NeurotechEU

The European University of Brain and Technology
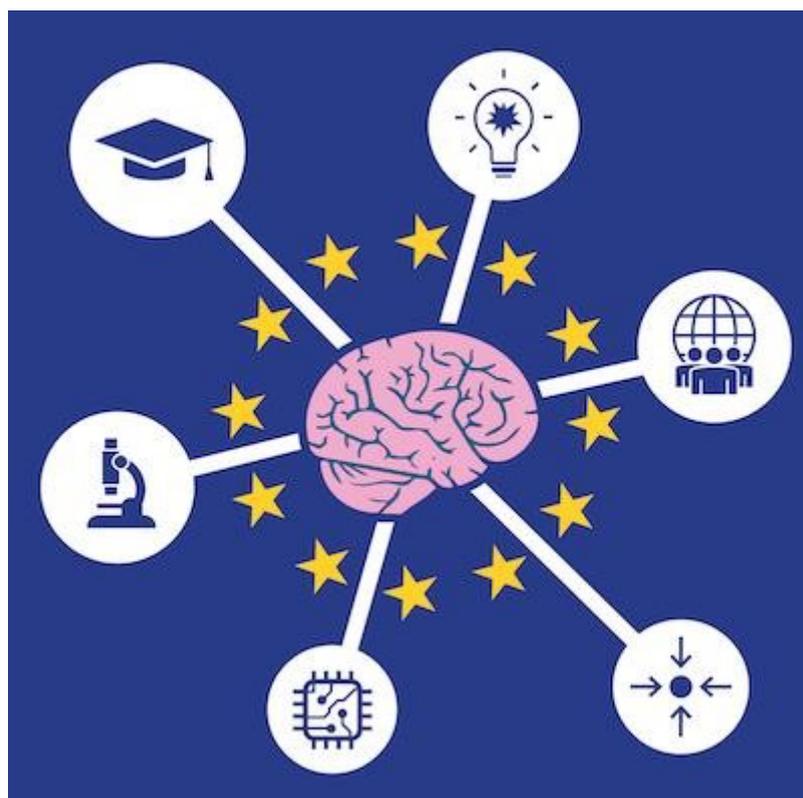
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Executive summary

The European University of Brain and Technology (NeurotechEU) aims to be the backbone of this new vision by bringing together eight leading universities, 250+ partner research institutions, companies, societal stakeholders, cities, and non-governmental organizations to shape education and training for all segments of society and in all regions of Europe.

To ensure the financing of the activities during the implementation period and the sustainability of NeurotechEU beyond the pilot years, partners are committed to a continuous search for top-up funding sources.

In the first part, this document summarizes the actions already taken by the consortium in relation to funding. In the second part, the document outlines future funding opportunities.

1. Short summary of the NeurotechEU

From health & healthcare to learning & education, Neuroscience has a key role in addressing some of the most pressing challenges that we face in Europe today.

Whether the challenge is the translation of fundamental research to advance state of the art in prevention, diagnosis, or treatment of brain disorders or explaining the complex interactions between the brain, individuals, and their environments to design novel practices in cities, schools, hospitals, or companies, brain research is already providing solutions for society at large.

There has never been a branch of study that is as inter-and multi-disciplinary as Neuroscience. From the humanities, social sciences, and law to natural sciences, engineering, and mathematics, all traditional disciplines in modern universities have an interest in brain and behaviour as a subject matter. Neuroscience has a great promise to become an applied science, to provide brain-centred or braininspired solutions that could benefit the society and kindle a new economy in Europe. The European University of Brain and Technology (NeurotechEU) aims to be the backbone of this new vision by bringing together eight leading universities, 250+ partner research institutions, companies, societal stakeholders, cities, and non-governmental organizations to shape education and training for all segments of society and in all regions of Europe.

