

● APPLY NOW

# PES – Support for Project Establishment Aimed at Horizon Europe

PUBLISHED 26 FEB 2025 | LAST UPDATED 05 MAY 2025

Financial scheme: Coordination and Support Activity

Application deadline: Open-ended

Relevant thematic areas for this call: Internationalisation

Target groups:

Public sector, Industry, Research organisations

Amount of funding presumed available for this call for proposals:

NOK 28 000 000

Project duration: maximum 12 months

Contact for the call: Kristine Ziegler Hoen |  
pesheu@forskningsradet.no

Create application

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Please note that from 2025, Norwegian coordinators can apply for  
! additional PES support for projects that include participants from African  
countries.

## Important dates

**01 Jan 2025: Earliest permitted project start**

**01 Dec 2027: Latest permitted project start**

**31 Dec 2027: Latest permitted project completion date**

## Last updates

05 MAY  
2025

- We have changed the template for project description.

## Purpose

The Project Establishment Scheme (PES) is intended to ensure that applications with Norwegian participation in

Horizon Europe are of high quality, so that Norwegian potential is exploited as well as possible. This call is intended to contribute to increasing the impact of Norwegian applications to Horizon Europe and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

## SHORTCUTS

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- ↓ Who can participate in the project?
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## About the call for proposals

Project establishment support is intended to contribute to the high quality of applications with Norwegian participation to Horizon Europe and the European Defence Fund (EDF).

We do not cover calls from other programmes, such as Digital Europe, COSME and Invest EU. ENOVA has a separate scheme for support for project establishment for the EU Innovation Fund.

### Application deadlines

You must apply for funding as early as possible – preferably as soon as a project proposal begins to take shape – and no later than four weeks before the EU deadline. If you are coordinating a collaborative project, you should contact a national contact person (NCP) no later than 12 weeks before the EU deadline. This is important to ensure adequate professional guidance during the application process from the NCP or from relevant EU advisers.

Applications relating to the Accelerator, Women TechEU and the European Defence Fund (EDF) may be submitted by the deadline applicable to each call.

The call is available in both Norwegian and English. The text of the Norwegian call for proposals is legally binding.

Who is eligible to apply?

Norwegian actors with a formal role in an EU application can apply for funding.

Research organisations with a framework grant for 2025-27 may not submit individual applications for this call, unless the EU application concerns the European Defence Fund (EDF) or additional funding for EU applications that are coordinated by Norway and include participants from one or more African countries or participants from Ukraine.

Research organisations without a framework grant can receive a maximum of NOK 500,000 in support from the scheme per year. When several Norwegian applicants participate in the same project proposal, only those applicants who do not receive a framework grant must submit a joint application for project establishment support.

Who can participate in the project?

### **Requirements relating to the Project Owner**

The Project Owner organisation listed as the Project Owner in the application form must have approved the submission of the application. The Project Owner is required to meet the formal requirements for participation in EU project proposals.

If the application is a collaboration between several organisations, the Project Owner must submit the application on behalf of all the partners.

### **Requirements relating to the project manager**

The project manager's professional competence and suitability to carry out the project will be assessed. There are no formal requirements for the project manager's qualifications.

What can you seek funding for?

The allocation of funding under this call will be based on the type of project, the applicant's role and the budget in the planned EU application. The amount of support is also based on the number of Norwegian actors applying for support.

See "Relevant thematic areas" below for a more detailed description of the funding rates and conditions for support for various EU calls.

The funds can, for example, be used to cover costs related to travel, participation in meeting places, positioning and hours, and the purchase of services to prepare project proposals. All support amounts are maximum limits. The support is paid as a fixed price per submitted EU application.

Funding will be awarded if the submitted EU project proposal achieves a score corresponding to the threshold or better in the given call. For EU applications that are made in two stages, our support will only be disbursed if the EU application exceeds the threshold value after stage two, which means that support will not be awarded for stage one. Separate rules apply for the EIC Accelerator (see more under "Relevant thematic areas" further down).

### **Resubmit an application**

Only applications directed to Women TechEU can receive support for a new submission if the EU application was assessed as equal to or above the threshold value at the time of initial submission.

## Conditions for funding

Support for a research organisation goes to the organisation's non-economic activity. It therefore does not constitute state aid. The Research Council assumes that the necessary accounting separation is in place.

