OFF-SOURCE COST Action: Exploring Funding Opportunities for Offshore Freshened Groundwater Research through EU Programmes

Theo Zacharis

Agenda

- ✓ Funding Opportunities for OFF-SOURCE Research and Collaboration
  - EU Funding Opportunities
  - Other Funding Sources
  - Other Avenues to secure fund

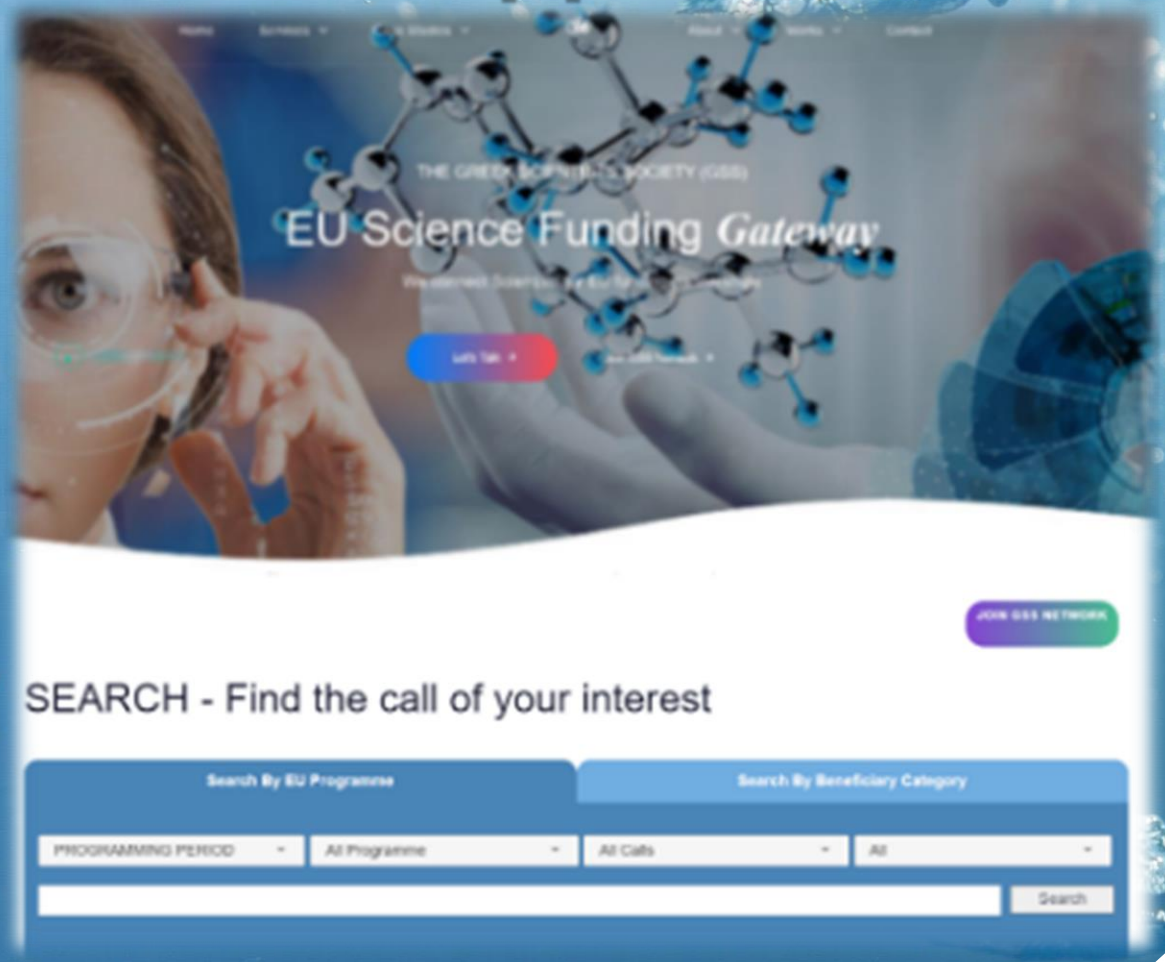
GREEK SCIENTISTS SOCIETY

Theo Zacharis

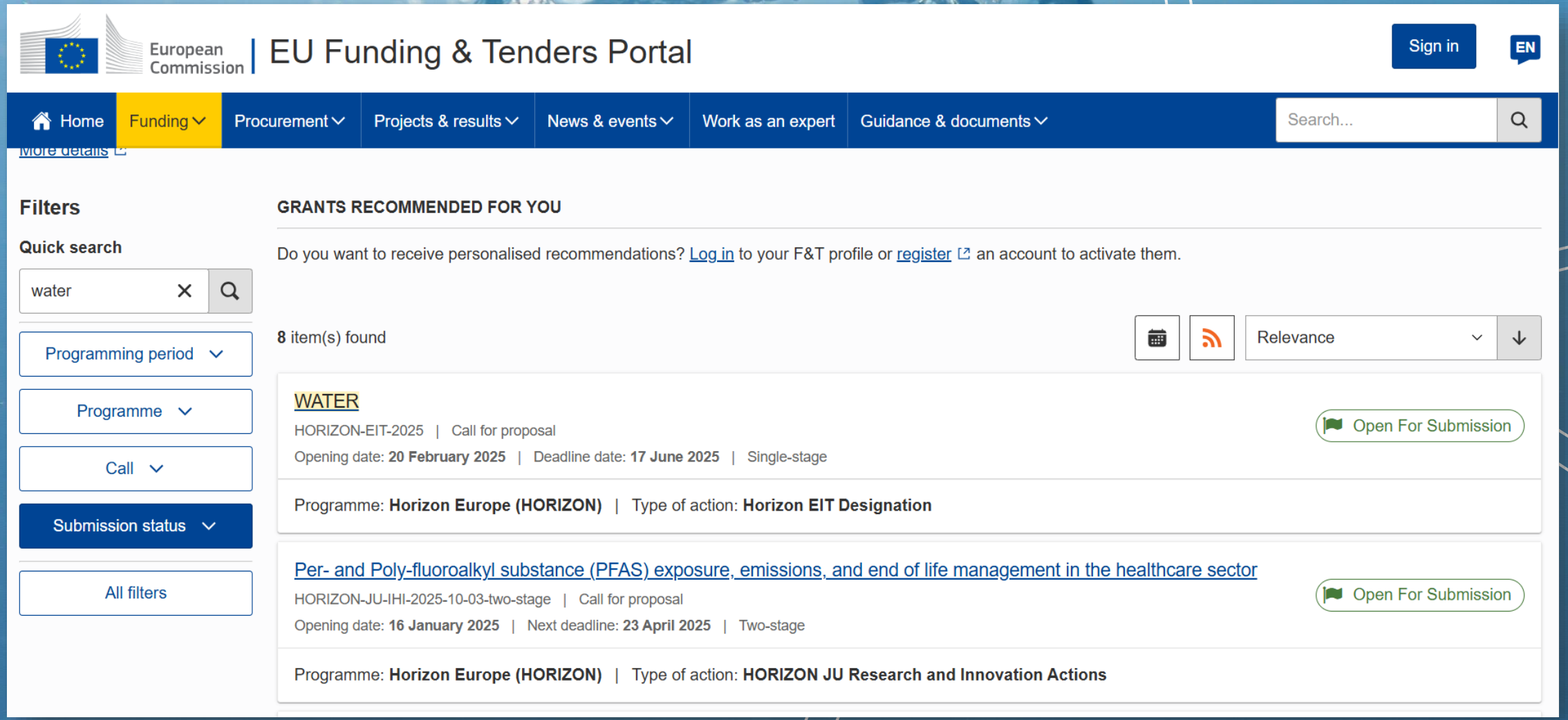
Greek Scientists Society

OFF-SOURCE COST Action: Exploring Funding Opportunities for Offshore Freshened Groundwater Research through EU Programmes