Innovation and societal impact will be instilled as integral parts of education and training. Upon extensive consultation, including with 3500+ students, 200+ researchers, companies, and societal stakeholders, we have identified eight challenges that advancements in Neuroscience and Neurotechnology can help to solve problems facing the society in:
>   (1) health & healthcare,
>   (2) learning & education,
>   (3) nutrition & cognition,
>   (4) biological & artificial intelligence,
>   (5) neurotechnology & big data,
>   (6) public & ethics,
>   (7) economy & ecology, and
>   (8) smart cities.

We will coordinate our education and innovation efforts mainly, but not exclusively in these domains to ensure education, research, innovation, and societal impact collectively shape our joint efforts.

To ensure the financing of the activities during the implementation period and the sustainability of NeurotechEU beyond the pilot years, partners are committed to a continuous search for top-up funding sources. The reports on the mapping of the funding opportunities will:
- summarize the proposals the Alliance applied for jointly and
- support the partners of the Alliance in the planning of their joint activities; in the strengthening of their multi-, and interdisciplinary cooperation among each other and with the Associated Partners; and by the financial stability the active participation of the students, researchers, associated partners, innovators, scholars, and the administrative staff is ensured.

The activities are not limited to the development of mobility and pedagogies, international cooperation, summer and winter schools, consortia funding, RISE exchange programme, other Erasmus+ funding programmes (e.g., Knowledge Alliance), Lifelong Learning activities, but also include joint research and innovation projects and newly identified opportunities. All of these resources will be used solely for the continuation of the European University of Brain and Technology.

This document is to be presented to the Board of Governors for general distribution and involvement of the relevant actors and for action planning.

A copy will be made available on the NeurotechEU portal.

2. Actions taken by the partnership

Title of the proposal	Call	Participants from the NeurotechEU Alliance	Application deadline
MSCA Doctoral Networks	**MSCA Doctoral Networks 2022 (HORIZON-MSCA-2022-DN-01)**	7 (RU, UMH, UBO, BOUN, UMF, ULille, HR)	15/11/2022

2.1. MSCA Doctoral Networks

MSCA Doctoral Networks will implement doctoral programmes involving partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.

MSCA Doctoral Networks are open to the participation of organisations from third countries, in view of fostering strategic international partnerships for the training and exchange of researchers.

These doctoral programmes respond to well-identified needs in various R&I areas, expose the researchers to the academic and non-academic sectors, and offer training in research-related, as well as transferable skills and competences relevant for innovation and long-term employability (e.g. entrepreneurship, commercialisation of results, Intellectual Property Rights, communication).

Proposals for doctoral networks can reflect existing or planned research partnerships among the participating organisations.

The selection procedure for doctoral candidates must be open, transparent and merit-based, in line with the Code of Conduct for the Recruitment of Researchers. The vacancy notice (to be widely advertised internationally, including on the EURAXESS website) must include the gross salary (not including employer's social contributions) offered to the researcher.

MSCA Doctoral Networks are encouraged to lead to Industrial or Joint Doctorates.

2.2. Neurotech Research and Innovation (NeurotechRI)

NeurotechRI will develop an actionable strategy and a sustainable plan for multi-institutional research, development, and innovation. We propose a test-bed for implementation and measurable impact.

Neuroscience has great promise to become an applied science, to provide brain-centred or braininspired technologies and products that could benefit the masses and kindle a new economy in Europe. NeurotechRI, an initiative of the founding universities of the European University of Brain and Technology (NeurotechEU), aims to be the backbone of this new vision by developing an actionable, integrated, and

long-term joint strategy for research and innovation. The two initiatives, NeurotechEU and NeurotechRI, collectively offer a transformative framework for education, research, and innovation by network universities and the universities of the future.

By bringing together eight leading universities across the four corners of Europe, 30+ cross-sectoral associates in NeurotechRI and 250+ in NeurotechEU and working together in a structured way, we aim to transform cooperation in research and innovation across the Alliance, establish, coordinate and support joint initiatives and empower researchers across borders, disciplines, and sectors. Pushing the boundaries of fundamental research and applied science will mobilize innovation ecosystems, including the NeurotechEU ecosystem we are forming, while engaging active citizens to transform how we innovate, educate and impact the society at large.

