EIE Work Programme 2026 - 2027

We have categorized the calls from the European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE) work programme 2026-2027 according to the impact that microfluidics can have on the projects and related topics. We are sharing our analysis in case it can help you with project funding efforts. And, of course, if our expertise can be of use to you, we would be delighted to discuss it further.

How to read the stars in terms of the % of microfluidic technologies' relevance for the call:

By microfluidic relevance, we mean the relevance of microfluidic technologies to the topic in question. Additionally, we outline key points on how a microfluidic partner could contribute to the topic.

Relevance (%)	90-100	80-89	70-79	60-69	50-59	40-49	30-39	20-29	10-19	0-9
Relevance (*)	*****	****	***	**	*	–	– –	– – –	– – – –	– – – – –

Administrative dates per call:

HORIZON-EIE-2026-02-CONNECT: Opening and deadlines not yet specified

HORIZON-EIE-2027-01-CONNECT: Opening 01 June 2027, Deadline 15 Sep 2027

****** HORIZON-EIE-2026-02-CONNECT-02 - EUROPEAN STARTUP AND SCALEUP HUBS PILOT: A PAN-EUROPEAN ALLIANCE FOR DEEP TECH SCALING**

- **Type of action:** Programme Co-fund Action.
- **Call:** *Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2026.2)*
- **Budget (topic, M€):** 20.00; **# projects funded:** 2

Objectives
Pilot **two transnational networks of ~5-7 "European Startup & Scaleup Hubs (ESSHs)"** embedded in strong research/HEI/RTO ecosystems; open facilities, labs, and services across borders; and **accelerate deep-tech startups/scaleups** (including EIC-backed) to expand on the EU single market. Emphasis on **shared infrastructure**, mentoring, links to **EEN/EDIH/EIT/EIC**, and **cohesion** by integrating less-connected regions. KPIs include **≥100 startups supported**, **≥50 %** securing seed/VC by project end, and **≥75 %** engaging in cross-border collaboration. **Financial support to third parties (grants/vouchers up to €60k)** may be provided. Project duration expected ~2 years.

Why a microfluidic partner is valuable

- Microfluidics is quintessential **deep tech**; Microfluidics lab strengthens a hub's **lab access and prototyping capacity** (polymer chip microfabrication, organ-on-chip, micro-bio-reactors) for cross-border startups.
- Can **open Microfluidics facilities** to non-local ventures (ESSH requirement), enabling realistic bench-to-pilot maturation (design-for-manufacture, biocompatibility, reliability testing).
- Provide **regulatory-aware workflows** (e.g., ISO 13485 pathways for med-tech LoCs, validation protocols for environmental/industrial sensors) to raise **investment-readiness**.
- Co-design **voucherable service menus** (rapid prototyping, assay integration, packaging, field pilots) that ESSHs can fund via the third-party scheme.
- Train founders in **microfluidics-specific venture building** (IP strategy for platform chips, BOM/COGS optimization, scaling of fabrication).
- Connect ESSHs with **application verticals** (biotech, diagnostics, water, advanced materials) where microfluidics reduces time-to-data and de-risks early customer trials—directly serving KPI uptake metrics.

****** HORIZON-EIE-2027-01-CONNECT-01 - STARTUP EUROPE**

- **Type of action:** CSA.
- **Call:** *Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2027.1)*
- **Budget (topic, M€):** 18.00; **# projects funded:** 9

Objectives
Connect **local digital, deep-tech, and manufacturing ecosystems** and run **cross-border acceleration** for ventures showing **traction** (product-market fit or ≥seed round), with an emphasis on **moderate/emerging innovator regions** and **women-led** startups. Interfaces to **EIC/EIT/EDIH/EEN**, Innovation Radar, and Plug-in programmes; **innovation procurement access** is a focus. CSAs may allocate **≥60 %** of budget to **third-party support (grants/vouchers up to €60k)**. Projects must track

growth (in terms of revenue, funding, profitability, and survival) and societal impact for up to three years post-support.

