startup and Scaleup Hubs (ESSH) by creating two cross-border networks of leading and emerging innovation hubs anchored in strong research, technology and higher-education ecosystems. The action seeks to help European deep-tech startups and scaleups grow into globally competitive companies by improving access to research, talent, corporate partners, investors, infrastructures, facilities, mentoring and entrepreneurial education.

The initiative also aims to strengthen regional innovation cohesion by connecting established hubs with less-connected ecosystems, increasing cross-border market expansion and attracting more public and private investment into European deep-tech ventures. Particular attention should be given to women-led startups and scaleups and to companies supported by the European Innovation Council .

Funding

Funding is provided under a Horizon Europe Programme Cofund Action . The topic has an indicative budget of €40 million , with two projects or hub networks expected to receive approximately €20 million

each . The EU contribution covers up to 50% of eligible costs , meaning that each consortium must secure the remaining co-financing from participating organisations or other public or private sources. The action may also provide financial support to third parties, with support of up to €60,000 per startup or scaleup , subject to the conditions established in the call.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Personnel Costs
- Travel costs
- Equipment costs
- Other goods, works and services costs
- Subcontracting
- Indirect Costs

ELIGIBILITY

Application Mode

Consortium / Copromotion

Action Types

Co-fund Action

Eligible Sectors

- Health & Life Sciences
- Mobility & Transport
- Aerospace & Defense
- ICT & Software
- Agro-Food
- Industry
- Energy & Environment
- Blue Economy
- Construction
- Logistics
- Forestry
- Other

Company Typologies

- Micro
- SME
- Large
- Public entities
- Private non-profit entities

EU PROGRAMME DETAILS

Call ID

HORIZON-EIE-2027-02-CONNECT-01

Submission Mode

Single-stage

EU Contribution

Around €20,000,000.00 per project

Expected Projects

2

Funding Rate Rule

The funding rate is 50% of the eligible costs as co-fund actions require the remainder of the cost to be secured from other sources.

OFFICIAL LINKS

Official Regulation

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-EIE-2027-02-CONNECT-01?order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sortBy=startDate&isExactMatch=true&type=1&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&programmePart=43121692&frameworkProgramme=43108390>

Grantavia page

<https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/european-startup-and-scaleup-hubs-pilot>

Schedule a meeting

<https://calendly.com/sandra-cardoso-epsa/reuniao>