



**EUROPEAN
DEFENCE
FUND**

National EDF Info Day - CROATIA -

Zagreb

14/04/2026

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Unit B1



European
Commission

DEFIS

Evolution of EU Defence Industry Programmes

2017-2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 **2026** 2027 2028-2034



PADR

EDIDP

European
Defence
Fund

ASAP

EDIRP

EDIP

Next
MFF:
European
Comp.
Fund

Research &
Development

Ramp-up of
production capacities

Support to common
procurement

Further actions

EDIP Work Programme & Funding priorities (2026-2027)

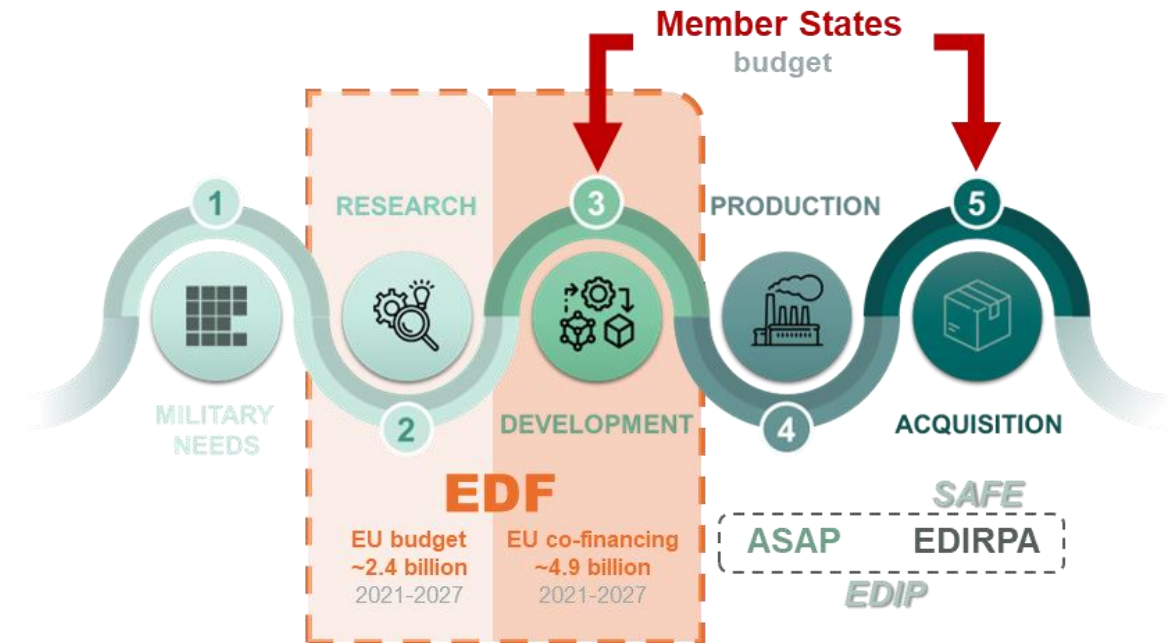
Overview



EDF: The EU defence R&D programme

Goals of the European Defence Fund:

- Support collaborative and cross-border **Research & Development**, incl. disruptive technologies
- Contribute to the **competitiveness and innovation capacity** of the EDTIB
- Encourage the participation of **SMEs** and other actors not usually active in the defence field
- Help **reducing fragmentation**
- Help building partnerships
- Help maximising the outcome of defence spending
- Contribute to close defence technological shortfalls
- Strengthen other security and defence initiatives
- Strengthen Europe's resilience and **strategic autonomy**



EDF State of Play



€6.4 billion of EU budget committed to defence R&D
(including Work Programme 2026)



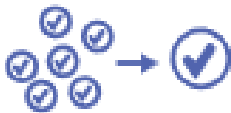
50% of collaborative defence research in the EU funded by EDF



224 EDF projects involving 1650 unique participants from 26 Member States/Norway



19 participants²² from 8 Member States/Norway on average in an EDF project

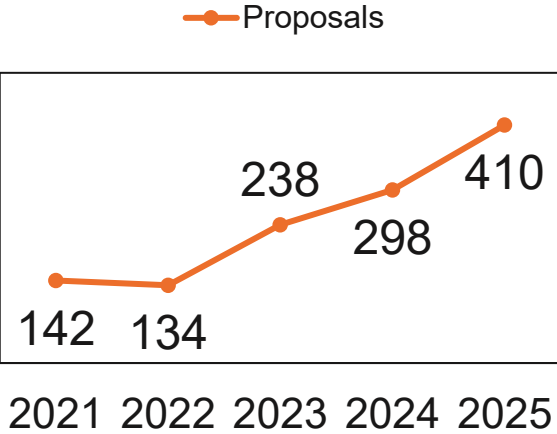


43% of participants are SMEs



32% average proposal success rate

In addition EDF 2025 projects selected for award to be announced soon.
*Including affiliated entities and subcontractors