The proposal was submitted to the call H2020-IBA-SwafS-Support-2-2020 (Support for the Research and Innovation Dimension of European Universities (Part II)) on Nov 10 2020.
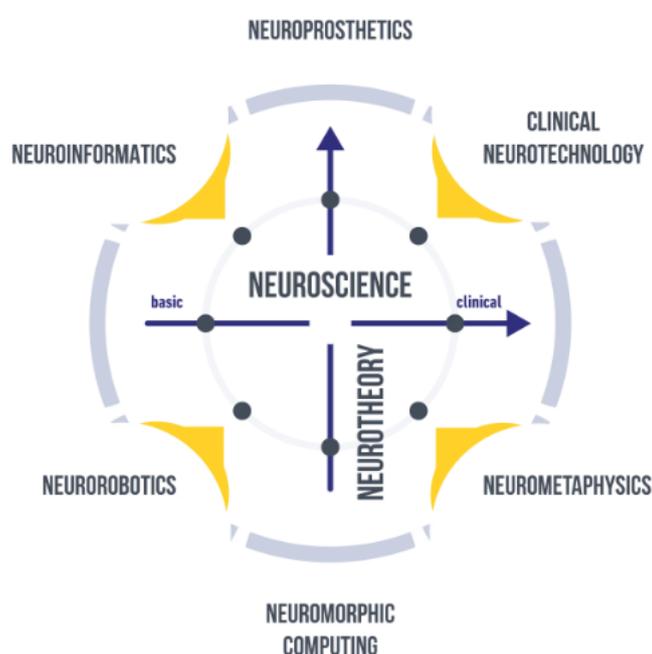
NeurotechRI work packages (WP). The strategy and action plan that will be developed across the 8 WPs will be tested via a joint graduate school. This approach will ensure that integrated research and innovation activities can be started without delay while the graduate school can be used as a test-bed for implementation and iterative improvement of the joint strategy and action plan. The tasks of each WP and the interaction between WPs are shown on the PERT chart on the next page.

3. Target programs of the future

Application deadlines in 2023 and 2024.

Program name	Focus	Application deadline	Budget
Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS) Key Action 1	Key Action 131 fundings available at each partner institution for the mobility of individuals (students and staff) and eventually Blended Intensive Programmes	2 February 2024	Envelop at each National Agency for the Erasmus+ programme
COST Action	Creation of research networks	25 October 2023 at 12.00 (noon) CEST	Typically 600K for a 4 year project with ~20 participants
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)	Tackling diseases (Two stage - 2024) (HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-03-two-stage)	19 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time	(a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)	Research infrastructure services to support health research and accelerate the digital transformation (2023) (HORIZON-INFRA-2022-SERV-B-01)	07 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time	(a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;
HORIZON-RIA HORIZON Research and Innovation Actions	Tools and technologies for a healthy society (Two stage - 2024) (HORIZON-HLTH-2024-TOOL-05-two-stage)	19 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time 11 April 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time	(a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)	Partnerships in Health (2023) (HORIZON-HLTH-2023-DISEASE-07)	19 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time	(a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;
Horizon Europe Framework Programme (HORIZON)	Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.2) (HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02)	19 September 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time	(a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;
HORIZON	HORIZON-MSCA-2024-DN-01-01	27 Nov 2024	EUR 451.15 million
HORIZON-MSCA-2023-CITIZENS-01-01	European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2024-2025	25 Oct 2023	EUR 15.42 million
MSCA COFUND 2023 (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01)	Co-finance for new or existing doctoral programmes and postdoctoral fellowship schemes	8 Feb 2024	Total: 96 569 000 Max 10M per project

