Skills for innovative SMEs

Horizon Europe

PENDING

Code
HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-05-01

Scope
International - Europe

Curator

Marlene Faria

FINANCIAL DETAILS

Support type
Non-Refundable

Maximum Funding Rate
100%

Budget
30M€

Eligible Project Value
Up to 30M€

Maximum Duration
24 months

Bonuses & Majorations

- Equal opportunities for researchers of all genders
- Recruitment of researchers from both STEM and SSH backgrounds
- Inclusion of MSCA fellows and PhD holders
- Support for family and childcare relocation costs

The total budget for this call is 30.000.000 EUR, with a single grant expected to be awarded. The support is provided as a non-refundable lump sum grant. At least 90% of the total budget must be allocated to financial support to third parties (FSTP), i.e., grants to SMEs. The maximum amount of FSTP that may be awarded to any single SME is 300.000 EUR for the entire duration of the action, though this ceiling may be exceeded if duly justified. The grant covers all eligible costs as defined in the Horizon Europe lump sum model.

DATES & DEADLINES

Opening Date
December 1, 2026

Deadline
March 3, 2027 at 05:00 PM

OBJECTIVES

This call aims to establish an SME support scheme through the Enterprise Europe Network to address labour and skills shortages in innovative SMEs across Europe. The scheme is designed to facilitate the recruitment and training of highly skilled researchers from abroad, thereby enhancing the innovation capacity of SMEs and supporting their research and innovation (R&I) projects. The action targets SMEs that have difficulty finding the necessary skills in their national labour markets, particularly in strategic sectors such as clean and circular technologies, energy, health, biotech, agriculture, bioeconomy, digital technologies, aerospace, and civil security. The scheme also seeks to provide career development opportunities for researchers, including those with PhDs and former MSCA fellows, by enabling them to gain experience in the private sector. Only entities that are beneficiaries in the Enterprise Europe Network as a result of the call SMP-COSME-2024-EEN are eligible to apply as coordinators for this action.

ELIGIBLE EXPENSES

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

ELIGIBILITY

Application Mode
Consortium / Copromotion

Company Typologies

- Micro
- SME
- Small Mid-Cap
- Mid-Cap
- Public entities
- Private non-profit entities
- Large

Action Types

- Transnational mobility scheme for PhD-level researchers
- Financial support to innovative SMEs for recruitment and training
- Organisation of networking events and training on industrial innovation and business management
- Promotion and dissemination of innovation-to-investment success stories

- Support for relocation and integration of recruited researchers
- Advertising vacancies on EURAXESS and other platforms
- Ensuring equal opportunities and gender balance in recruitment
- Monitoring and reporting on skills development and impact
- Coordination and Support Action

EU PROGRAMME DETAILS

Call ID
HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-05-01

Cluster
Horizontal Activities

Destination
Bridging Actions

Submission Mode
single-stage

EU Contribution
€30,000,000.00

Expected Projects
1

Funding Rate Rule
Up to 100% of eligible costs for Coordination and Support Actions (CSA)

OFFICIAL LINKS

Official Regulation
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-05-01

Grantavia page
https://grantavia.com/en/incentives/skills-for-innovative-smes

Schedule a meeting
https://calendly.com/filipa-silva-epsa/reuniao