Access to EU FUNDING
Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

European Commission

April 2025

STEP IN A NUTSHELL

11 European Union programmes joining forces

EUR 50 bn expected in public and private investment

EUR 11 bn with >90 calls so far

Digital and deep innovation tech

Biotechnologies

Clean and resource efficient tech

Skills for tech

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.

or

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

Budget

A **STEP SEAL** TO ENHANCE ACCESS TO EU FUNDING

➡️ Aims at enhancing access to EU funding, notably by facilitating alternative cumulative or combined funding from several EU budget instruments.

➡️ Automatically awarded to top-rated proposals under 5 programmes funded by the EU and managed by the European Commission (see next page).

➡️ Guarantees promotion on the STEP Portal in an effort to attract public & private funding by certifying their quality and contribution to the STEP objectives.

➡️ Each project awarded a STEP Seal receives an online certificate and a leaflet to explain what they can expect, with all useful links at hand.

Platform STEP Strategic Technologies for Europe

STEP SEAL

2 STEP CONDITIONS

- Compliance with **minimum requirements** (eligibility, exclusion and award criteria)

- Contribution to the **STEP objectives**:
    - Development or manufacturing of **critical technologies** throughout the EU or safeguarding / strengthening their value chains.
    - Addressing **shortages of labour and skills** critical to all kinds of quality jobs in STEP sectors.

5 EU PROGRAMMES

EU funding and STEP Seal awarded by the Commission

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

6 EU PROGRAMMES

EU funding allocated by Member States and financial institutions (e.g. EIB)

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

STEP SECTORS

Digital and deep innovation tech

Examples:
- advanced semiconductors
- artificial intelligence
- robotics
- quantum technologies
- ...

Biotechnologies

Examples:
- advanced therapy medicinal products
- new molecules
- crop biotechnology
- ...

Clean and resource efficient tech

Examples:
- carbon capture and storage technologies
- solar and wind technologies
- hydrogen technologies
- ...

Labour and skills

Mobilises Member States authorities, education and training providers, and the industry to enhance skills for critical technologies.

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
Entry point with Commission Task Force and National Contact Points for any question

LEARN MORE ABOUT STEP

Is my technology in the scope of STEP?

When are the next funding opportunities?

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