Croatian industry participation in EDF

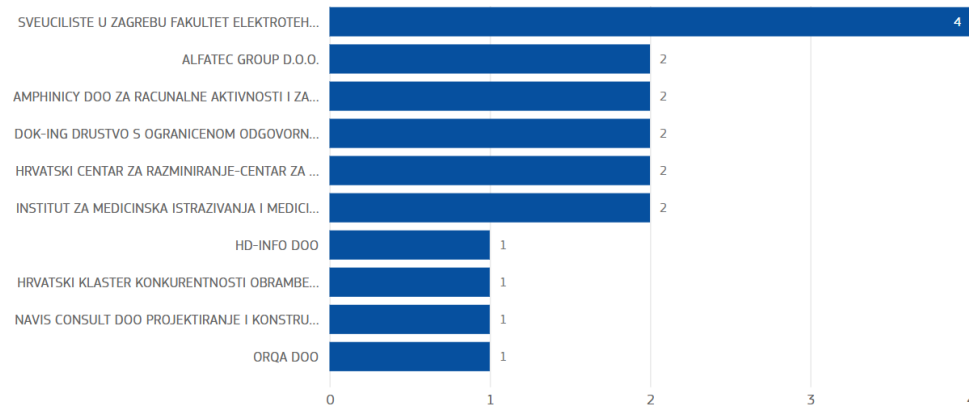
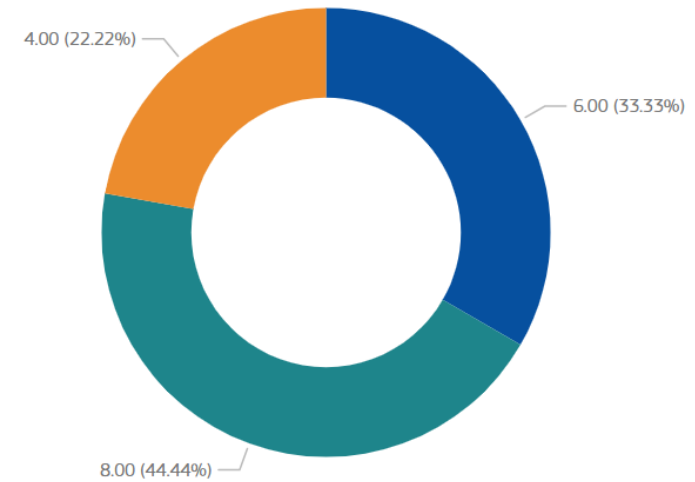
● Research Org (non-profit)
 ● SME self declared ● Other Profit entities

18
 No of Projects involved

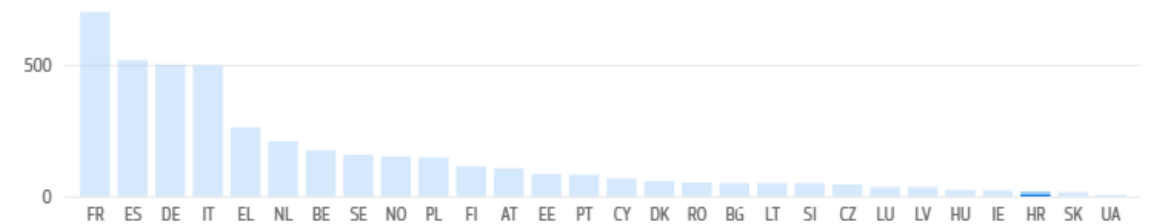
€ 9,501,521
 Sum of EU Grant

10
 No of Unique participants

18
 No of Participations



Involvement in Projects by Country of Establishment



General principles of EDF implementation

Prioritisation

Demand driven by Member States
(sole buyers and users)

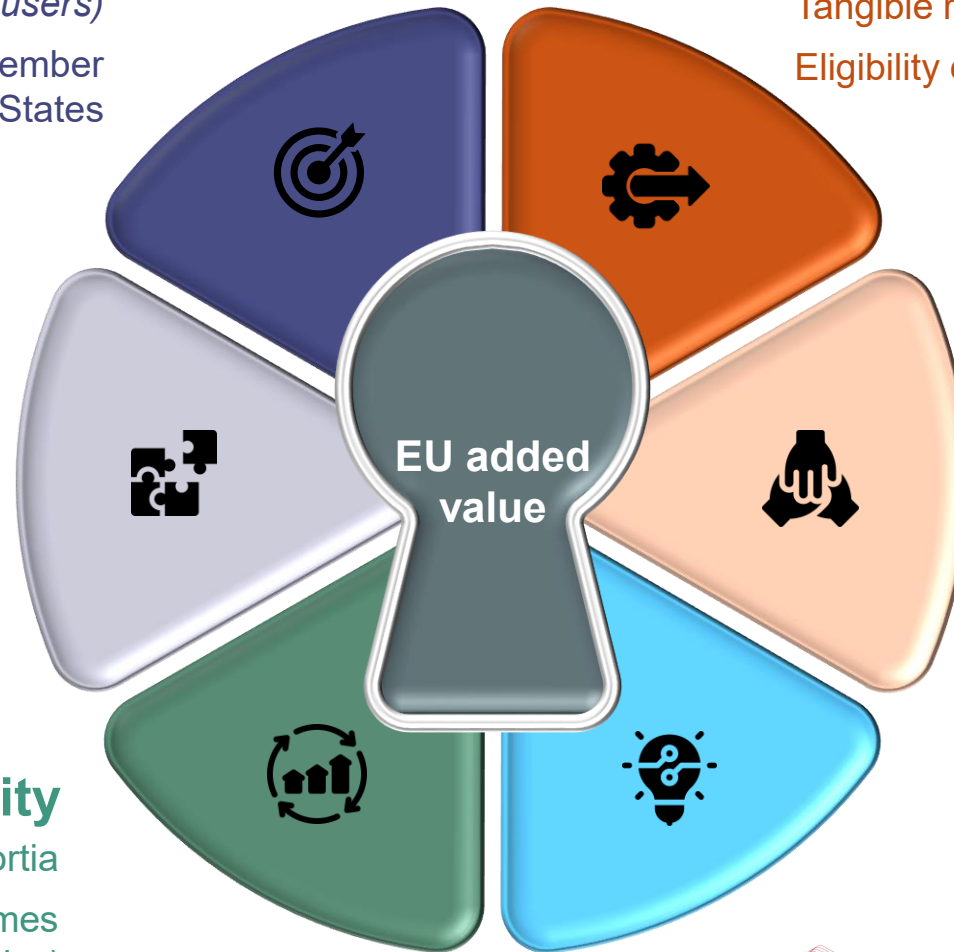
Priorities and topics defined by Member States