Grant Applications



Open Calls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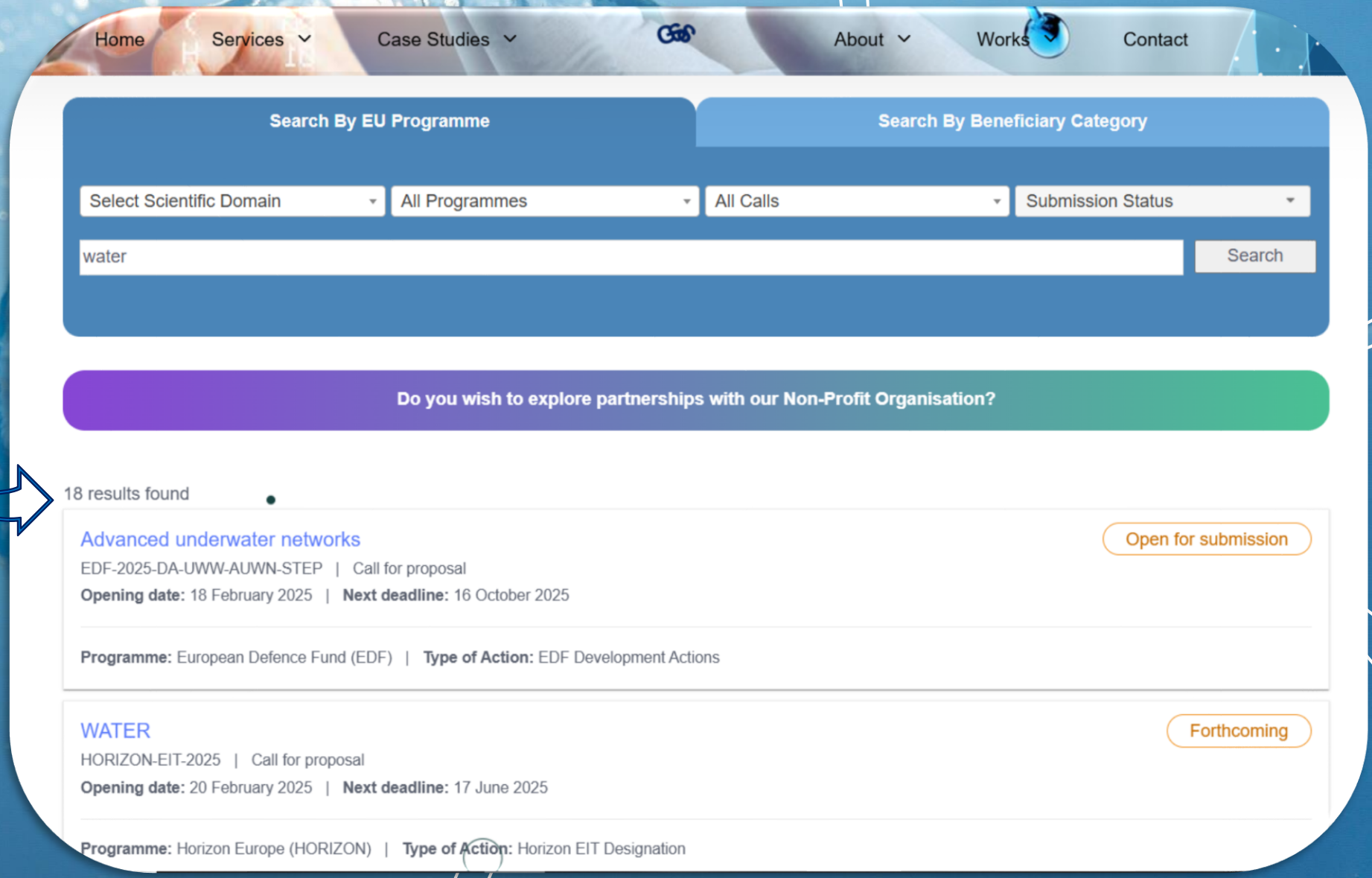
8 item(s) found
Relevance
WATER
HORIZON-EIT-2025 | Call for proposal
Opening date: 20 February 2025 | Deadline date: 17 June 2025 | Single-stage
Open For Submission
Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON) | Type of action: Horizon EIT Designation
Per- and Poly-fluoroalkyl substance (PFAS) exposure, emissions, and end of life management in the healthcare sector
HORIZON-JU-IHI-2025-10-03-two-stage | Call for proposal
Opening date: 16 January 2025 | Next deadline: 23 April 2025 | Two-stage
Open For Submission
Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON) | Type of action: HORIZON JU Research and Innovation Actions

