



#EUSpaceResearch

# BE PART OF EU-FUNDED SPACE R&I

HORIZON EUROPE FUNDING  
SUPPORTS SPACE R&I FROM  
**FUNDAMENTAL SCIENCE  
TO CLOSE-TO-MARKET  
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES**



Horizon Europe,  
a programme of the  
European Union



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Horizon Europe funding supports space R&I from fundamental science to close-to-market innovative technologies

Horizon Europe (HE) is the EU's main **funding program for research and innovation, including in the space domain**. It contributes to fighting climate change, achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals and boosting EU competitiveness and growth. The program encourages cooperation and strengthens the impact of research and innovation in developing, supporting and implementing EU policies and solving global problems.

## Pillar 1: Excellence Science

### Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)

The MSCA targets **doctoral education and postdoctoral training** and supports researchers from all over the world, at all stages of their careers, with a focus on their training, skills and career development. Thematic areas covered include **all domains of research and innovation, including space**. It funds:

- Living & mobility allowance
- Research, training and networking activities
- Management and indirect costs

Open to all MSC Actions research organisations receiving funding to support researchers via Doctoral Networks, Postdoctoral Fellowships, Staff Exchanges and COFUND.

 **Total HE budget** 6,6€ B  **Action budget** 0,05-2€ M

 For further information, [click here](#).

### European Research Council (ERC)

The ERC **supports frontier scientific research in Europe**. ERC offers scientists a personal grant for their fundamental research projects. The ERC's frontier research grants operate on a 'bottom-up' basis without predetermined priorities, allowing applicants to choose freely among **all domains, including space**.

Open to researchers from early career stages to established researchers of any nationality, depending on the grant type.

 **Total HE budget** 16€ B  **Grant budget** 1-10€ M

 For further information, [click here](#).

### Research infrastructures (RI)

The RI funding programme aims to endow Europe with **world-class sustainable research infrastructures** open and accessible to the best researchers from Europe and beyond. It also encourages using existing research infrastructures, including those financed from funds under the EU's cohesion policy.

Open to the EU Member States and Associated Countries.

 **Total HE budget** 2.4€ B  **Project budget** 0,8-15€ M

 For further information, [click here](#).

## Pillar 2: Global challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness

### Digital, Industry and Space

R&I funded within Pillar 2 aims to **boost key technologies and solutions underpinning EU policies & Sustainable Development Goals** (SDGs).

Space areas covered include:

- Space systems and Access to Space
- Space and ground infrastructures for Galileo/EGNOS
- Evolution of services and novel applications for Copernicus, Galileo and EGNOS
- Innovative space capabilities including SSA, GOVSATCOM, Quantum
- Space entrepreneurship ecosystems (incl. New Space and start-ups) and skills
- Targeted and strategic actions supporting the EU space sector, including technological non-dependence, space sciences and In-Orbit-Demonstration and Validation

Open to entities from EU Member States and Horizon Europe Associated Countries (updated list available [here](#)), such as research organisations, private companies, public authorities, non-governmental organisations and others. Entities from low and middle income countries can participate with EU funding while entities from other third countries may participate with their own funding. Exceptions to the eligibility to participate apply to thematic areas of strategic interest for Europe.

 **Total HE budget** 1,6€ B

 **Project budget** 1-20€ M

 Further information can be found in the work programmes. Apply via the **Funding and Tender opportunity portal**. Note that some activities are implemented either through **HaDEA, EUSPA** or **ESA**.

### CASSINI entrepreneurship initiative

European Commission's CASSINI initiative **supports the European New Space ecosystem covering the whole entrepreneurship cycle**. The initiative is open to all areas of the EU Space Programme and covers both upstream and downstream space.

Open to students, graduates, researchers, start-ups in their very early stages and SMEs from the EU Member States, Associated Countries or countries which are in ongoing negotiations for an association agreement and where the agreement applies before the award.

 For further information, [click here](#).

## Pillar 3: Innovative Europe

### European Innovation Council (EIC)

The EIC has a budget of €10.1 billion to **support game-changing innovations, including in the space domain**, throughout the lifecycle, from early-stage research to proof of concept, technology transfer, and the financing and scale-up of start-ups and SMEs. Thematic areas covered include:

- The proof of principle and validation of the scientific basis of breakthrough technology (TRL 1-4)
- Validation and demonstration of the technology in application relevant environment (TRL 4 to 5/6) and development of market readiness

Open to research organisations, universities, SMEs, industry, Single start-ups, individuals.

 **Total HE budget** 10€ B

 **Grant budget** 0,5-15€ M

 For further information, [click here](#).