



# The European Defence Fund (EDF) Kommissionseinblicke und Innovationsinstrumente

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# European Defence Fund

## The EU defence R&D programme

Support collaborative and cross-border R&D, incl. disruptive technologies

Contribute to the competitiveness and innovation capacity of the EDTIB

Encourage the participation of SMEs and other actors not usually active in the defence field

Help reducing fragmentation

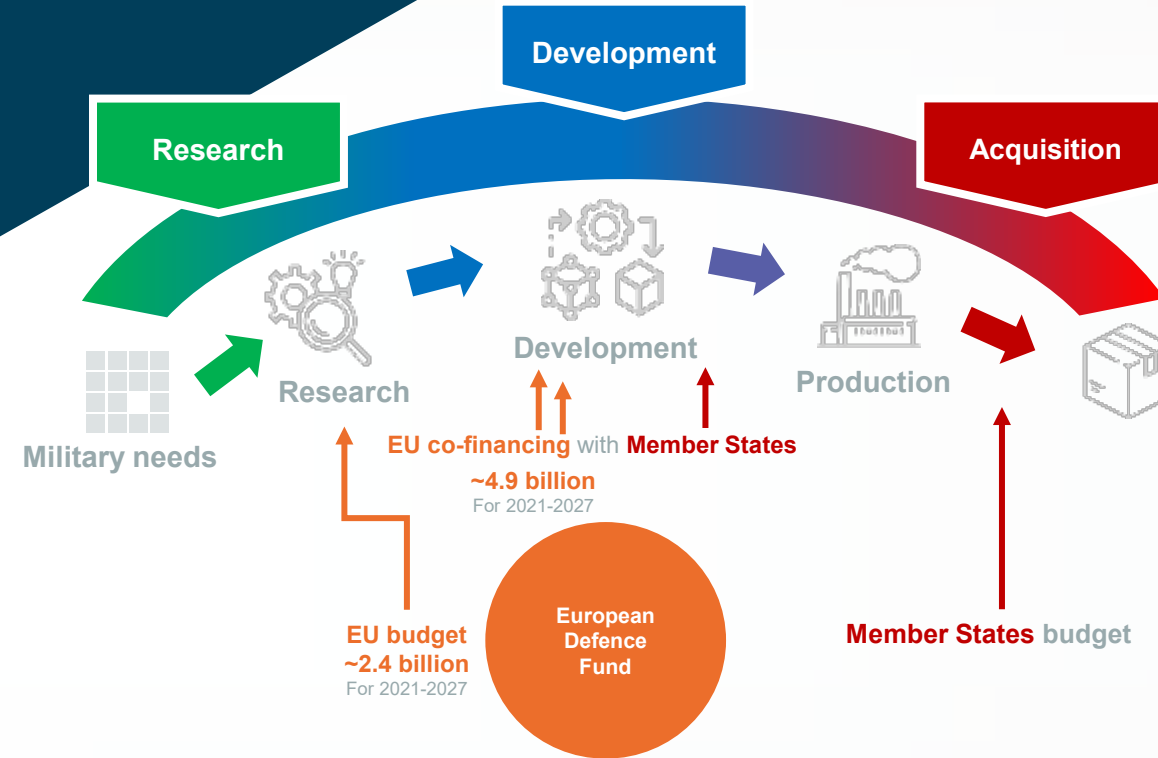
Help building partnerships

Help maximising the outcome of defence spending

Contribute to close defence technological shortfalls

Strengthen other security and defence initiatives

Strengthen Europe's resilience and strategic autonomy



- EDF financial support mainly in the form of grants
- Open to EU Member States and Norway
- Security-based participation conditions for entities controlled by third-countries

# EDF: a **successful catalyst** of the defence (industry) landscape

**€4 billion already committed for cooperative defence R&D**

*EU 2<sup>nd</sup> biggest defence R&D investor in Europe*

**157 R&D projects** (incl. EDF23)

+ 62 projects from precursors (PADR and EDIDP)

**High-level of inclusiveness**

*~1.200 beneficiaries from all parts of the EU*

*~1/3 of participants SMEs*

**Real cooperative dimension**

*On average, 17 entities from 8 MS and Norway involved in an EDF project*

**Growing attractiveness**

*236 proposals submitted under 2023 calls: +76% increase*

*Number proposals x2 under non-thematic SMEs and disruptive technologies calls*

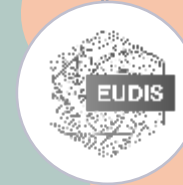


**EDF-funded actions in line with EU's capability priorities**



**Key next-generation defence capabilities supported**

*Examples: space, main battle tank, strategic air transport, anti-UAVs, navy vessels*