Output oriented

Strategic and economic benefits for EU

Tangible results ready to be procured for EU armed forces

Eligibility conditions apply



Synergy & Consistency

EU prioritisation instruments

Other EU defence initiatives

NATO

Other EU programmes

Inclusiveness

Fair opportunities for companies:

- of all sizes
- from all Member States and Norway
- Security-based conditions for entities controlled by third-countries

Ensure continuity

Already funded actions/consortia

Main expected outcomes
(EDF multiannual perspective)

Support innovation

4%-8% of the EDF budget dedicated to disruptive technologies

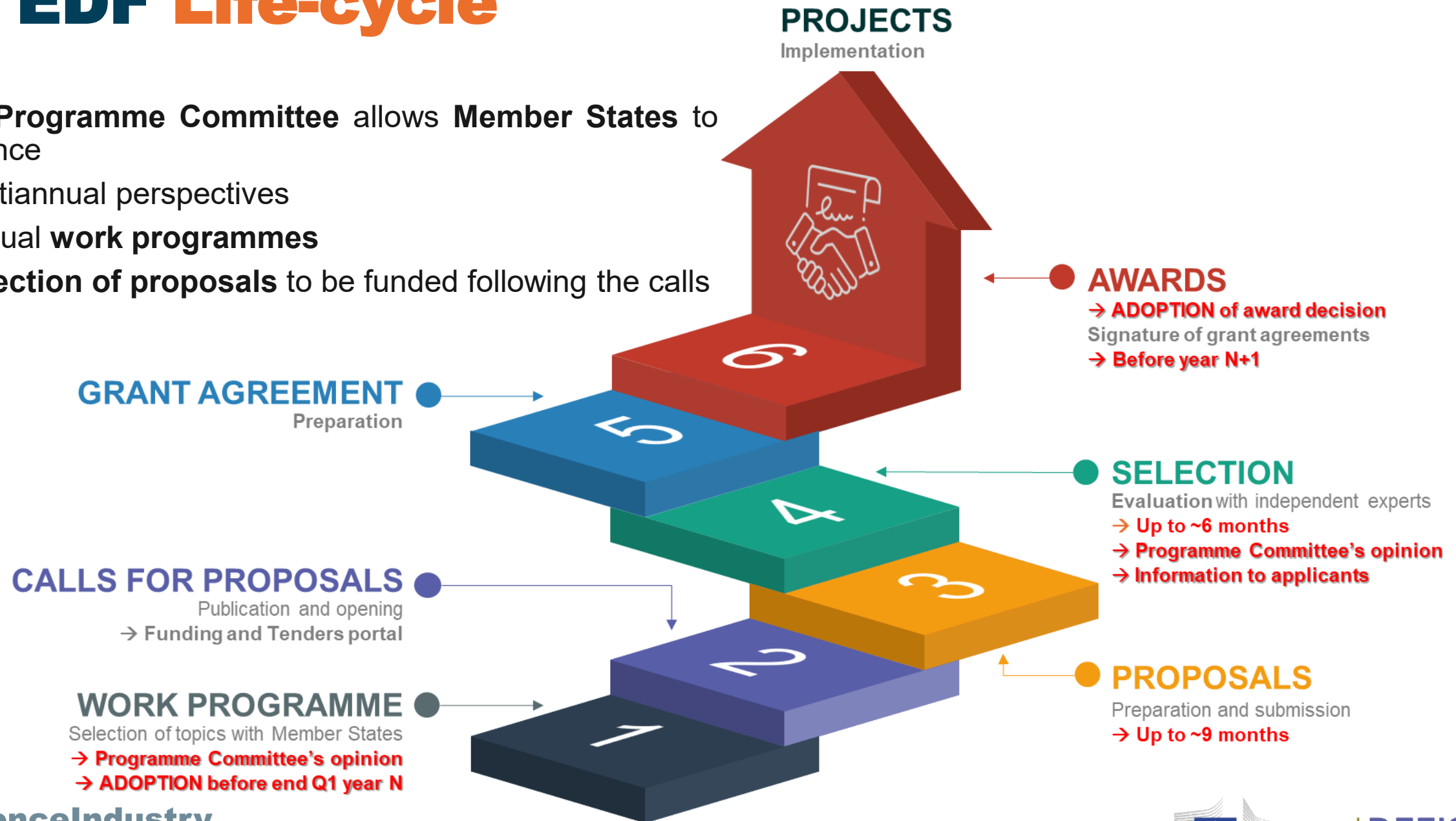
Support broader EU defence innovation scheme (EUDIS)



The EDF Life-cycle

EDF Programme Committee allows Member States to influence

- multiannual perspectives
- annual work programmes
- selection of proposals to be funded following the calls



Eligibility Conditions

Consortia: at least 3 eligible entities from 3 different MS/Norway (2 for disruptive call)

Natural persons are NOT eligible!

