



Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

Boosting investment for innovation

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STEP

In a nutshell



- **Not a new fund:** pooling funding from 11 EU existing programmes towards critical technologies in strategic sectors for EU competitiveness
- **Efficient:** use of existing networks/processes
- **Articulation** direct/indirect/shared managed funds
- **Regulation** entered into force on 1 March 2024
- **A pilot for a new Competitiveness Fund** as announced by Commission President

STEP Scope*



STEP OBJECTIVES

Supporting the **development or manufacturing** of critical technologies or safeguarding and strengthening their respective **value chains**

Addressing shortages of **labour and skills**

STEP CONDITIONS

Bring an **innovative**, cutting-edge element with significant economic potential to the Single Market



Contribute to **reduce or prevent strategic dependencies** of the Union

STEP SECTORS

Digital and deep tech innovation

Clean and resource efficient tech NZIA

Bio tech

CRMA

(indicative & non-exhaustive)

EXAMPLES



Artificial intelligence, quantum technologies, advanced connectivity



Carbon capture and storage technologies, heat pumps



Molecular biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, crop biotechnology



Pooling

of EU funding across 11 EU programmes and dedicated calls for STEP sectors.



STEP Seal

Label for high-quality STEP projects supporting them to access funding.



STEP Portal

that consolidates all funding opportunities for STEP sectors financed by the EU budget.



One-Stop Shop

Entry point for any question to the STEP Taskforce and support from NCPs.

STEP

How does the STEP Seal work?



1

Award under 2 conditions:

STEP-specific calls
for proposals

Excellence of the
project

Innovation
Fund

Horizon
Europe

Digital Europe
Programme

EU4Health

European
Defence Fund



Project complying with the
minimum quality
requirements of the call
for proposals



2

Publication
on STEP Portal



**Award of
STEP Seal**

Valid throughout duration
of project

Unless:
Project has not started within 5
years of award

3

Benefits per programme

**Cohesion policy funds
(ERDF, ESF+, JTF)**

Managing Authorities can directly
award support to projects, provided
they align to the scope of ERDF or
ESF+ and contribute to the
programmers' objectives

**National Recovery
and Resilience Facility
(RRF)**

Project to be considered as a
priority for funding when revising
RRPs – possibility to provide
alternative or cumulative funding

Modernisation Fund

Project may be considered as a
priority for funding

InvestEU

To be taken into account by EIB
and Implementing Partners during
the policy check process

**Other Union funds or
programmes**

Project could be granted
(combined) support

Advantages of STEP Seal in EDIH completion call



- **Increased visibility of project** through **STEP Portal and dissemination** activities of the STEP Task Force
- **Active promotion** of the quality and strategic importance of project for Commission towards:
 - **Public investors:** public authorities managing national or EU funds or the EIB Group
 - **Private investors:** private investors will do their own due diligence on the companies, the Seal is recognized as a quality feature and may help to raise capital in the markets.
- **Access to advisory services** for seal holders by entities cooperating with Commission, e.g., EIT Digital

STEP

Projects' dashboard & interactive map



No selections applied

Search for Proposal

Q Acronym
 3D Fibre
 3D-CIRCULAR
 3DP STeF

Q Proposal Title
 4Hemo-Lysi Sa End-Of-Life...
 3d Printing For Sustainable T...
 5g Communications For Peac...

Q Sector
 Biotech
 Cleantech
 Digital/deep tech

Q Programme
 DIGITAL
 EDF
 EU4H

Q Country
 Albania
 Australia
 Austria

Q Region
 /
 Abruzzo/ITF1
 Agder og Sør-Østlandet/NO09

Q Awarded EU funding
 No
 Yes

Q Proposal Topic Code
 DIGITAL-2024-ADVANCED-DL...
 DIGITAL-2024-AI-06-FINETUNE...
 DIGITAL-2025-EDIH-EU-EEA-...

Clear selection

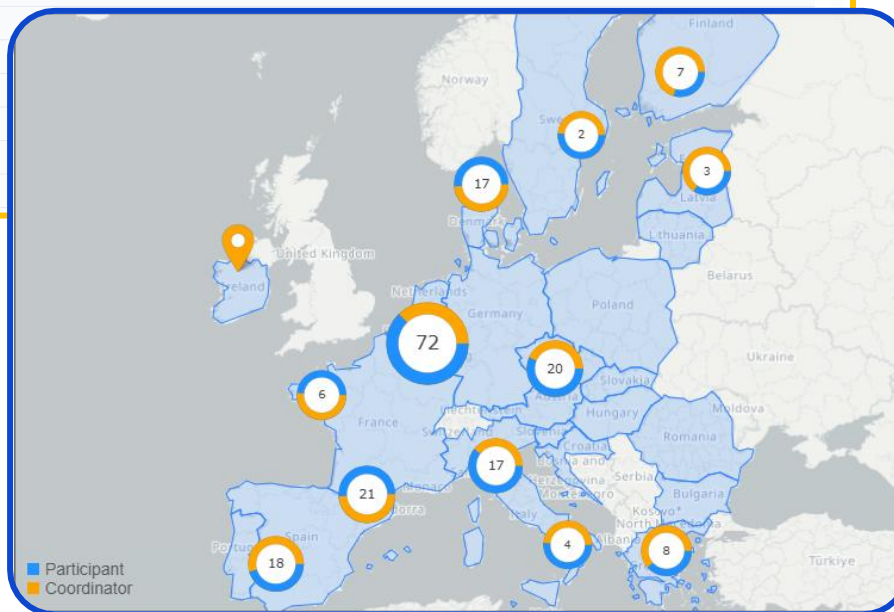
Number of projects: 509

Download Data

Acronym	Sector	Programme	Awarded EU Funding	Requested EU Funding
3D Fibre	Cleantech	InnovFund	Yes	€86.50M
3D-CIRCULAR	Digital/deep tech	DIGITAL	Yes	€19.96M
3DP STeF	Digital/deep tech	DIGITAL		
5G COMPAD 2.0	Digital/deep tech	EDF		
46inEU	Cleantech	InnovFund		
Absorption Heat Pump	Cleantech	InnovFund		
ACCEPT	Cleantech	InnovFund		
ACCSION	Cleantech	InnovFund		

The Commission **publishes and promotes the following information:**

- Project number
- Project acronym
- Project title
- Project abstract
- Project location
- Programme name
- Topic to which you submitted your application
- Legal name and address of the applicant(s)
- Requested EU funding
- Awarded EU funding (Yes/No)



Thank you



Contact us at EC-STEP-PARTNERS@ec.europa.eu



More info on STEP: strategic-technologies.europa.eu



Public consultations on the next MFF: [EU funding for Competitiveness](#)



Citizens' panel on a new European budget: more info [here](#)