**~20% of the EDF budget implemented under EU Defence Innovation Scheme**

*with innovative measures to support defence R&D and attract new and small players*



**First concrete products and systems already used by armed forces**

*Examples: counter naval mine solutions, unmanned ground vehicles*



**Part of a comprehensive EU strategy to boost defence investment**

*with ASAP and EDIRPA, the new European Defence Industrial Strategy (EDIS) and the newly proposed EDIP*

# EDF in perspective

Since the adoption of EDF Regulation in May 2021:

- **€2 billion in signed grant agreements**
- **More than €3 billion in awarded projects**
- **More than €4 billion programmed/committed**

## EDF 2021

**€1.17 billion**

**60 projects selected**

142 proposals submitted

692 entities from 26 MS + NO  
**43% SMEs**

18.4% of overall budget allocated to SMEs

## EDF 2022

**€0.83 billion**

**41 projects selected**

134 proposals submitted

550 entities from 26 MS + NO  
**39% SMEs**

19.8% of overall budget allocated to SMEs

## EDF 2023

**€1.135 billion**

**2 projects + 54 proposals selected**

238 proposals submitted

581 entities from 26 MS + NO  
**42% SMEs**

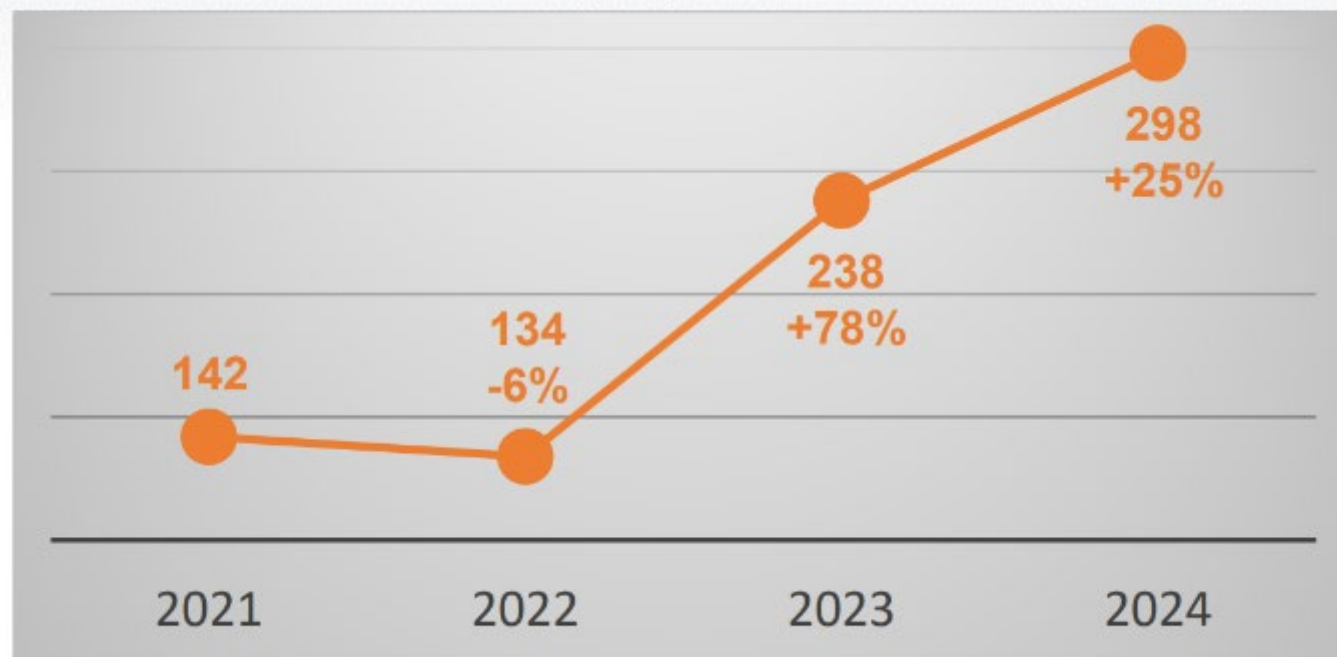
18% of overall budget allocated to SMEs

On average, 17 entities from 8 Member States and Norway involved in a single project  
Overall, entities from 27 Member States and Norway