Recipients & main subcontractors + Infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources for the action located in EU or Norway

Derogation possible if no competitive substitute available in EU/Norway. Entities established in 3rd countries can be associated if security-specific conditions are met, but no EDF financial support

Recipients and main subcontractors not subject to control by 3rd country/entity

Derogation possible if approved security-specific guarantees can be provided

No restriction nor control by 3rd country/entity on results

Compliance with international law and high ethics standards

+ specific to development actions

Co-financing where EDF funding not covering 100% of eligible costs

Harmonised defence capability requirements jointly agreed by at least 2 MS/NO for design

Intention to procure & common technical specifications for system prototyping and/or downstream activities

Flexibility offered in specific cases for confirmation of requirements or specifications

Funding Rates & Bonus System

Research actions

Activity type	EU funding rate
Generating knowledge	100%
Integrating knowledge	100%
Studies	100%
Design	100%

Development actions

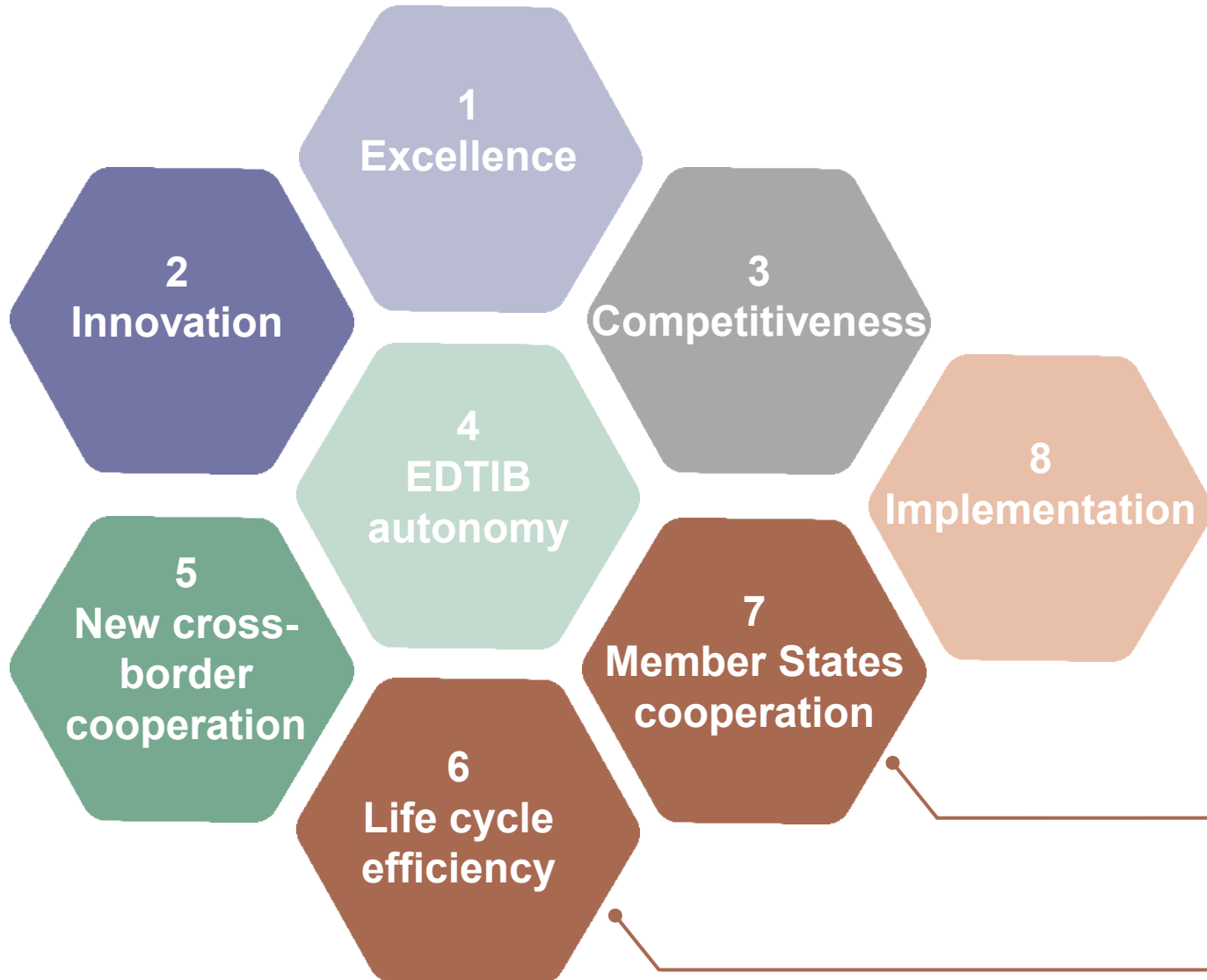
Activity type	EU baseline funding rate	EU maximum funding rate
Integrating knowledge	65%	100%
Studies	90%	100%
Design	65%	100%
Prototyping	20%	55%
Testing	45%	80%
Qualification	70%	80%
Certification	70%	80%
Increasing efficiency	65%	100%



Condition for application of the bonus	Value of the bonus
PESCO Bonus	
Action developed in context of the Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO)*	+10% for all activities in the action
'Mid-cap' bonus	
% eligible costs allocated to 'Midcaps' established in the EU (and NO) ≥ 15%	+10% for the activity
SME Bonus	
% eligible costs allocated to 'SMEs' established in the EU (and NO) ≥ 10%	% of eligible costs allocated to ' non cross-border SMEs ' established in the EU and NO (maximum 5%) + 2 x % of eligible costs allocated to ' cross-border SMEs ' established in the EU and NO

Funding rate mechanism (incl. bonus) to **incentivise** participation of **SMEs** and **mid-caps**, synergies with **PESCO** and **co-financing** (leverage effect)

Award Criteria



Standard EDF Calls (R&D)

Criteria 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8 apply

New in 2026 – DIS calls (LS-DIS-NT & SMERO)