## De minimis aid

Enterprises will receive the aid as "de minimis aid". This means that the company can receive a maximum of EUR 300,000 over a three-year period. Prior to any payment of de minimis aid, we will ask for a written confirmation and an overview of all other de minimis aid that the company has received during the last three financial years. For enterprises that are part of a group, the maximum limit generally applies to the group as such. See also the EU de minimis aid regulation (Commission Regulation (EU) 2023/2831 of 13 December 2023).

[Read more about de minimis aid here.](#)

The state aid regulations impose special requirements on companies that receive project funding from Eurostars. Companies that fall under the definition of "enterprises in difficulty" cannot expect to receive support to write Eurostars applications.

The Research Council's prerequisites for the allocation and disbursement of funding for the first year, and any commitments and disbursements for subsequent years, are set out in our general terms and conditions for R&D projects, which you can find in full on the information page [What the contract involves](#).

If you are granted the project, the following must be in place before you enter into a contract with us:

- Grant recipients that are research organisations and entities in the public sector (Project Owners and partners) must have [action plans for gender equality \(GEPs\)](#) available on their websites. The requirement does not apply to the private sector, interest groups or the voluntary sector.

## Reporting and disbursement

The final report for the project must be submitted via My RCN Web, and must be submitted to the Research Council when the applicant has received an evaluation from the EU. The final report must include an Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) or an equivalent application assessment. With the exception of the EIC Accelerator, the condition for disbursement of our funding is that the submitted EU application achieves a threshold value or better for the call in question. Exceptions to the absolute threshold value requirement may be considered if the applicant is a first-time applicant to Horizon Europe.

If the EU application receives a score that is equal to the threshold value or better in the given call, you must send the EHF invoice without VAT to us at the same time as the final report.

[Send invoice electronically to the Research Council](#) (forskningsradet.no)

We pay the support as a lump sum. If necessary, we can request specification of costs for the project.

# Relevant thematic areas for this call

Remember to tick the box in the application form under "Location" which call in Horizon Europe you are applying for project establishment support for.

## Internationalisation

### **EIC Accelerator and Women TechEU**✓

#### **EIC Accelerator**

The EIC Accelerator is aimed at companies with market-creating innovation projects that have a great potential to grow internationally. The application is divided into two steps (step 1 or Plug-In) and step 2.

Read more about EIC Accelerator and advisory services on Innovation Norway's service page: [EIC Accelerator Innovation Norway](#) (in Norwegian). We encourage you to contact an EU adviser in your region for professional guidance when you are considering applying for Step 1. The EU Adviser can assist in the application process for both Step 1, Plug-In and Step 2.

If you progress to Stage 2, you can apply for project establishment funding for the EIC Accelerator to cover the costs of preparing the application. Project establishment support is not given for Stage 1 and the Plug-In phase.

An early contact about the EIC Accelerator application provides an opportunity for professional guidance from an EU adviser in your region. Submit your application for project establishment support as soon as you have received confirmation that you will proceed to step 2.

The application will be administratively processed by the Research Council.

#### **Who can apply for PES funding?**

Norwegian small and medium-sized enterprises that are eligible to apply for step 2 of the Accelerator.

Maximum amount of support based on Stage 1 and Plug-IN: NOK 100,000.

The appendices below are mandatory if you are applying for funding to write an EIC Accelerator application. Note that you do not need to attach a completed template for the project description. You upload the Evaluation Summary Report for Step 1 as an attachment under "Project description", or confirmation showing that the company is eligible for the Plug-In.

- Appendix 1: Evaluation Summary Report for Step 1, or confirmation showing that the company is eligible for the Plug-In.
- Appendix 2: Applicant declaration for de minimis aid (which you can download at the end of the call)

#### EIC Accelerator deadlines for 2025

- 12 March 2025
- 1 October 2025

### Women TechEU

Through this call, we can award NOK 50,000 to applicants who will write an application aimed at a Women TechEU call. Disbursement of the PES support is subject to the Women TechEU application receiving an overall mark of 10 or higher. Otherwise, the commitment will be withdrawn. We can also provide NOK 25,000 in support for a new submission (resubmission) if the score achieved in the first round is above the threshold value.

The deadline for applying for funding for Women TechEU will be stated on the EU's website. PES applications cannot be submitted before the EU deadline has been published. PES applications to Women TechEU can be submitted up to the day before the relevant application deadline, but preferably earlier.