Erasmus+ Programme (EPLUS) Key action 2 Erasmus Mundus Action	Erasmus Mundus Joint Master (consortium composed by at least 3 full partner institutions) Or Erasmus Mundus Desgin Measure (only one institution, consortium not required)	Mid February 2024 (tbc when call is launched)	EUR 3 – 5,7 million per EMJM (74 months duration) Or EUR 55k per EMDM (15 months duration)
Erasmus+ Programme (EPLUS) KA2 Partnerships for Innovation Alliance for Innovation – Lot 1	Alliances for education and entrepreises (lot 1) at minimum 8 full partner from 4 countries. HEI+VET + actors from labour market, enterprises, research	Early May 2024 (tbc when call is launched)	EUR 1 million per project of 24 months duration, EUR 1,5 million per project of 36 months duration
Erasmus+ Programme (EPLUS) KA2 Partnerships for Innovation Alliance for Innovation – Lot 2	Alliances for sectoral cooperation on skills implementing the 'blueprint' (lot 2) at minimum 8 countries covered with 12 full partners HEU+VET+other organisations; Address one of the 14 industrial ecosystems	Early May 2024 (tbc when call is launched)	EUR 4 million per project of 48 months duration
Erasmus+ Programme (EPLUS) KA2 Partnerships for cooperation	Widening to all sectors covered (VET, Adult, School)	Mid March 2024 (tbc when call is launched)	Small-scale: EUR 30k or 60k per project Large-scale: EUR 120k, 250k or 400k

3.1.   Erasmus+ Programme (ERASMUS)

Because all partner institutions are arwarded the Erasmus Charter of Higher Education, they can take advantage of other actions in the Erasmus+ Programme, such as learning mobility of individuals (key action 131) and various other cooperation schemes among institutions and organisations (key action 2). Therefore they have to apply to calls which are managed through each Erasmus+ National Agency in each country for the decentralised actions, or for centralised calls which are managed through the European Executive Agency EACEA. The various actions which are relevant for NeurotechEU are listed in the table above. The 2024 call for proposals is expected to be launched by the European Commission in November 2023.

Information is from the latest Erasmus+ Programme Guide 2023 (here: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/erasmus-programme-guide)

Launch of new call for proposals : November 2024

Official website of the Erasmus+ programme: https://erasmus-plus.ec.europa.eu/
Information is from: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/erasmus-edu-2022-eche-cert-fp;callCode=ERASMUS-EDU-2022-ECHE-CERT;freeTextSearchKeyword=;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=n

ull;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=callTopicSearchTableState

Call opening 23 February 2022
Deadline dates: 25 January 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time
28 January 2025 17:00:00 Brussels time
27 January 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time
26 January 2027 17:00:00 Brussels time

Funding available: EUR 387 200 000

An Evaluation Committee will evaluate the applications against admissibility, eligibility and award criteria.

3.2. COST Action

The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST) is a funding organisation for the creation of research networks called COST Actions. These networks offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond) and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation.

COST is bottom-up, this means that researchers can create a network – based on their own research interests and ideas – by submitting a proposal to the COST Open Call. The proposal can be in any science field. COST Actions are highly interdisciplinary and open. It is possible to join ongoing Actions, which therefore keep expanding over the funding period of four years. They are multi-stakeholders, often involving the private sector, policymakers as well as civil society.

Information is from: https://www.cost.eu/who-we-are/about-cost/

Call opening and deadline: the call is already open, 25 October 2023 at 12.00 (noon) CEST

Funding available: typical contribution is EUR 600 000 for a project duration of up to 4 years.

Other relevant programs in planning
3.3. Tackling diseases (Two stage - 2024) (HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-03-two-stage)

This topic aims at supporting activities that are enabling or contributing to one or several expected impacts "Tackling diseases and reducing disease burden". To that end, proposals under this topic should aim for delivering results that are directed, tailored towards and contributing to most of the following expected outcomes:

The scientific and clinical communities make effective use of state-of-the-art information, data, technologies, tools and best practices to better understand the condition, underpinning the development of diagnostics, therapeutics and/or preventive strategies.
The scientific and clinical community exchange data, knowledge and best practices, thereby strengthening their collaboration and building knowledge and care networks in Europe and beyond.

The scientific and clinical community make wide use of newly established and where relevant open access databases and/or integrate them with existing infrastructures for storage and sharing of collected data according to FAIR[1] principles, thereby encouraging further use of the data.