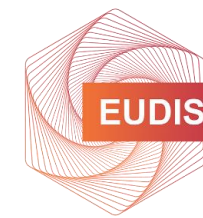
- Only three criteria apply (1,2 and 8)
- Proposals are shorter
- call opens in April 2026
- closing date remains the same

Scoring of proposals

- Each criterion scored from 0 to 5 (half points allowed)
- **For Research:** 1, 2 and 5 count double
- **For Development:** 1, 4 and 5 count double

Criteria 6 & 7 only applicable to Development calls

EU Defence Innovation Scheme



EDF R&D GRANTS AND BUSINESS COACHING

- SME calls, Technological challenges, Spin-in calls, Calls with acceleration services for startups, Disruptive tech calls
- SME Business Coaching



DEFENCE HACKATHONS/MAKEATHONS

- Held across Europe multiple times a year
- Funding for local hosts
- Mentoring programme for winning teams
- Open to UA participants



DEFENCE EQUITY FACILITY

- €175 million, implemented by EIF
- For private funds to invest in defence and dual-use companies



BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

- Acceleration programme for start-ups and scale-ups
- Two calls annually to select 20 companies per cohort
- € 120 000 voucher



MATCHMAKING EVENTS

- Onsite and online events for innovators and investors
- Continuously open call
- Open to UA entities



TECH FORGES and TESTING & VALIDATION (2026)

- Under BraveTech EU initiative to support rapid development, testing, and deployment of battlefield-proven technologies.
- Vouchers for iterative development



EUDIS Focus: R&D Grants

Non-thematic/open calls for SMEs

- Supports SMEs developing innovative defence solutions
- Consortium: $\Delta \Delta \Delta$
- For: SMEs only (+RTO for research projects)
- Research (TRL 4) and development actions
- **STEP technologies**
- Funding:
 - 5-6 M€
 - 20% -> 100% costs

Disruptive Tech calls

- Supports cutting-edge, high-risk/high-impact research projects
- Consortium: $\Delta \Delta$
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs.
- **Research non-thematic:** (3 M € pp; TRL 4)
- Development: **New abilities in the over-the-horizon sensing (29 M €)**
- Funding:
 - 20-100% costs

Technological challenge

- Provides common testing environment to several R&D teams
- Consortium: $\Delta \Delta \Delta$
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs
- Research actions
 - **AI-based tactical situational awareness using swarms of small robots and drones**
- Funding:
 - Several consortiums
 - 100% costs
 - **Organisation: 7 M €**
 - **Participation: 4,6 M € pp**

Spin-in calls from civil to defence

- Helps spinning-in civil R&D to defence
- Consortium: $\Delta \Delta \Delta$
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs.
- Research actions
 - **New turbofan engine (20 M € pp)**
 - **Layered critical seabed infrastructure protection (15 M € pp)**
- Funding:
 - 100% costs



EUDIS Focus: Short-Term Support

Coaching Service for SMEs

- Helps addressing business challenges to support companies' growth
- Participant: Δ
- For: Any SME participating in an EDF project
- Support: up to 15 days of expert coaching over 6 months

Always available in the first year of participation to project

#EUDefenceIndustry
#EDFInfoDays

Defence Hackathons

- Supports emerging teams addressing defence challenges
- Team: Δ
- For: individuals, SMEs
- Min. 2 per year, in several locations simultaneously
- Open to UA
- **Spring 2026: Defending airspace**
- Funding & support:
Winning team receives:
 - Mentoring program
 - Monetary prize

Next call: **late Spring**
Next Hackathon: **26-28/03/2026**

Business Accelerator

- Supports business development strategy
- Participant: Δ
- For: Start-ups, scale-ups
- 2 cohorts per year
- 20 companies per cohort
- Funding & support:
 - Training & coaching programme
 - € 120 000 voucher + € 50 000 top 3
 - Demo-Day

Next call: **May -June 2026**



EUDIS Focus: Access to Equity Financing

Matchmaking service

- Connects companies with potential investors
- Participant : Δ
- For: SMEs, small mid-caps, corporates, investors, end-users
- Open to UA

Support :

- On-site & online matchmaking & capacity building events
- Matchmaking platform
- Individual matchmaking plan

Continuous call for application

Defence Equity Facility

- Provides finance to private funds investing in defence technologies
- Participant : Δ
- For: venture capital, private equity, private debt funds
- €175 million funding available (2024-2027)

Support :

- Investments by the **European Investment Fund (EIF)** as Limited Partner
- On average 25% of total fund size
- No minimum / maximum € per fund

Continuous call for application

Private Funds Supported

KEEN

Project A

Sienna
INVESTMENT MANAGERS

MNES

day1

and more to come in 2026...