# 2024 EDF Calls

Number of proposals received

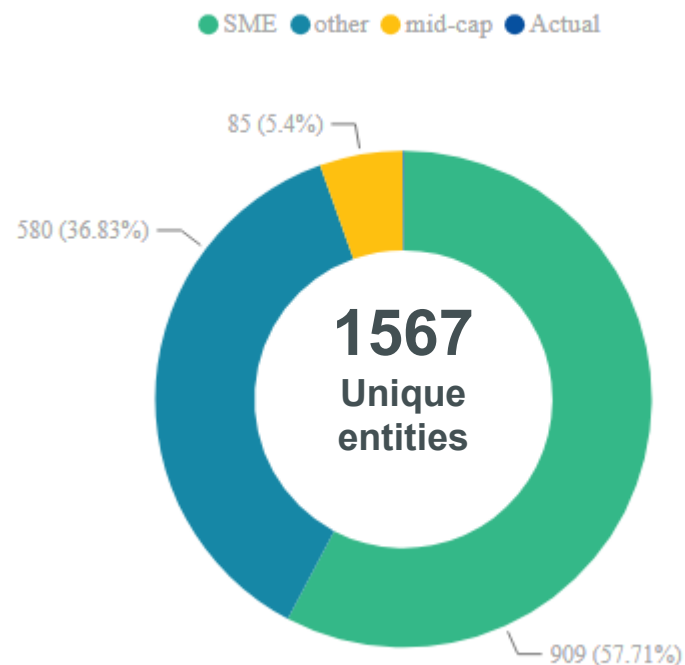


- Available budget: ~ EUR 0,987B\*
- EU grants requested: ~EUR 2,495B
- Around 67% of all proposals received in non-thematic topics (EDF-2024-LS-RA-DIS-NT, EDF-2024-LS-RA-SMERO-NT, EDF-2024-LS-DA-SME-NT)
- 21% of proposals submitted in development calls
- 79% of proposals submitted in research calls

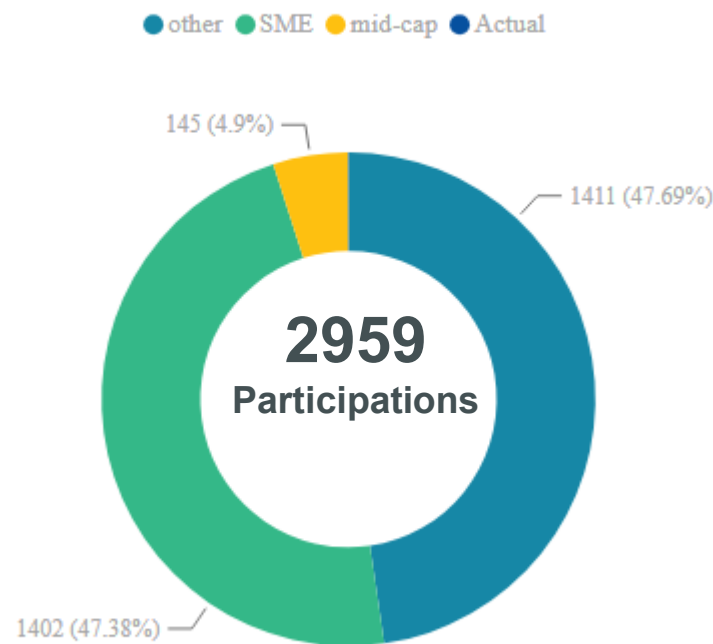
\* budget excluding EDF-2024-DA-EUCI call

# 2024 EDF Calls – Increased participation of SMEs that represent 47% of the total number of entities and represent 36% of the total requested grant amount

Unique Applicants by size of entity



Repetitive Applicants by size of entity



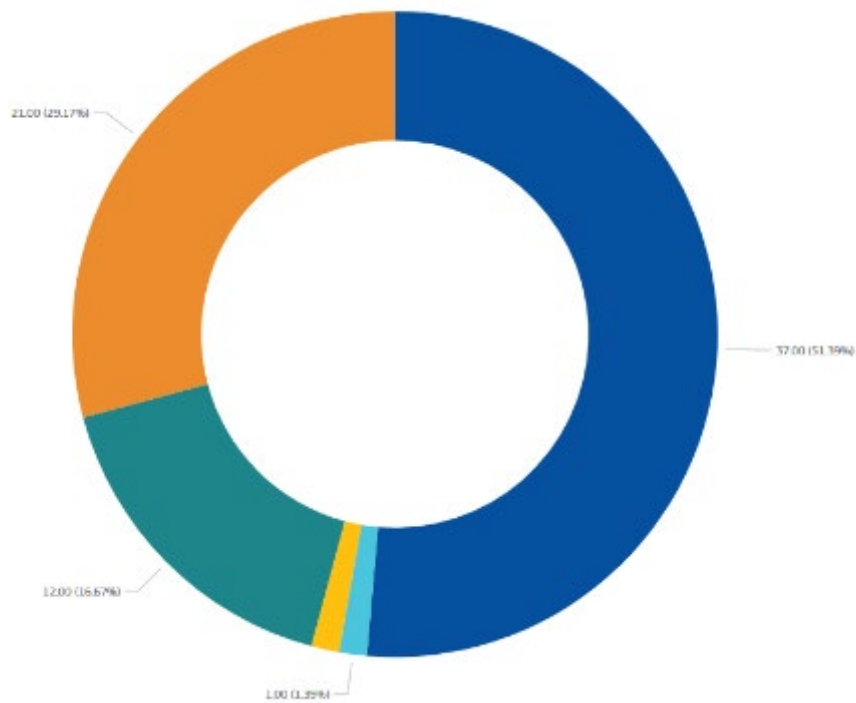
- SMEs represent 47% of all participations
- SMEs 36% of the total requested grant amount
- 48% of all SME participations in the dedicated SME calls\*

