

# EDF INFO DAY AT 2026

## Einblicke & Innovationsinstrumente

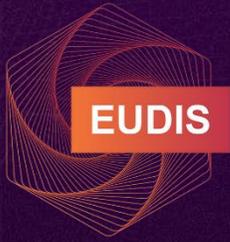
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**EUROPEAN  
DEFENCE  
FUND**

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[defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu](https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu)  
[eudis.europa.eu](https://eudis.europa.eu)



# The European Defence Fund

Shaping the future of European defence from ideas to impact

## European Defence Fund (EDF)

€ 7.3 bn (2021-2027)

EU programme for defence research & development :

- R&D grants
- Supports innovation & industrial competitiveness
- Fosters cross-border collaboration in the EU

## EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS)

€ 1.5 bn (out of EDF)

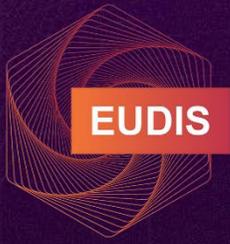
Instrument tailored for SMEs & new defence players :

- Accelerate defence innovation
- Broaden the defence innovation base
- De-risk high potential ideas



## Governance & funding

- Managed by the Directorate-General for Defence Industry and Space (DG DEFIS), European Commission.
- **Funding priorities:** EU Member States' defence capability and technology priorities.
- Annual Work Programme for R&D calls and support actions.



# EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS)

Supporting defence innovation across the EU



## 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



## 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.



# Collaborative 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)
- Funding:
  - 5-6 m€
  - 20% -> 100% costs

## Disruptive Tech calls

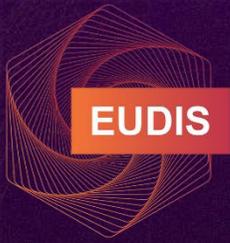
- Supports cutting-edge, high-risk/high-impact research projects
- Consortium:  $\Delta \Delta$
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs.
- Thematic / non-thematic
- Funding:
  - 3 m€ for call (non-thematic)
  - Implementation: 12-24 months
  - Up to design or increasing efficiency of existing product or tech
  - 100% costs

## Technological challenge

- Provides common testing environment to several R&D teams
- Consortium:  $\Delta \Delta \Delta$
- For: SMEs, mid-caps, large companies, RTOs
- Thematic
- Funding:
  - Several consortiums
  - Up to 100% costs

## 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.
- Thematic
- Funding:
  - 20% to 100% costs
  - No limit



# Support for New Defence Players



## 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 first year of participation to project

## Defence Hackathons

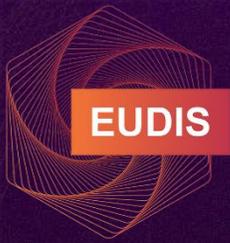
- Supports emerging teams addressing defence challenges
- Team: Δ
- For: Individuals, SMEs
- Min. 2/year, in several locations across EU
- Open to UA
- Funding & support:  
Wining team receives:
  - Mentoring program
  - Monetary prize

Next call for local organizers:  
11 Dec 2025 - 25 Jan 2026  
Next Defence Hackathon:  
26 -28 March 2026

## Business Accelerator

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

Next call: 16 Dec 2025 - 27 Jan 2026



# Access to Finance



## Matchmaking service

## Defence Equity Facility

- 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

- 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



...and more to come in 2026...

# BraveTech EU

## Joint EU/UKR € 100m initiative and the EU

- Brings together EUDIS and Brave 1

## BraveTech EU DefTech Forges

- One-week events/2 locations (2026 twice, first June/July)
- Solutions to operational challenges identified by Ukraine
- Startups, SMEs, individuals as well as large industry participants
- Joint EU-Ukrainian innovators teams are encouraged
- 3 best teams in each location will receive €120,000 prize

## Testing, Evaluation and Experimentation Campaign (EDA)

- DefTech Forge winning teams
- Teams will receive support from experts and mentors
- €500,000 awards for best projects

## Mid 2026 first call for participation



**Supporting cooperation between Ukrainian and EU Innovators**



**Adapting Ukrainian fast innovation model into EU defence initiatives**



**Gearing EU defence innovation towards battlefield challenges**



**Tapping into EU innovators ideas to address Ukrainian real battlefield needs**

# Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP)

EU programme to support EU industry and boost innovation in critical technologies