Open Calls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Advanced underwater networks
Open for submission
EDF-2025-DA-UWW-AUWN-STEP | Call for proposal
Opening date: 18 February 2025 | Next deadline: 16 October 2025
Programme: European Defence Fund (EDF) | Type of Action: EDF Development Actions
WATER
Forthcoming
HORIZON-EIT-2025 | Call for proposal
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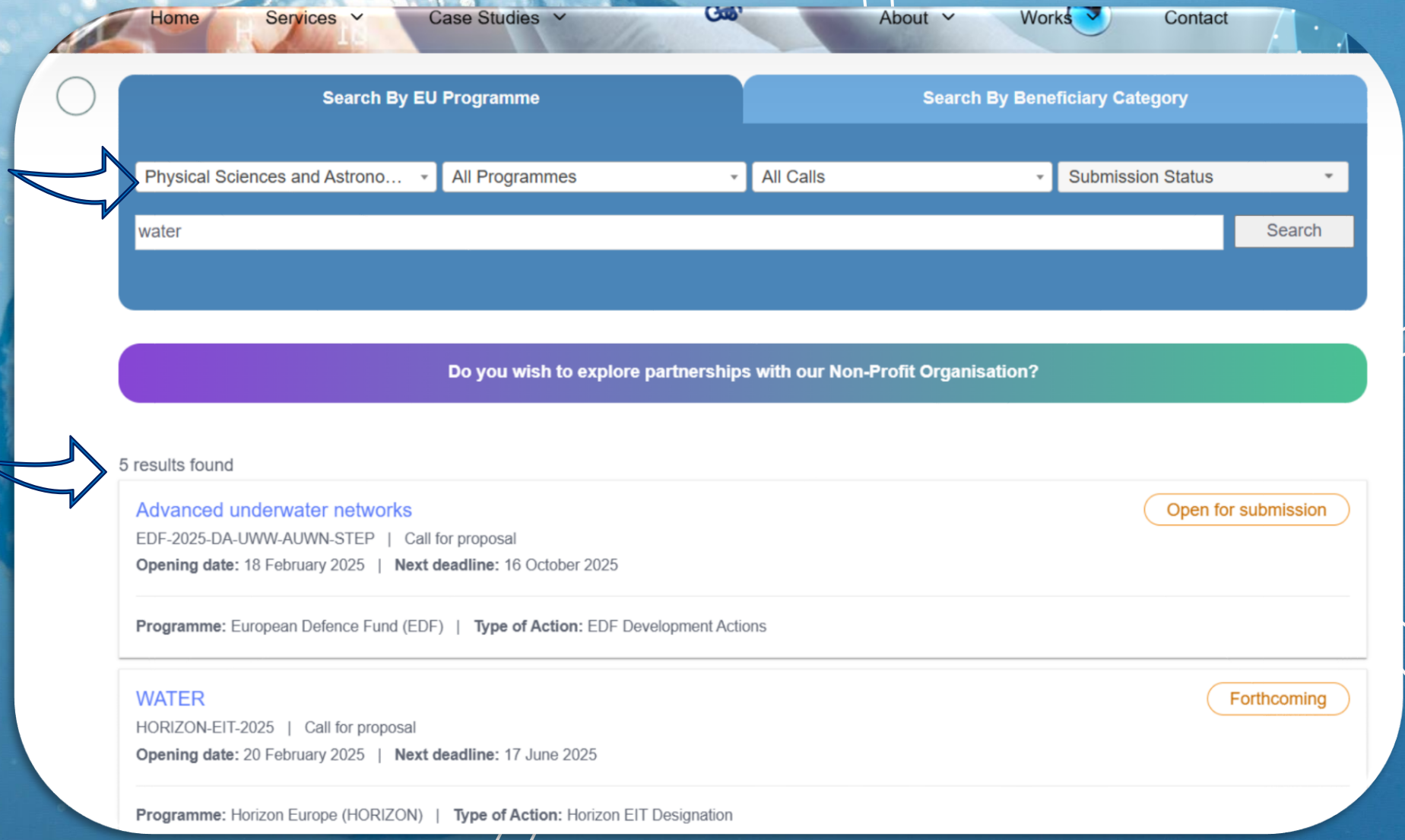
Programme: Horizon Europe (HORIZON) | Type of Action: Horizon EIT Designation