EDF 2026: Work Programme

Broad thematic coverage +

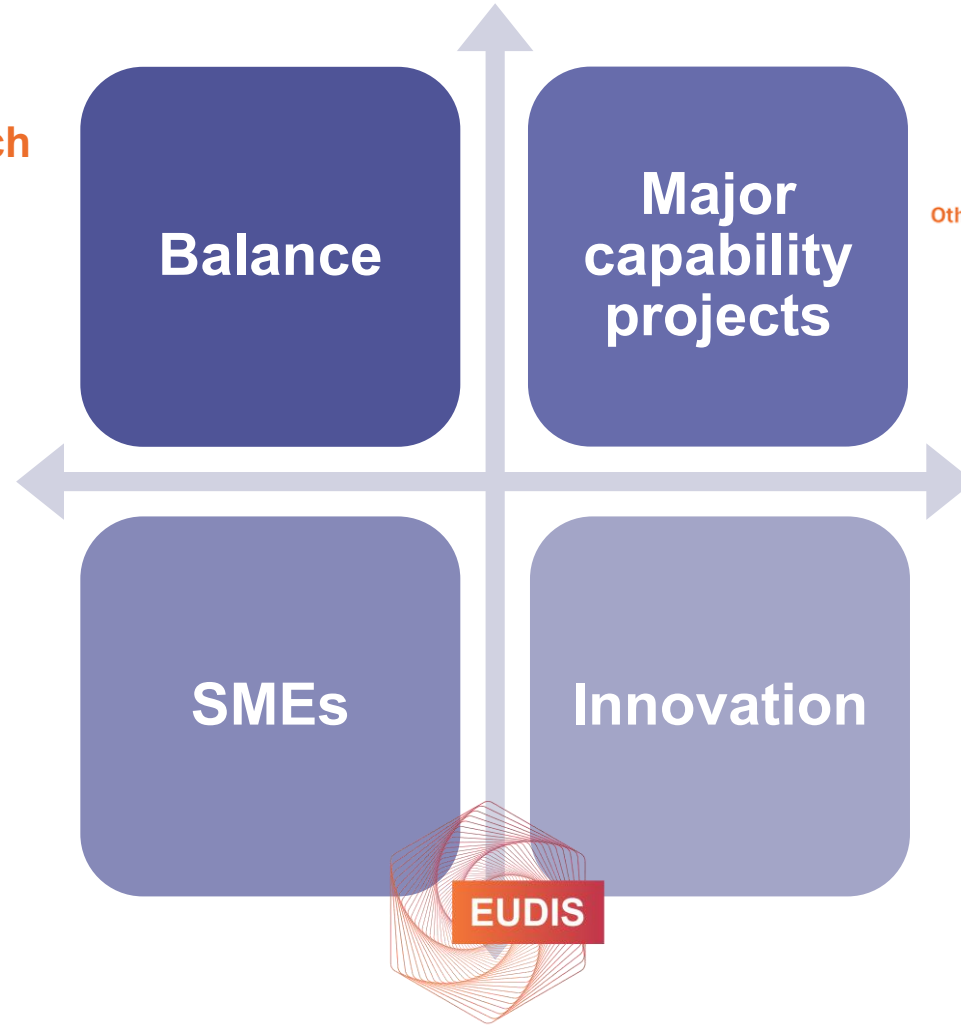
Twin focus:

Capabilities development/Research

- 1006 M€ in total for 2026
- 67.4% Development + 23% Research + 5.6% DIS
- 31 topics (14 Research + 16 Development + 1 DIS)

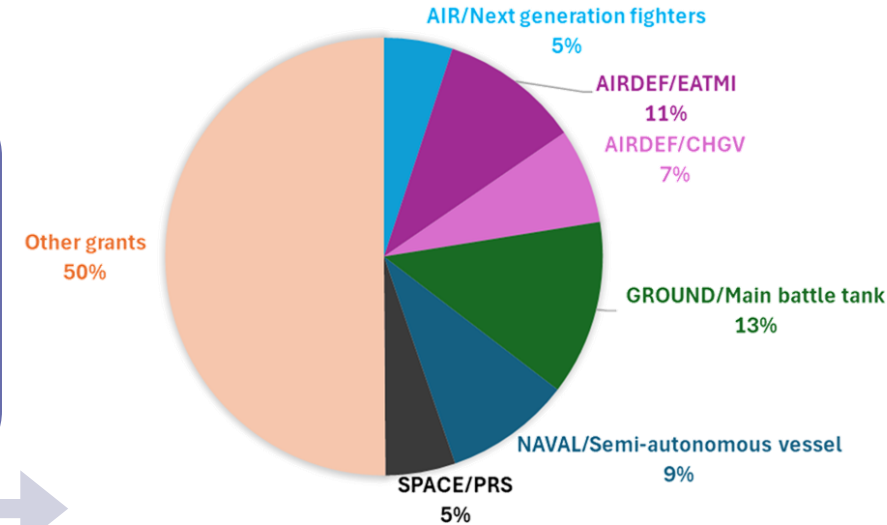
Inclusiveness, openness and robustness of supply chains

- 6,5% for calls focused on SMEs
- 4% for Other actions, including:
 - 20 M€ access to equity funding under Invest EU (last contribution)
 - Business coaching
 - Business accelerator
 - Matchmaking events



23% of 2026 available budget

Important projects targeting emblematic achievements



Technologies for the future + Innovation through EUDIS implementation

- 5.6% for disruptive technologies
- 1 technological challenge
- Spin-in call (2 topics)
- Cascade funding open to Ukraine entities
- Hackathon events
- Non-thematic calls

