

# Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations

European Defence Fund

CODE	EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO	SCOPE	International
LOCATION	Europe	STATUS	Open
PROGRAM	European Defence Fund	CURATED BY	Maria Macedo
GENERATED AT	June 8, 2026		

## Financial Details

SUPPORT TYPE	Non-Refundable	MAXIMUM FUNDING RATE	100%
BUDGET	35M€	ELIGIBLE PROJECT VALUE	Up to 5M€

## Dates & Deadlines

PUBLICATION DATE	Not defined	OPENING DATE	April 15, 2026
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## Application Phases

- Deadline: September 29, 2026 at 03:00 PM (114 days left)

## Objectives

### Objectives

This incentive under the European Defence Fund (EDF) aims to support the competitiveness, efficiency, and innovation capacity of the European defence technological and industrial base (EDTIB). The main objective is to fund non-thematic research actions led by innovative small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and research

organisations (ROs). The fund focuses on collaborative defence research and development with an emphasis on maximizing innovation, adapting technologies from civil applications, and addressing hybrid warfare. Only legal entities (public or private) established in eligible EU Member States or associated countries may participate, with the coordinator for each project required to be an SME. Both SMEs and non-profit research organisations carrying out R&D as their main objective are eligible to apply.

### **Co-financing**

The support offered is a lump sum grant reimbursed at 100% of eligible costs. The total available call budget is EUR 35,000,000. Each individual project may request up to EUR 5,000,000 (higher requests may be accepted if justified). The funding is non-refundable, and a minimum consortium of three independent entities from three different eligible countries is required. The budget share for research organisations cannot exceed 40% of the total requested grant for each project, and contracts for subcontracting are capped at 30% of the total.

### **Constraints**

Projects must be planned for a duration between 12 and 36 months, with extensions possible if justified. Only SMEs and non-profit research organisations are eligible as beneficiaries or affiliated entities. The coordinator must be an SME. Assets and activities must take place within eligible countries, except in highly justified and approved exceptional cases. Core evaluation criteria are excellence and potential for disruption, innovation, implementation, and impact. Adherence to EU values, highest standards of research integrity and ethics, and robust security protocols are mandatory. Proposals involving classified information must comply with specific EU security measures. Proposals not meeting key eligibility or admissibility requirements, or falling under EU restrictive or conditionality measures, will be excluded from funding consideration.

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## **Eligible Expenses**

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

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## **Eligibility**

### **Eligible Sectors**

- Industry
- Aerospace & Defense

### **Company Sizes**

- Micro
- Sme
- Private non-profit entities
- Public entities

### **Action Types**

- Collaborative defence research and development
- Disruptive technology transfer

- Adaptation of civic technologies for defence
- Feasibility studies
- Design of defence products or components

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## EU Programme Details

### CALL ID

EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO

### SUBMISSION MODE

Single-stage

### EU CONTRIBUTION

Up to EUR 5,000,000 per project

### EXPECTED PROJECTS

7

### FUNDING RATE RULE

100% lump sum grant

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## Official Links

Official Regulation:

[https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/edf/wp-call/2026/call-fiche\\_edf-2026-ls-dis-ra-smero\\_en.pdf](https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/edf/wp-call/2026/call-fiche_edf-2026-ls-dis-ra-smero_en.pdf)

Grantavia page: <https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/non-thematic-research-actions-by-smes-and-research-organisations>

Information Video: [https://youtu.be/zt\\_WT5RCbQY?si=LH47a4ha533liCAX](https://youtu.be/zt_WT5RCbQY?si=LH47a4ha533liCAX)

Schedule a meeting: <https://calendly.com/ines-carreira-fi-group/reuniao>