Policymakers and funders are informed of the research advances made and consider further support in light of the sustainability of the studies.

Patients and caregivers are constructively engaged with the research, which also caters to their needs. Health professionals have access to and use improved clinical guidelines on diagnosis and/or treatment of the condition.

Scope:

A number of medical conditions are not recognised and/or are in correctly diagnosed in a significant proportion of patients. As a consequence they are inadequately treated and often can become a chronic and heavy burden for the patient. These medical conditions[2] may be insufficiently researched even though they manifest with high prevalence[3], [4].

Information is from: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-hlth-2024-disease-03-14-two-stage;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-03-two-stage;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState

Call opening: 26 April 2023
Deadline: 19 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time
11 April 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

Funding available: (a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560;
                         (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;

3.4. Research infrastructure services to support health research and accelerate the digital transformation (2023) (HORIZON-INFRA-2022-SERV-B-01)

Project results are expected to contribute to all the following outcomes:

- integrated multi-disciplinary collaborative tools and services widely serving the European neuroscientific community, providing them with FAIR data indexing and archival, multilevel data mining and modelling/simulation of brain functions, and empowering workflows for reproducible research;
- a rich collection of multilevel human brain models, atlases and workflows, directly supporting the research and development for personalised brain medical treatments e.g. target binding drugs, precise neuro-stimulation positioning and guided surgery, regarding brain diseases such as epilepsy, Parkinson, consciousness disorders, or rare or multi-factor diseases;
- a comprehensive set of cognitive brain model scaffolds and associated modular / large-size neuromorphic and neurorobotic facilities for assisting the design and validation of applicative cognitive technologies benefitting from neurosciences latest knowledge, as enablers for autonomous and adaptive robotics approaches that use fast sensory processing and decision-making capabilities;
- supplementary population of EBRAINS facilities with multidisciplinary services/applications that answer well-identified new neuroscience related S&T needs, in correlation with national and European research priorities for neuroscience, brain medicine and cognitive-technologies;

- integration of EBRAINS with EOSC and linkage with common European data spaces in the life science and health sector;
- better-aligned national investments in neuroscience across Europe, building on the Member States' and Associated Countries' specialised competence centres, which in turn will help creating additional synergies and enabling further research activities around the EBRAINS services.

Call opening: 08 June 2023
Deadline: 07 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time

Funding available: (a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;

3.5. Tools and technologies for a healthy society (Two stage - 2024) (HORIZON-HLTH-2024-TOOL-05-two-stage)

The proposal(s) should develop and/or use tools and strategies that address critical areas of biomedical research where animal-models are currently used but are of limited translational value for investigation and development of prevention and treatment.

Such advanced tools and strategies should aim at a better understanding of the pathogenesis of disorders that feature a high impact on public health and exhibit a high rate of animal use or severe animal suffering, and enable the development of biomedical concepts with increased translational value, thereby ultimately leading to improved disease prediction, prevention and treatment.

Information is from:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-hlth-2024-tool-05-06-two-stage;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=HORIZON-HLTH-2024-TOOL-05-two-stage;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState

Call opening: 30 March 2023
Deadline: 11 April 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

Funding available: (a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;

3.6. Partnerships in Health (2023) (HORIZON-HLTH-2023-DISEASE-07)

The Partnership should contribute to priorities of the "Communication on effective, accessible and resilient health systems" (COM(2014) 215 final), the "Communication on enabling the digital transformation of health and care in the Digital Single Market; empowering citizens and building a healthier society" (COM(2018) 233 final) and support the objectives of the new EU4Health Programme (COM(2020) 405 final, Regulation (EU) 2021/522[1]).

This partnership should also contribute to achieving the objectives of the Pharmaceutical Strategy for Europe[2], in terms of fulfilling unmet medical needs (e.g. for rare diseases with so called "orphan medicinal products"[3]) and ensuring that the benefits of innovation reach patients in the EU.

