

# Non-thematic research actions by SMEs and research organisations

European Defence Fund

<b>CODICE</b>	<b>AMBITO</b>
EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO	Internazionale
<b>LOCALITÀ</b>	<b>STATO</b>
Europa	Aperto
<b>PROGRAMMA</b>	<b>CURATO DA</b>
European Defence Fund	Maria Macedo
<b>GENERATO IL</b>	
28 aprile 2026	

## Descrizione

### 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.

### Project Types

Projects must address state-of-the-art and disruptive technologies or solutions relevant for defence, reaching at least Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4. Eligible project typologies include actions to create, underpin, and improve knowledge, products and technologies for defence; activities increasing interoperability and resilience; and studies such as feasibility assessments. Acceptable actions are:

- Creation and integration of innovative knowledge, products, or disruptive technologies in any defence area
- Activities to reinforce interoperability, resilience, security of supply, and exploitation of defence results
- Feasibility studies on technologies or concepts
- Design of defence products, components, or technologies, including partial risk-reduction tests

Expenses eligible for funding are limited to those covered by the lump sum grant: personnel, equipment depreciation, consumables, travel, subcontracting below 30% of the budget, and eligible FSTP (Financial Support to Third Parties).

## 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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## Date e Scadenze

### DATA DI PUBBLICAZIONE

Non definita

### DATA DI APERTURA

15 aprile 2026

## Fasi di Candidatura

- Deadline: 29 settembre 2026 alle ore 15:00 (154 giorni rimanenti)

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## Dettagli Finanziari

### TIPO DI SUPPORTO

Contributo a Fondo Perduto

### TASSO MASSIMO DI FINANZIAMENTO

100%

### BUDGET

35M€

### VALORE DI PROGETTO AMMISSIBILE

Up to 5M€

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## Criteri e Documenti

### Spese Ammissibili

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

### Condizioni di Accesso

- Applicant must be an SME or non-profit research organisation
- Consortium of at least 3 independent entities from 3 different eligible countries
- Coordinator must be an SME

- Legal entities must be registered in eligible countries or associated countries
- Research organisation budget not to exceed 40% of total request
- Comply with EU, international and national laws

### **Criteri di Selezione**

- Excellence
- Innovation and technological development
- Implementation

### **Informazioni Obbligatorie**

- Application Form Part A (administrative and budget details)
- Application Form Part B (technical description)
- Detailed budget table/calculator
- Participant information
- List of infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources
- Actual indirect cost methodology declarations (if applicable)
- Ownership control declarations
- PRS declaration (if required)

### **Indicatori di Risultato**

- Number of innovative solutions for defence
- Level of involvement of SMEs in funded projects
- Number of technologies transferred from civil to defence applications
- Achievement of project milestones and deliverables

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## **Dettagli Programma UE**

### **ID BANDO**

EDF-2026-LS-DIS-RA-SMERO

### **CONTRIBUTO UE**

Up to EUR 5,000,000 per project

### **REGOLA DEL TASSO DI FINANZIAMENTO**

100% lump sum grant

### **MODALITÀ DI PRESENTAZIONE**

Single-stage

### **PROGETTI PREVISTI**

7

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## **Idoneità**

### **Settori Idonei**

- Aerospazio e Difesa
- Industria

### **Dimensioni Aziendali**

- Micro
- PMI
- Enti privati non profit

- Enti pubblici

### **Tipi di Azione**

- 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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## **Link Ufficiali**

Regolamento Ufficiale:

[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)

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

Prenota un incontro: <https://calendly.com/ines-carreira-fi-group/reuniao>