Read more: [Women TechEU](#)

#### Mandatory attachments

- Appendix 1: Project description (which you can download at the end of the call)
- Appendix 2: Applicant declaration for de minimis aid (which you can download at the end of the call)

#### Deadlines in 2025

- 17 March 2025



### Contact

Hilde Garegg Gårdsmoen [hgg@forskningsradet.no](mailto:hgg@forskningsradet.no) +47 93266400

The rates in this overview apply regardless of who publishes a call (partnerships or calls directly from Horizon Europe). When there are several Norwegian participants involved in an EU application, all participants without a framework grant must apply together for support from us.

## Extra support for applications with African participants

From 2025, extra support will be granted to Norwegian coordinators who include participants from one or more African countries in applications aimed at calls for proposals from Pillar 2. Additional support from PES per application is NOK 150,000 and applies to the project types RIA, IA, CSA and PCP.

African participants must have a formal role as a beneficiary and their own budget in the Horizon Europe application. Being an "Associated Partner" is not sufficient to qualify for additional funds from the PES scheme.

R&D organisations with a framework grant can apply for the extra bonus amount through this call. The application deadline is 4 weeks before the relevant EU deadline.

[Contact persons can be found under our list of national contact points \(NCPs\).](#)

<b>Project type</b>	<b>Role in the project</b>	<b>Maximum amount of funding when the Horizon Europe application is equal to the threshold value or above</b>
Research & Innovation Action (RIA)  Innovation Action (IA)	Coordinator	Up to NOK 400,000 to coordinate a large project with a budget of more than EUR 10 million  Up to NOK 300,000 to coordinate a large project with a budget of between EUR 5-10 million  Up to NOK 200,000 to coordinate a large project with a budget of up to EUR 5 million  In exceptional cases, we may consider increasing the amount of support in the case of large projects with many participants.

			NOK 150,000 extra support to include participants from one or more African countries
		Work Package Leader	NOK 70 000
		Participant	NOK 50 000
Coordination & Support Action (CSA)  Public Procurement of Innovative Solutions (PPI) Pre-Commercial procurement (PCP)	Coordinator		NOK 200 000  NOK 150 000 extra support to include participants from one or more African countries
	Work Package Leader		NOK 70 000
	Participant		NOK 50 000
COST (create new network)	Coordinator		NOK 100 000
Eurostars	Coordinator		<p>NOK 100 000</p> <p>The total budget per project is NOK 100 000 for an application that is coordinated by Norway, including other Norwegian partners.</p> <p>The applicant must meet the criteria set for Norwegian applicants to qualify for PES support, as shown on <a href="#">the information page about Eurostars</a>.</p> <p>Threshold requirements to receive funds from PES for Eurostars 1) Score above the minimum requirement of 3.6 for each of the three criteria (Quality, Impact, Excellence) 2) The</p>

application must be approved in terms of the Legal and Financial Viability Check.

## ERC and Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions▼

Support rates if you are applying for support for the ERC and Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions:

Project type	Role in the project	Maximum amount of support when the Horizon Europe application is "eligible"*
MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)	Coordinator	NOK 200 000
	"Beneficiary"	NOK 100 000
MSCA Staff Exchanges (SE)	Coordinator	NOK 75 000
	"Beneficiary"	NOK 35 000
MSCA Co-funding of regional, national and international programmes (COFUND)	Coordinator	NOK 200 000
MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)	An applicant	NOK 20 000
ERC Synergy Grant (SyG)** ERC Starting Grant ERC Consolidator Grant ERC Advanced Grant	The applicant must be the coordinating organisation	NOK 75 000

\*)ERC: the minimum requirement for disbursement of PES support is grade A or B in Step 1.

MSCA: minimum disbursement of PES support is 70 points.

\*\*\*) If there are more than two Norwegian applicants for the ERC Synergy Grant (SyG), a maximum of NOK 200,000 will be granted in support from PES.

## ✉ Contact

Per Magnus [pmk@forskningsradet.no](mailto:pmk@forskningsradet.no) 4702247635  
Kommandantvold

Berit Sundby Avset [bsa@forskningsradet.no](mailto:bsa@forskningsradet.no) 4793059324

## Support for applications directed to the European Defence Fund (EDF)

Norwegian actors with a formal role in an application directed against calls for proposals from EDF can apply for funding under this call. This also applies to Norwegian institutions with a framework grant from PES Horizon Europe.