Thanks to its capacity to bring together different stakeholders (e.g. research funders, health authorities, healthcare institutions, innovators, policymakers), the Partnership will create a critical mass of resources and to implement a long-term Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda (SRIA).

Information is from: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-hlth-2023-disease-07-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=HORIZON-HLTH-2023-DISEASE-07;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,2,8;statusCodes=31094501,31094502;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState

Call opening: 12 January 2023
Deadline: 19 September 2023 17:00:00 Brussels time

Funding available: (a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;

3.7. Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2024.2) (HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02)

Target group(s): Research and innovation (related actors such as vocational schools, higher education institutions, public authorities in the field of education and employment, innovation agencies, SMEs, deep tech companies, the European Innovation Council (EIC) and the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) start-ups and industry, research organisations, knowledge and technology transfer offices and associations, students and researchers.

Educational and research institutions are considered key places for knowledge production and innovation, and should be well connected within and beyond their respective regional innovation ecosystems. By increasing the connectedness of educational and research institutions, host regions will be able to increase their competitive advantage by fostering and possibly attracting talent, high-tech companies, and boosting innovation output in the area;

However, due to the diverse innovation landscape in Europe, educational and research institutions from better-connected innovation ecosystems benefit from more local accelerators with greater funding opportunities and more qualified business support services compared to their counterparts in other areas, including rural or peripheral areas.

The action should foster the creation of innovation ecosystems with educational and research institutions, or strengthen their existing links. Proposals should outline activities for supporting educational and research institutions to take a greater entrepreneurial role, e.g. through boosting innovation and entrepreneurship within their activities. The action should also ensure that educational and research institutions' assets and vision are articulated clearly and in line with respective regional specialisations (such as smart specialisation strategies), so they can easily be integrated into innovation ecosystems and economic value chains.

The proposals should leverage best practices of the private and public sector in the EU's well performing innovation hubs and enhance collaborations between businesses with R&I actors in educational and research institutions. The proposals should build on the educational and research institutions' focus areas and relationship to innovation, matching regional and business interests (and where relevant complement smart specialisation strategies), in order to maximize each stakeholders' strengths and accelerate progress. The proposals should outline activities that will foster connectedness of the innovation ecosystems while preventing brain drain and encourage talent to stay in emerging regions, including rural areas. Only by providing local talents, including women, with knowledge and opportunities to contribute to the local private sector or develop their own businesses, local innovation ecosystems can expand based on sustainable and inclusive growth. The proposals should valorise high levels of technical skills, including

in deep tech, in developing innovation ecosystems with hands-on knowledge and experiences in business management and international scale-up processes.

Information is from: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-eie-2024-connect-02-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=%20%28HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-02%29;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=1,0;statusCodes=31094501,31094502;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState

Call opening: 06 June 2024
Deadline: 19 September 2024 17:00:00 Brussels time

Funding available: (a) budget line 01.030100: EUR 688 560; (b) budget line 01.030200: EUR 309 352;

3.8. MSCA Doctoral Networks 2024

The complete description is provided in section 2.1. above.

3.9. European Researchers' Night and Researchers at Schools 2024-2025

MSCA and Citizens aims to bring research and researchers closer to the public at large, to increase awareness of research and innovation activities and to boost public recognition of science and research education. It will show the role of the researcher for the society and economy, as well as the impact of researchers' work on citizens' daily lives. It also aims to raise the interest of young people in research and scientific careers.

MSCA and Citizens will address the general public, attracting people regardless of the level of their scientific background, with a specific focus on families, pupils, students, and notably those who do not have easy access to, and thus are less inclined to engage in, STEAM fields (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) or research activities. Inclusiveness should be key, in view of broadening access to science and research to all.

MSCA and Citizens should also promote gender balance and inclusiveness in science, Open Science, and Responsible Research and Innovation.

These objectives will be pursued through the organisation of the European Researchers' Night and the implementation of the Researchers at Schools initiative.

The European Researchers' Night is the largest research communication and promotion event taking place across EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries.