Open Calls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Funding opportunities for offshore freshened groundwater research through EU programmes

1. **Horizon Europe**

   - **Cluster 6: Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture & Environment**

     Funding for sustainable water management, ecosystem services, and unconventional water sources.

   - **Cluster 5: Climate, Energy & Mobility**

     Potential funding for offshore water technologies and renewable desalination solutions.

   - **European Innovation Council (EIC) Pathfinder & Accelerator**

     For disruptive technologies in offshore groundwater exploration, extraction, and treatment.

2. **PRIMA (Partnership for Research and Innovation in the Mediterranean Area)**

   - **Focus: Water management solutions for coastal and Mediterranean regions.**
   - OFG could fit under **water scarcity and unconventional water resource development.**

Funding opportunities for offshore freshened groundwater research through EU programmes

3. **INTERREG Europe**
   - *Supports transnational cooperation on water resource management.*
   - *Possible funding for pilot projects and data integration for offshore groundwater mapping.*
4. **LIFE Programme**
   - **LIFE Environment and Climate Action**

   Supports projects addressing sustainable water use, environmental impacts, and adaptation measures.

Funding opportunities for offshore freshened groundwater research through EU programmes

5. EU Blue Economy Initiatives

- **European Maritime, Fisheries & Aquaculture Fund (EMFAF)**

Supports sustainable use of marine resources, including offshore groundwater exploration.

- **BlueInvest**

Funding and investment platform for innovative maritime s

technologies.

Funding opportunities for offshore freshened groundwater research through EU programmes

Programme	Focus Areas	Funding Details	Eligibility
Horizon Europe	Research & Innovation; Climate, Energy & Mobility; Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources	€95.5B (2021-2027), Up to 100% funding	Universities, SMEs, Research Organisations, Industry
ERC (European Research Council)	Frontier research in any discipline	**Starting:** €1.5M (7 yrs post-PhD) **Consolidator:** €2M (7-12 yrs post-PhD) **Advanced:** €2.5M (established researchers) **Synergy:** €10M (collaborative projects)	Individual researchers (EU/Associated Country)
EIC Pathfinder	Early-stage, high-risk research; Novel technologies	Up to €4M, 100% funding	Consortia (3+ entities), Universities, SMEs
EIC Accelerator	Scaling & market entry for disruptive innovations	Up to €2.5M grant + €15M equity investment	Startups, SMEs, Single applicants
LIFE Programme	Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation, Circular Economy	€5.45B (2021-2027), 60%-75% funding	Public bodies, NGOs, Private entities
EMFAF (Maritime & Fisheries Fund)	Sustainable use of marine resources; Blue economy innovation	€6.1B (2021-2027), funding varies	Public bodies, NGOs, Fishermen, Fish Farmers
BlueInvest	Investment in innovative blue economy SMEs & startups	Grants, equity funding, investment readiness support	SMEs, Startups, Scale-ups

EU Funding Programmes

EU Funding Programmes

MSCA Doctoral Networks (DN)

Success rate: 13%

What ?