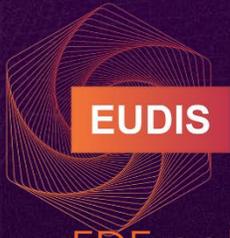
- Steer resources across 11 EU funding programmes (including EDF)
- 3 targeted investment areas
  - digital technologies and deep-tech innovation
  - clean and resource efficient technologies
  - biotechnologies

18 topics from EDF WP 2026 are deemed, by design, to contribute to the STEP objectives

- Identified by suffix “-STEP” in the call topic, f.i. “EDF-2026-LS-DIS-NT-STEP”

## Benefits

- Extra budget for the EDF: +1.5 Bn€ for the period 2024-2027 (i.e. ~ € 375m/year)
- Applicants with proposals scoring above threshold will be awarded a STEP Seal



# Key dates to know for EDF and EUDIS



## EDF calls for defence R&D proposals

- End January/February 2026 – opening of the EDF Work Programme 2026 calls
- 10–11 March 2026 – EDF Info Day and Investor Day in Brussels and online

## EUDIS Defence Hackathons

- 11 December 2025 – 25 January 2026 – First call to select 8 local hosts to organize the Defence Hackathon
- 26 – 28 March 2026 – EUDIS Defence Hackathon
- Late Spring 2026 – Second call to select 8 local hosts to organize the Defence Hackathon
- October 2026 – EUDIS Defence Hackathon

## EUDIS Defence Business Accelerator

- 16 December 2025 – 25 January 2026 – first call for start-ups and scale-ups (20 company cohort)
- May – June 2026 – second call for start-ups and scale-ups (20 company cohort)

## EUDIS Matchmaking

- Open call to join the EUDIS Matchmaking platform for start-ups, scale-ups and investors!