The Researchers at Schools initiative aims to strengthen the connection between research and education, by bringing researchers to schools and other pedagogical and educational centres to encourage interaction with pupils at all levels of primary and secondary education. Researchers and pupils will meet to talk about current and future challenges of our societies and the related key role of research. Pupils will learn directly about research projects and activities addressing the EU priorities and main orientations.

Call deadline: 25 October 2024

Funding available: EUR 15.42 million

3.10. MSCA COFUND 2023 (HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01)

The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Co-funding (CoFund) is a funding program by the European Commission designed to support researchers' mobility and career development in Europe. It operates within the broader framework of the Horizon Europe program. MSCA CoFund provides financial support to universities, research institutions, and other organizations to run their own fellowship programs, such as doctoral or postdoctoral fellowships, in various scientific and technological fields.

The key features of MSCA CoFund include:
- Research Mobility: It encourages researchers from different countries to engage in cross-border and intersectoral mobility, fostering international collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Career Development: MSCA CoFund offers opportunities for researchers at different career stages, from early-stage researchers to experienced professionals, to advance their careers through research and training.
- Funding Mechanism: Institutions receive co-funding from the European Commission to support their fellowship programs, allowing them to attract and retain talented researchers.
- Competitive Selection: Researchers typically apply for positions within the MSCA CoFund projects through a competitive selection process, ensuring that the most qualified candidates are selected.
- Research Impact: The program aims to contribute to scientific excellence, innovation, and the development of the European Research Area by supporting high-quality research proje

Funding scheme:
EU funds a lumpsum of 2800 EUR/PM per PhD candidate or 3980 EUR/PM per postdoctoral researcher: This lumpsum can be purposed for all costs related to COFUND , including but not limited to management of the programme , overhead, bench fees, salary of the candidate, secondments, travelling costs, etc.
To cover all remaining costs and can come from all other sources, except for funding from H2020 or Horizon Europe. This could be matching from university, companies, national grants, ERASMUS + etc.
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The maximum funding per project is 10M EUR (could translate to e.g. up to 75 PhDs for 4 years, and up to 70 postdoctoral researchers for 3 years)

Call opening: 10/10/2023
Call deadline: 8/02/2024

Funding available: Total of 96,569M€ with a Max of 10M€ per project.

Call web site:
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/horizon-msca-2023-cofund-01-01;callCode=null;freeTextSearchKeyword=COFUND;matchWholeText=true;typeCodes=0,1,2,8;statusCodes=31094501,31094502,31094503;programmePeriod=null;programCcm2Id=null;programDivisionCode=null;focusAreaCode=null;destinationGroup=null;missionGroup=null;geographicalZonesCode=null;programmeDivisionProspect=null;startDateLte=null;startDateGte=null;crossCuttingPriorityCode=null;cpvCode=null;performanceOfDelivery=null;sortQuery=sortStatus;orderBy=asc;onlyTenders=false;topicListKey=topicSearchTablePageState

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4. Summary and Conclusions?

Sustainability is an important issue for the Alliance, that is why we have to look for the possibilities of continuation. The cooperation and the activities have to be sustainable environmentally, socially, technically and no doubts, financially, too.

One of the possiblities is to look for top-up funding opportunities primarily but not exclusively in Europe. As European University Network (EUN) projects are important, bilateral and multilateral cooperation of the Alliance members – complemented by other relevant partners – would help the development of the cooperation.

As neurotechnology is an emerging and wide scientific area, grants and cooperations out of the EU worth mentioning (eg. US, Japan), and we are responsible for making the results available for the less developed countries of the world.

Besides grants, we have to strongly consider the involvement of the industrial partners for the longer-term sustainability of the Alliance, which is inevitable to be able to ensure the education of the NeurotechEU students.

Long term goals require the prediction of the future, for which the contacts with the stakeholders are of utmost importance.

The Alliance has to keep on eye on the synergies of the cooperation with other EUNs, too.

This way, the NeurotechEU can have an impact on the education of the future generations and on the development of neurotechnologies, which lead us to important social and economic impacts.