Unless otherwise agreed with the contact person in the Ministry of Defence, the deadline for applying for PES funds is four weeks before the application deadline in EDF.

The applications are assessed by the national contact point for EDF. The PES funds will be disbursed when the evaluation report is available. The minimum requirement to receive the amount of support from PES is that the submitted EDF application achieves a score equal to threshold value or better.

Project type	Role in the project	Maximum aid amount when the EDF application is equal to the threshold value or above
Research Action Development Action	Coordinator:	NOK 500 000
	Work package leader:	NOK 200 000
	Participant:	NOK 75 000

## Mandatory attachments

- Project description (use the template you can download at

the bottom of the call)

- Self-declaration for de minimis aid (applies to companies, use the template you can download at the bottom of the call)

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## Contact

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Anders B. Åsheim

Anders-  
Bjorannesset.Asheim@8.dep.no

+47 924 01

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## Practical information

### Requirements for this funding scheme

Please note that you can only submit the application once. If you submit the application before the deadline and subsequently see that it still needs to be changed, you can create a new application – e.g. as a copy of the one you have already submitted – and in this way submit a new version before the deadline expires.

### General requirements

- The applicant/Project Owner must be in the correct category for the relevant EU call
- The applicant has not been awarded a framework grant for the current year (exception for EDF and additional support to include applicants from African countries)
- The application must be within the topic/purpose specified in the EU call.
- The amount of the application and the type applied for must correspond to the framework for the call.
- The requested attachments must be attached and in the correct template.
- The application and all attachments must be written in Norwegian or English.

### Mandatory attachments

- Project description: a standard template must be used, you can download this at the bottom of the call.
- Self-declaration for de minimis aid. Applies to businesses. Download the template at the bottom of the call.
- Eurostars applications: Companies that are going to participate in a

Eurostars project must attach documentation confirming that the company has at least NOK 500,000 in equity at the time of application.

Documentation requirements: Publicly approved annual accounts.

Alternatively, in the case of a capital increase, there must be a declaration from an auditor, lawyer, financial institution/bank or accountant.

- Accelerator: application assessment for step 1.

Applications that do not meet the requirements above will be rejected.

All attachments to the application must be submitted with the application. We do not accept attachments submitted after the application deadline unless we have requested additional documentation.

We will not consider documents and websites linked to in the application, or attachments other than those specified above. Be careful to upload the correct attachment type, as there are no technical restrictions on what kind of templates it is possible to upload in the application form.

#### Assessment criteria

We assess the applications in light of the purpose of the call and according to these criteria:

#### **Excellence**

##### Originality/Novelty

- The extent to which the concept is sound, credible and novel.

##### Solidity

- The extent to which the project objectives are clear and relevant.
- The quality of the proposed deliverables from the project.

#### **Impact**

##### Potential

- The extent to which the expected effects are specified.
- The extent to which expected impacts on the system and societal levels are specified.

##### Knowledge sharing and exploitation

- The quality of the proposed communication and dissemination activities.
- The extent to which it is credible that the proposed outputs will contribute to the specified effects and impact.

#### **Implementation**

##### Project Manager and project group

- The extent to which the Project Manager and project group are qualified and have the necessary expertise and are positioned to implement the project.
- The extent to which management structures and procedures are appropriate.

##### Plans and management

- The extent to which the work plan is clear and understandable, and the time table realistic

- The extent to which objectives and measures are coherent.
- The extent to which the project has the support of the leadership of the Project Owner and any partners, and the allocation of roles in the project is clear.
- The extent to which the budget is realistic and appropriate, and resources are allocated so that each of the partners can fulfil their role.
- The extent to which potential risks have been discussed.

#### Administrative procedures

Applications are processed administratively. We usually send a response letter no later than four weeks after the application has been received.





See also: [How we process applications.](#)

## Create application

Applications for PES – Support for Project Establishment Aimed at Horizon Europe should be created on My RCN Web. Application templates should be filled and uploaded in the application.

Create application

## Download templates

	Mal for prosjektbeskrivelse - PES Horisont Europa.docx	<a href="#">↓</a>
	Template for project description - PES Horizon Europe.docx	<a href="#">↓</a>
	Egenerklæringsskjema for bagatellmessig støtte.docx	<a href="#">↓</a>
	Declaration form for de minimis aid .docx	<a href="#">↓</a>

\* MANDATORY ATTACHMENT

Download all templates [↓](#)

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