EDF 2026: Work Programme

31 topics

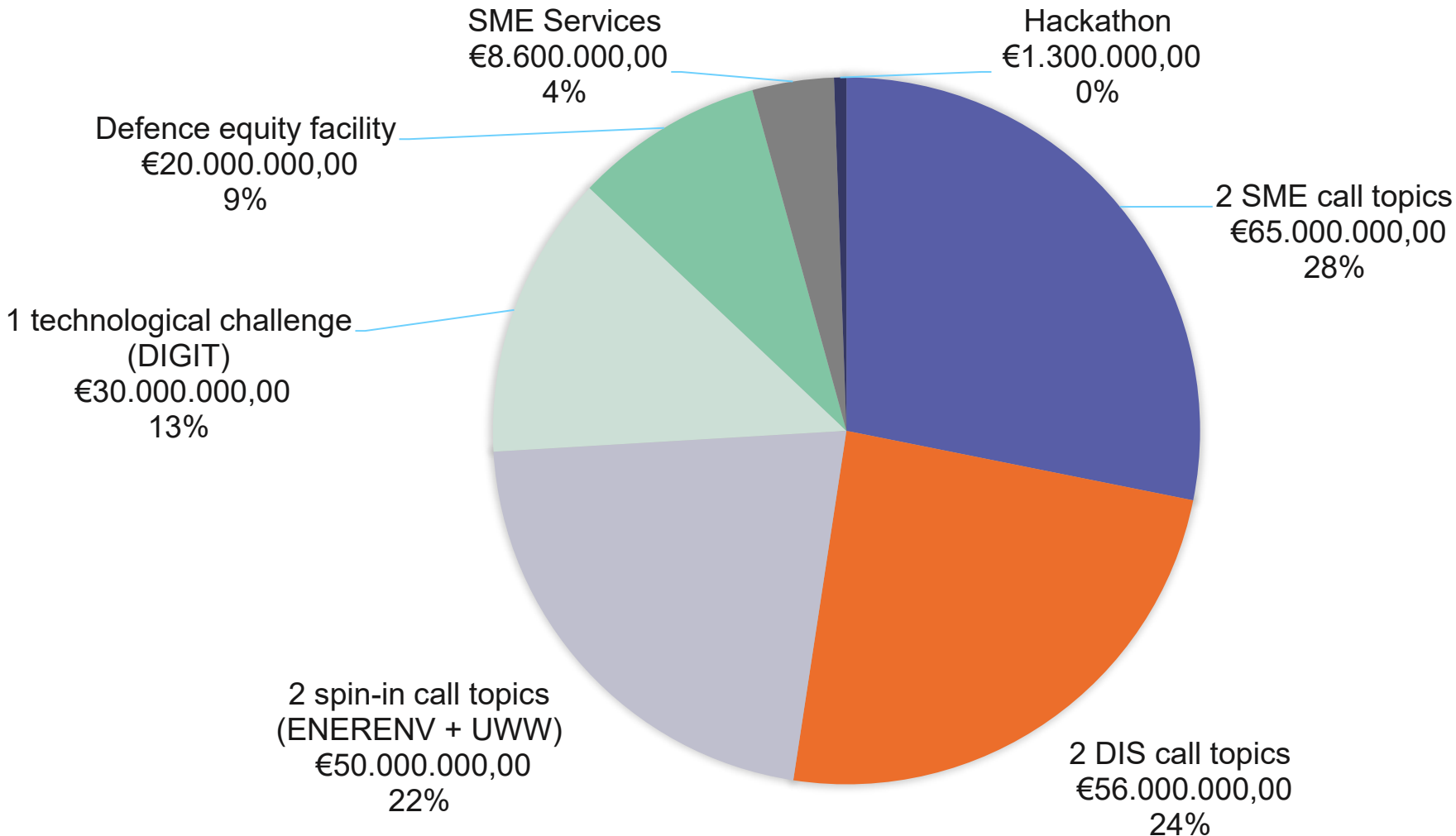
Calls to open for submission soon

Deadline for submission: 29 September 2026 17:00 CET

 Medical Response & CBRN	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures 6.5 M€ SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures 18.5 M€ CBRN decontamination systems and technologies 15 M€ 	 Air combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Air-to-air refuelling 20 M€ Self-protection systems 24 M€ Smart Technologies for fighter systems 25 M€
 Information superiority	Not addressed in 2026	 Air & missile defence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Countering HGV (direct award) 68 M€ Endo-atmospheric interceptor 100 M€
 Sensors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multidomain sensors demonstrator 20 M€ Enhanced Cognitive EW 24 M€ 	 Ground combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple rocket launcher system 25 M€ Main battle tank 125 M€
 Cyber	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantum secured networks 14 M€ 	 Protection & Mobility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Future multirole light aircraft 15 M€ Secure digital military mobility system 9 M€
 Space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PRS receivers/NAVWAR 50 M€ 	 Naval combat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medium-size semi-autonomous surface vessel 90 M€
 Digital transformation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> AI-based tactical situational awareness (challenge) 30 M€ Multi-domain operations cloud 40 M€ 	 Underwater warfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flow-related underwater noise 10 M€ Critical seabed infrastructure protection (spin-in) 30 M€
 Energy & Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turbofan engine (spin-in) 20 M€ High-performance energy 20 M€ Ammunition waste collection and 10 M€ 	 Simulation & training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> M&S AI framework 16 M€
 Materials & Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smart and multifunctional textiles 20 M€ 	 Disruptive technologies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over-the-horizon radar 29 M€ DIS action 27 M€
 Others	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Other actions (outreach, IT, studies, audit, IM, matchmaking) 10.6 M€ Business coaching for SMEs 1.8 M€ Equity funding for SMEs/Mid-Caps 20 M€ Business accelerating services 6.2 M€ EDF hackathon events 1.3 M€ 	 SMEs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research for SMEs and ROs 35 M€ Non-thematic development for SMEs 30 M€