High-level international doctoral programmes, focusing on **transversal training** and **international** mobility, **intersectoral** and /or **interdisciplinary**). They are collaborative projects **up to 48 months**
3 types of actions: European **Doctoral Networks (DN, standard**): Training in academia and/or industry.
Industrial Doctorates (DN-ID) : Training in academia and industry, Joint supervision.
Joint Doctorates (DN-JD) : Joint collaborations leading to a joint/multiple doctoral degree,
Joint selection and supervision

Deadline 2024, November the 27th

For whom ?

Consortium of **at least 3 partners** from EU Member States or associated countries
Each beneficiary must **recruit at least one doctoral candidate** (registered to a doctoral degree, and no present for more than 12 months in the host country during the last 3 years)
Doctoral researchers must have secondments (in academia and/or industry)

Technical part application: **30 pages max**

How much ?

Fellowships of 3 to 36 months, fixed salary paid 100% by the EC + lump sum for research costs and overheads. Max 540 Person Months in total (15 doctorates of 36 months)

EU Funding Programmes

MSCA Staff Exchange (SE)

Success rate: 20%

What?

Collaborative actions **up to 48 months** that support short-term international and inter-sectoral and/or interdisciplinary exchanges of staff to further develop collaborative research projects

For Whom?

Eligibility criteria: Consortia of at least 3 EU Member states or associated countries
Academic and non-Academic
Staff of any nationality
Staff of any career stage (doc, postdoc, related to research, technical, or research administration)

Deadline 5th March 2025

How much?

Maximum funding : 360 PM or 1.65M€.
Secondment duration : one month to one year and then return back to the host organisation
Lump sums: Travel, accommodation, subsistence costs (on the top of the salary paid by the sending organization), Research costs, Management and indirect costs

Technical part application: **30 pages max**

EU Funding Programmes

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships (PF)

Success rate: 15%

What ?

2 types of MSCA PF :

European Fellowship : from 12 to 24 months, for candidates from any nationality applying in any Laboratory in an EU Member state or Associated Country*

Global Fellowship : from 12 to 24 months + 12 months back to the host organisation, for candidates must be nationals or long-term residents from EU Member states or AC*, applying in a Laboratory in any country

For whom?

Post-doctoral researcher (and supervisor in the host institution), eligibility criteria:

Doctoral degree before call deadline

New restriction : maximum 8 years of cumulated research activity

Mobility rule (no more than 12 months in the host country in the last 3 years)

Technical part application **25 pages max**

Deadline 2024, September the 11th

How much ?

Fellowships of 12 to 36 months, fixed salary paid 100% by the EC + lump sum for research costs and overheads

Possibility of secondment anywhere (max 1/3 of the total duration) and of Non-academic placement in EU and the AC (up to 6 months at the end of the project)

*Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, United-Kingdom Will soon sign agreements: Canada, Morocco and Switzerland

