

NEWSLETTER

SEPT 2026 | ISSUE #6

EIC-BREAKTHROUGH GREECE: CONNECTING GREEK INNOVATION WITH EUROPE

NCSR Demokritos and **CERTH** are joining forces to organise **European Innovation Council (EIC) - Breakthrough Greece**, a two-city event taking place in **Thessaloniki and Athens**. The event will bring together researchers, innovators, start-ups, SMEs, and innovation stakeholders to explore EIC funding opportunities and pathways to technology commercialisation. With the EIC budget expected to significantly increase under FP10, the event offers a timely opportunity to connect, learn, and discover new opportunities.



ABOUT EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL

The **European Innovation Council (EIC)** is the **European Union's flagship programme for identifying, developing, and scaling breakthrough innovations**. It supports visionary researchers, entrepreneurs, start-ups, SMEs, and scale-ups working on disruptive technologies with the potential to create new markets and address major societal challenges.

Unlike many traditional funding programmes, the EIC focuses on innovations that are:

- technologically ambitious
- high-risk but with the potential for significant societal and economic impact;
- capable of creating or transforming markets;
- difficult to finance through conventional public or private investment.

The EIC supports innovators throughout the entire innovation journey through four complementary funding schemes:

- **EIC Pathfinder** – for early-stage research and emerging breakthrough technologies.
- **EIC Transition** – for validating research results, developing business cases, and preparing technologies for commercialisation.
- **EIC Accelerator** – for start-ups and SMEs developing and scaling breakthrough innovations through grants, equity investment, or blended finance.
- **EIC STEP Scale Up** – for mature companies seeking substantial investment to expand strategic technologies in Europe.
- **EIC STEP Scale Up for Defence** – for high-potential companies developing critical technologies with a primary defence application, covering areas such as; air and missile defence, precision strike, drones/counter-drones, space and strategic enablers, cyber/AI/electronic warfare, military mobility, ground and maritime combat, air combat, and military medical/CBRN technologies.

For more info about EIC [click here](#)

IMPORTANT EU NEWS



€500 million in additional Horizon Europe funding

The European Commission is adding €500 million to Horizon Europe, opening new funding opportunities for research and innovation. The additional funding includes calls focused on nature-positive solutions and bridging research and investment, supporting areas such as biodiversity, advanced technologies, AI, autonomous mobility and the New European Bauhaus. Horizon Europe has already invested €61 billion in almost 23,000 projects since 2021.

[Source](#)



New EU system for critical communications

The European Commission has proposed a European Critical Communication System (EUCCS) to give police, firefighters, medical teams and other emergency responders secure, resilient communications across borders. The system would use 5G, broadband and EU satellite connectivity, enabling responders to share voice, video, photos and location data even when terrestrial networks are disrupted.

[Source](#)

Commission proposes plan to strengthen EU external borders

The European Commission has presented a five-point plan to strengthen the resilience and security of the EU's external borders, focusing on stronger border management, improved cooperation and coordination, and better use of technology and EU capabilities. The plan aims to help Member States respond more effectively to emerging security challenges while ensuring the EU's external borders remain resilient.

[Source](#)



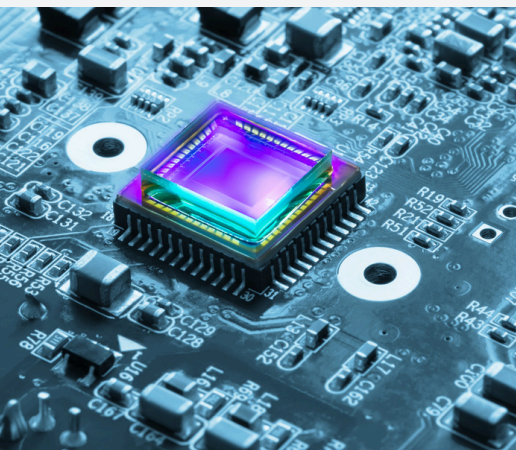
MFF 2028-2034: Council agrees position on future EU fisheries support

The Council has agreed a partial negotiating position on EU support for fisheries, aquaculture and maritime policy for 2028–2034. The proposed framework would simplify funding by replacing several existing instruments with a single funding toolbox, while supporting fleet modernisation, energy transition and the resilience of coastal communities. At the same time, safeguards would ensure that funding supports sustainable fisheries and protects fish stocks.

[Source](#)

SHAPING EUROPE'S CHIPS ACT 2.0

NCSR DEMOKRITOS RESPONDS WITH KEY RECOMMENDATIONS
TO THE PUBLIC CONSULTATION



Europe is preparing for the next phase of its semiconductor strategy, with the [Chips Act 2.0](#) set to play an important role in strengthening the continent's position in the global semiconductor landscape. As part of the European Commission's public consultation, **NCSR Demokritos has put forward key recommendations, drawing attention to the importance of research and innovation, advanced technologies, skills development, and stronger links between research and industry.**

The recommendations reflect the role that research and technology organisations can play in shaping a more competitive, resilient, and innovation-driven European semiconductor ecosystem.

[Read the full document→](#)

WHAT'S NEXT?

CALLS OF INTEREST & CONSORTIUM BUILDING

1. **European Research and Innovation Days 2026** [click here](#)
2. **Horizon Europe open calls** [click here](#)
3. **Creative Europe open calls** [click here](#)
4. **EIC Global Business Expansion Programme in Silicon Valley** [click here](#)
5. **The Digital Europe Programme** [click here](#)
6. **Cascade Funding** [click here](#)
7. **National Funding-ESPA 2026** [click here](#)



FUNDRAISING UNIT NEWS

The Fundraising Unit is pleased to continue its successful series of internal training workshops in September–October 2026. The workshops will cover key topics including funding acquisition, proposal development and submission, and project management, and are designed to accommodate participants with different levels of experience. Sessions will progress from fundamental concepts to more specialised topics, providing practical guidance and insights for both newcomers and experienced colleagues.

The upcoming workshops are:

- **9/10:** EU Project Administration & Financial Management Essentials/Fundamentals
- **15/10:** Tips and Tricks from experienced writers & project managers
- **20/10:** Ethics in projects and proposals

More information about the workshops are available through our [website](#) and LinkedIn page.



Follow us:



LinkedIn