Why a microfluidic partner is valuable

- Many deep-tech verticals listed (med-tech/biotech/greentech/agrifood) have **microfluidics at their core**;
- Provide **pan-EU demo campaigns** (organ-on-chip safety/efficacy studies; water quality LoC pilots) to create early customer references for **procurement-oriented scaling**.
- Offer **industrialization services** (design rules, mold tooling transfer, QC metrology, reliability) that lower risk for investors and corporates in Startup Europe deal flow.
- Create **targeted training** for women-led deep-tech teams on chip integration, IP bundling, and regulated market entry, helping consortia meet inclusivity KPIs.
- Act as a **neutral lab validator** interfacing with EEN/EDIH nodes to standardize **validation protocols** across countries, improving cross-border comparability.

***** HORIZON-EIE-2027-01-CONNECT-03 - ENHANCING THE INVOLVEMENT OF PHILANTHROPIC ORGANISATIONS IN INNOVATION ECOSYSTEMS**

- **Type of action:** CSA, Lump-sum funding
- **Call:** *Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2027.1)*
- **Budget (topic, M€):** 5.00; **# projects funded:** 5

Objectives
Mobilize **philanthropic organizations** to work with **HEIs/RTOs, TTOs, and companies** to move university-originated technologies to market. Activities may include **living labs/test beds**, **accelerators**, **spin-off support with VC/angel/philanthropic funding**, and **first-user pilots** by foundations. Consortia must include **HEI/RTO(s)** and **philanthropy organization(s)**; coordinator expected to be an HEI/RTO.

Why a microfluidic partner is valuable

- Foundations in **disease, environment, and global health** are ideal **first users** for microfluidic innovations (e.g., organ-on-chip disease models, rapid environmental assays).
- Microfluidics lab can **design and operate test beds/living labs** where philanthropic actors de-risk early pilots (e.g., real-world sample panels, ethics, and data governance for on-chip diagnostics).
- Close work with **TTOs** to package **IP portfolios** (chips, surface chemistries, assay integrations) that attract blended finance from VCs + foundations.
- Create **accelerator tracks** for microfluidics startups with tailored milestones (bio-assay transfer, manufacturability, certification pre-checks), enabling “signed deals” targets.
- Philanthropy-backed pilots in **LMIC or underserved EU regions** can demonstrate impact and **pull demand** for later public or corporate procurement.

*** HORIZON-EIE-2026-02-CONNECT-01 - FROM LAB TO MARKET: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICES IN BRINGING KNOWLEDGE TO THE MARKET**

- **Type of action:** CSA.
- **Call:** *Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2026.2)*
- **Budget (topic, M€):** 5.00; **# projects funded:** 5

Objectives
Address **fragmented TTO practices** by harmonizing **IP/licensing/royalty** approaches; standardize **IPR templates** to lower transaction costs; define **incentives and benefit-sharing** for researchers; promote **portfolio-based licensing** (packaging IP for investors/industry). Includes **comparative analysis** of transfer models, creation of a **toolbox**, **KPIs for valorization**, a **collaborative matching space**, and **≥3 pilot cases** implementing startup-friendly transfers.

Why a microfluidic partner is valuable

- Microfluidics often sits at the intersection of **devices, materials, and assays**, making **portfolio licensing** especially powerful (platform chip + surface/coating + reference assays).
- Provide **pilot cases** (e.g., licensing an organ-on-chip platform to a spinoff) to test **benefit-sharing** and *startup-friendly royalty mechanics (e.g., milestone-weighted, revenue-triggered*).
- Help TTOs encode **manufacturing readiness levels (MRL)** and **design control** artifacts into transfer packages, cutting diligence time for investors and corporates.
- Offer **training** for TTO staff on microfluidic **DFM, QA/QC, and regulatory pre-checks, improving "market-ready**" quality of transferred assets.

- - - HORIZON-EIE-2027-01-CONNECT-02 - REINFORCING SYNERGIES BETWEEN EXPERIMENTATION SPACES AND INNOVATION PROCUREMENT

- **Type of action:** PCP (Pre-Commercial Procurement).
- **Call:** *Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2027.1)*
- **Budget (topic, M€):** 10.00; **# projects funded:** 1

Objectives
Shorten **time-to-market** by coupling **public buyers** with **test beds/living labs/regulatory bodies** during R&D. Funds **joint PCPs** to develop and test solutions aligned with EU priorities; aims for **at least one deployable solution** per project and allows **financial incentives to end-users** (up to €200k) via third-party support. **PCP fund procurers**; developers/industry compete later via tenders. Fast-track options are available when deployment is anticipated.