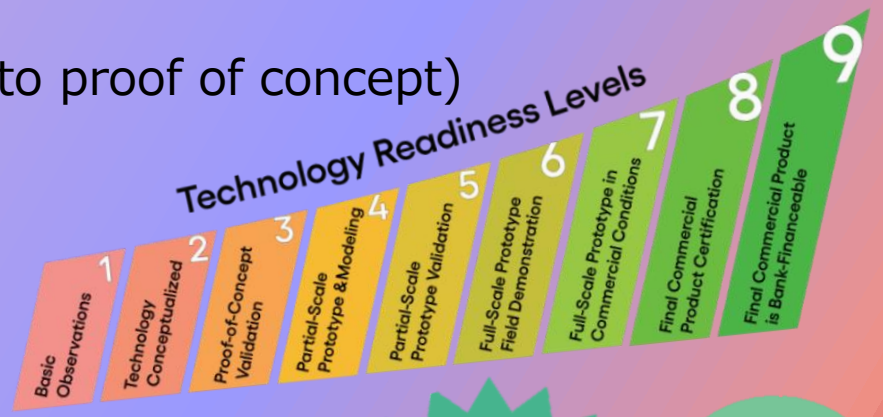
EU Funding Programmes

EU Funding Programmes

EIC Pathfinder Open

Success rate: 7%

WHAT?
Non-thematic call
For the exploration of bold ideas / radically new technologies / technological breakthrough
High-risk / high gain projects
Interdisciplinary, cutting-edge science collaborations
TRL 1 to 3-4 (early-stage development of future technologies up to proof of concept)



For whom ?
Consortium of **at least 3 legal entities** (public and/or private) **from 3 EU Member states or associated countries** (SMEs, start-ups, non-academic sector is welcome)

How much ?
3 M€ maximum (possibly more if justified by the project)

Deadline March 2025

Technical part application **20 pages max**

Other EU Funding Programmes

European Research Council (ERC) Grants: ERC grants support pioneering research in any field conducted within the EU Member States or Associated Countries. OFF-SOURCE scientists can apply for Starting, Consolidator, Advanced, or Synergy Grants depending on their experience and the scale of their project.

- ERC grants are highly competitive and support frontier research. They are not tied to specific themes like OFG but can be applied to it if the research is groundbreaking.

The LIFE Programme: The LIFE Programme is the EU's funding instrument for the environment and climate action. Projects that focus on innovative and efficient ways to mitigate OFF-SOURCE's impact on the environment could potentially be funded under this programme.

- LIFE does not directly fund research projects but rather **applied solutions** for climate and environmental challenges.
- It could support OFG-related projects if they focus on water management, adaptation, or climate resilience rather than fundamental research.

EUREKA and Eurostars: A network that supports international collaborative research and development projects. It is suited for applied research and aims to help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) develop innovative products, including those for OFF-SOURCE mitigation.

https://eurekanetwork.org/opencalls/eurostars-call-for-projects-mar-2025/
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Other Avenues to secure funding

Other Funding Sources

Industry Sponsorship: Engaging with industries directly affected by OFF-SOURCE can lead to sponsored research projects to solve their specific OFF-SOURCE problems.
Private Foundations and Non-Profit Organizations: Numerous foundations and non-profits focus on scientific research, sustainability, and technological advancements promoting innovation and addressing environmental issues.
Crowdfunding: This method can be particularly useful for projects with potential societal benefits that resonate well with the general public.
Venture Capital: For highly innovative research with potential commercial applications, venture capital (VC) provide substantial financial backing but seek equity in return, suitable for projects aiming at commercialisation.
Government Contracts: Some government agencies issue contracts for specific R&D projects related to OFF-SOURCE that address national priorities, including infrastructure maintenance and environmental conservation.
University Funding: Many universities provide seed funding, internal grants, and other types of support for early-stage research, helping scientists to develop their ideas to a stage where they can attract external investment.
Collaborative Research Funds: International and national collaborative research programs, often involving multiple institutions or countries, offer funds for projects that encourage cooperation and can tackle larger, more complex problems than a single entity could address alone.
In-kind Support: While not direct financial funding, receiving in-kind support such as laboratory space, access to high-end equipment, or technical expertise.

Thank you!

Theo Zacharis
Executive Director of Kinesis Innovation Center
Innovation & Strategy Advisor at bioGLOT Ventures
Founder of the Greek Scientists Society

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