



European
Commission

Access to EU FUNDING

Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

January 2026

STEP IN A NUTSHELL

TECHNOLOGY SECTORS



Digital, deep
tech innovation



Biotech



Clean, resource
efficient tech



Defence tech

OUTCOMES



€27 bn

mobilised EU funding under STEP

€100 bn

expected in public and
private investment

STEP TOOLS



Pooling

of EU funding with dedicated calls for STEP
sectors across **11 EU programmes**



STEP Seal

Label for **high-quality projects**
supporting them to access funding



STEP Portal

Consolidates funding opportunities
online for STEP sectors financed by
the EU budget



One-Stop Shop

Single-entry point with STEP Team
and National Contact Points for
any question

EU PROGRAMMES @STEP

5 implemented by the Commission and awarding the STEP Seal

- Digital Europe Programme
- European Defence Fund
- EU4Health Programme
- Horizon Europe
- Innovation Fund

6 managed and implemented by Member States and financial institutions

- European Regional Development Fund
- European Social Fund+
- Just Transition Fund
- Cohesion Fund
- Recovery & Resilience Facility
- InvestEU

STEP TECHNOLOGIES



Digital and deep tech innovation



Advanced semiconductors, artificial intelligence, robotics, quantum technologies



Clean and resource efficient tech



Carbon capture and storage technologies, solar and wind technologies, hydrogen technologies



Biotechnologies



Advanced therapy medicinal products, new molecules, crop biotechnology



Defence technologies



Missiles, drones, electronic warfare

UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES WITH THE **STEP SEAL**

A quality label awarded to top-scoring proposals evaluated under the 5 STEP programmes directly managed by the Commission (see beside)

- **Recognises projects' excellency** and alignment with STEP objectives
- **Unlocks smoother access** to complementary EU funding opportunities
- **Boosts project visibility** through the STEP Portal and targeted outreach to investors



More than 500 excellent projects were awarded a STEP Seal (end 2025). Discover them in the [STEP Seals dashboard](#)



Do you want to know more about the companies behind the STEP Seal projects? Check our dedicated STEP page [for investors](#)



STEP is an initiative of the European Commission





STEP OBJECTIVES

- ➔ Support the **development and manufacturing** of critical technologies, safeguarding and strengthening their respective **value chains**.
- ➔ Address shortages of **labour and skills**.

STEP CONDITIONS

Bring an **innovative**, cutting-edge element with significant economic potential to the single market.



Contribute to **reduce / prevent strategic dependencies** of the European Union.

LEARN MORE ABOUT STEP



Is my technology in the scope of STEP?

When are the next funding opportunities?

What are the latest results of STEP?

Learn more by scanning the **QR code** or write to EC-STEP-INFO@ec.europa.eu

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