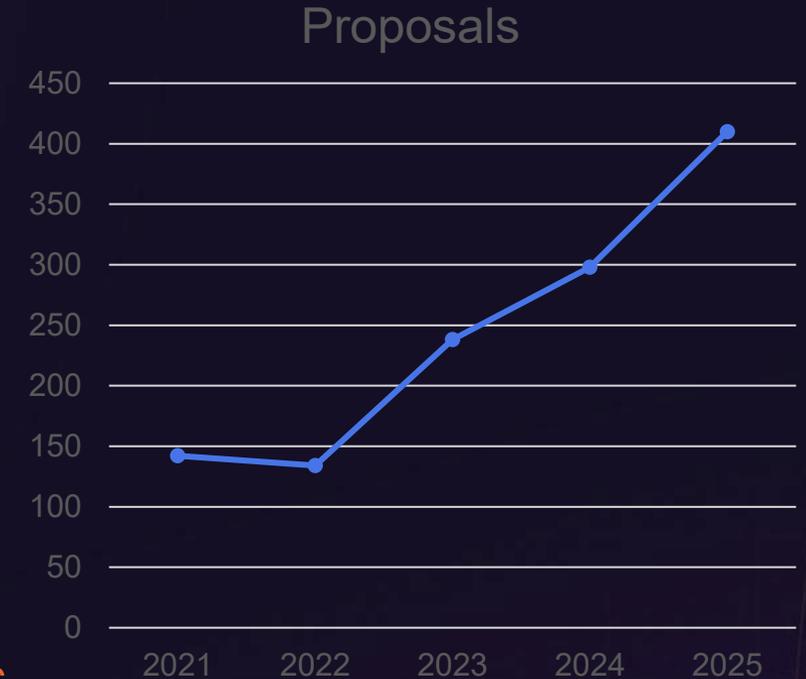
# EDF 2025 Call closure

## Significant interest by the EU industry

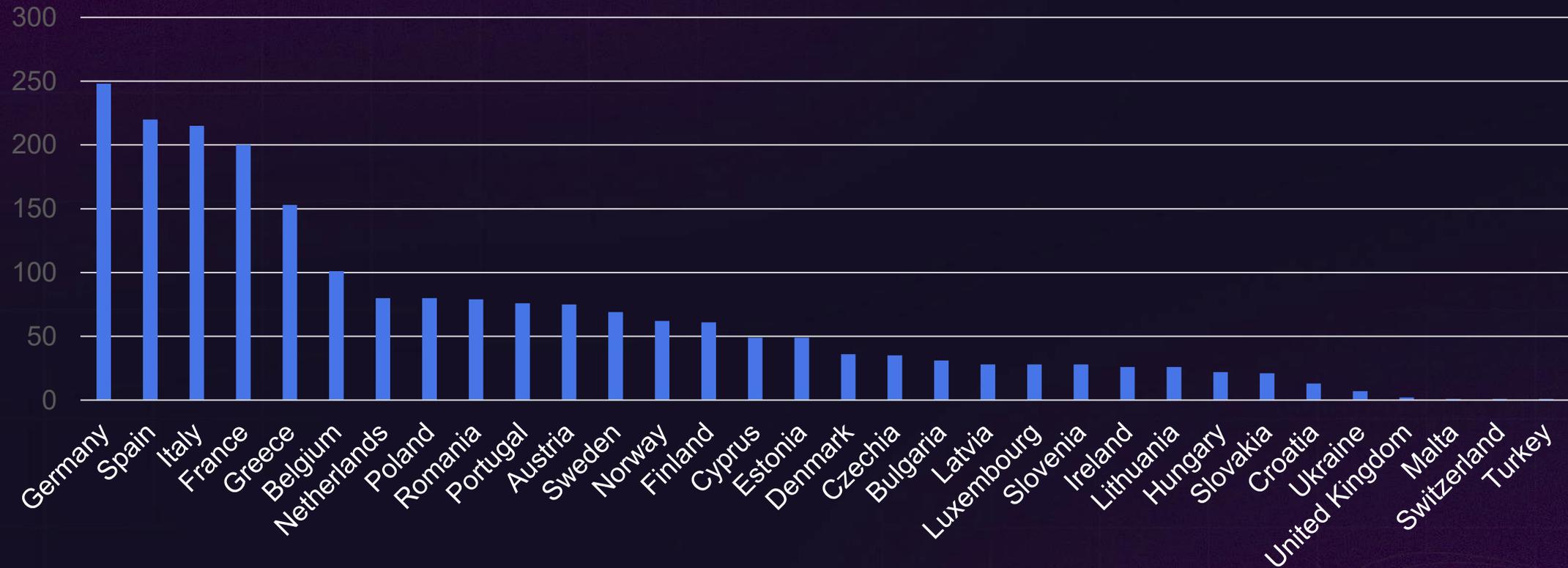
- 410 proposals (+39%, 297 in 2024)

## High interested in non-thematic topics dedicated to SMEs and to disruptive technologies

- 70% of the total number of proposals submitted in these 3 topics only
- SMEs represent 58% of all participations
- SMEs 43% of the total requested grant amount
- 46% of all SME participations in the dedicated SME calls



## 2025 EDF Calls – Participation (AT = 75)



AT EDF 2021-2024: 47 entities/106 participations, € 68m

## New or to expect in 2026...

### EDF

- Ukraine as an associated country (subject to association agreement)
- More simplified evaluation process for SME & Disruptive Tech calls

### Defence Industry Transformation Roadmap

- More efficient Defence Procurement Regulation
- Generating defence skills and talent (Defence Talent Platform)

### European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)



# European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP)

## EDIP (€ 1,5 bn) in parallel to EDF

- Industrial reinforcement actions
- Common procurement actions
- Ukraine Support Instrument
- Set-up of European Defence Projects of Common Interest
- Fund to accelerate defence supply chains' transformation
- Supporting actions

## Regulatory strands

- Security of Supply
- Military Sales Mechanism
- Structure for European Armaments Programme

## Work Programme

- Multiannual
- Publication end of March 2026

# European Competitiveness Fund (ECF)

## ECF objectives

- Consolidates 14 individual funding instruments
- Part of the next Multiannual Financial Framework 2028–2034
- Budget ~ € 410 bn

## 4 windows

- Clean Transition and Industrial Decarbonisation
- Health, Biotech, Agriculture and Bioeconomy
- Digital Leadership
- Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space

# Resilience and Security, Defence Industry and Space

**Budget** ~ € 131 bn

## **Support for defence industry**

- European Defence Projects of Common Interest
- Defence R&D, Innovation and Technological Superiority
- Defence Industrial Responsiveness, Industrial Scale-Up and Resilience
- Cooperation in Defence Procurement, Maintenance and Availability
- Military Logistics Enablement and Support

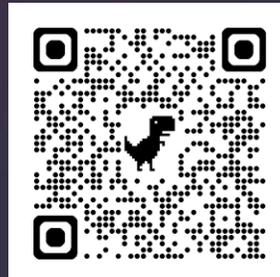
## **Support to new entrants, innovative start-ups, SMEs and scale-ups**

- Dedicated programme EU Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS)

## Visit our websites



[eudis.europa.eu](https://eudis.europa.eu)



[defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu](https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu)

## Get in touch with us



[Contact EUDIS Team](#)