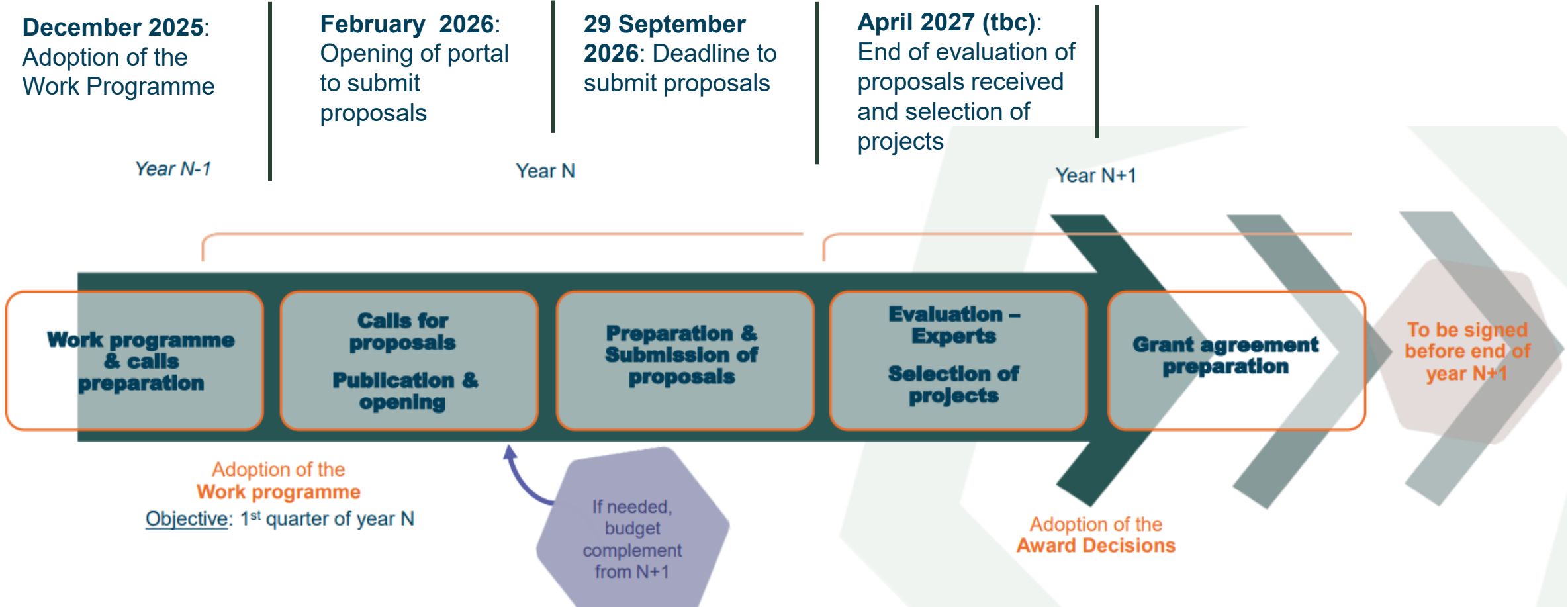
Legend: Research Development EUDIS-related

EDF 2026: EUDIS



230.9 M€ in total
201 M€ (87%)
dedicated to R&D
grants

Project launch timeline (ex. EDF26)



EDF 2026: How To Apply

- **Download and read the official documents!**
 - What: Objectives, Scope, Requirements,...
 - Who: Eligibility
 - How much: Funding rates
- **Watch our tutorials & check our website!**
- Decide: What do you want to apply for (Call/Topic)
- Register your entity in the Funding & Tenders portal
- **SME or Mid-cap? → Complete the self-assessment**
- **Choose your role** (coordinator, partner, subcontractor, ...) **& find partners**
- Start drafting your proposal early
- **Security clearance** needed for some calls
- Contact your **National Focal Point** for help

More Questions?



**Watch our
dedicated tutorials!**

EDF 2026: Tutorials

Financial aspects

- Type of grants – funding options
- Payment scheme
- EDF funding rates
- Co-financing declaration
- Cost categories and eligible costs
- Actual indirect costs methodology declaration
- Detailed budget tables updated with co-financing

Other aspects

- Selection criteria
- Award criteria
- Submission process
- Intra-EU transfers
- Ethics
- Grant agreement preparation
- PIC registration and validation
- SME and mid-cap assessment
- Ownership control assessment



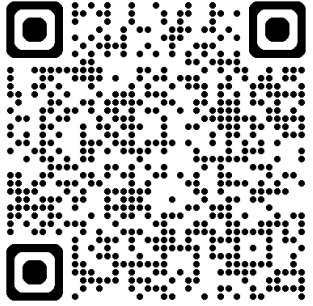
Call for experts

- Experts assist the Commission in the assessment of the proposals submitted to the EDF 2026 calls
- Expertise in technical areas, ethics or in financial assessment of defence related activities



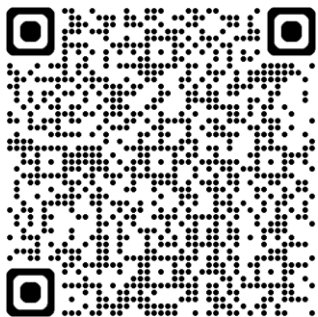
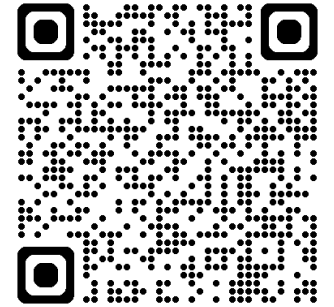
Useful Links

EDF general information on DG DEFIS website
(where to find annual WP and MAP, info-days slides, recordings and tutorials)



EDF Calls for proposals on the *Funding and Tenders portal*
(where to find call documentation and apply)

EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS) webpage
(apply for business coaching, hackathons, business accelerator, matchmaking service and to become a coach; access information about upcoming EUDIS events)



Network of EDF National Focal Points (NFP)
(to support you in setting up or joining an EDF project and with the application process)

For all other EC defence industry initiatives
(ASAP, EDIRPA, EDIS, White paper, SAFE, EDIP)





EUROPEAN DEFENCE FUND

MANY
THANKS
FOR YOUR
ATTENTION