\* SME calls: EDF-2024-LS-RA-SMERO-NT  
EDF-2024-LS-DA-SME-NT

# How is Austria performing?

## General Figures:

37 unique AT participants participated 72 times in 48 projects receiving 41.541.695 € in EU Grants



● Research Org (non-profit) ● Higher Education (excluding Research org.) ● PublicBodies (excluding Research and Higher Education) ● SME self declared ● Other Profit entities



# EDF Work Programme 2025



# Timeline EDF WP and calls 2025

Time to prepare proposals > 8,5 months  
(more than 1 month more than in 2024)

**29 Jan**

Adoption and publication of  
**EDF WP\* 2025**,  
**MAP\*\*** and **call topics description**

**Mid-Feb**

Publication and opening of calls,  
**conditions** and **templates** on F&T Portal

**2-3 April**

**EDF Info Days**

**16 Oct**  
**17.00 CET**

**Deadline** for submission of proposals

\* Work programme

\*\* Indicative Multiannual perspective

**#EUDefenceIndustry**

**MAY: Results of EDF 2024 calls**


# EDF Categories of Actions

Addressed by annual work programmes & calls for proposals

-  Medical response, CBRN & human factors
-  Information superiority
-  Sensors
-  Cyber
-  Space
-  Digital transformation
-  Energy resilience & environmental transition
-  Materials and components
-  Air combat
-  Air and Missile defence
-  Ground combat
-  Force protection and mobility
-  Naval combat
-  Underwater warfare
-  Simulation and training

**Horizontal categories**

 Disruptive technologies

 Innovative defence technologies (SMEs)



EDF annual work programmes are defined in **close cooperation with Member States** within EDF Programme Committee (including with European Defence Agency and European External Action Service)

**First concrete products and systems *already in use* by armed forces**

*Examples: mine detection, unmanned ground vehicles*

























































# EDF Work Programme 2025

EUR ~1.065 billion

33 topics

Opening of the calls: Mid-Feb 2025

Deadline for submission: 16 Oct 2025 17.00 CET

 <b>Medical Response &amp; CBRN</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures  </li><li>SGA under FPA on medical countermeasures  </li><li>Autonomous triage and evacuation </li></ul>	13.5 M€ 11.5 M€ 10 M€
 <b>Information superiority</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>EU MIDS  </li></ul>	39 M€
 <b>Sensors</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Multi-band 4D radar  </li><li>Infrared detectors  </li></ul>	29.5 M€ 29 M€
 <b>Cyber</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Robustness of autonomous vehicles (spin-in)  </li><li>Improved cyber defence operation capabilities  </li></ul>	20 M€ 34 M€
 <b>Space</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>On-orbit operations and services (spin-in) </li><li>Space-based ISR constellation </li></ul>	49 M€ 66 M€
 <b>Digital transformation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Human-AI dialogue systems (challenge)  </li></ul>	27 M€
 <b>Energy &amp; Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Propulsion system for next generation rotorcrafts </li><li>Naval hybrid propulsion and power systems (spin-in)  </li><li>Aircraft propulsion and energy management systems  </li></ul>	25 M€ 20 M€ 48 M€
 <b>Materials &amp; Components</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Chiplet for defence applications  </li></ul>	25 M€
 <b>Air combat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Collaborative air combat </li><li>Enhanced pilot environment </li></ul>	49 M€ 54 M€
 <b>Air &amp; missile defence</b>	Not addressed	
 <b>Ground combat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Counter-battery capabilities</li><li>Future modular multipurpose land platforms </li><li>Drone-based mass munitions (spin-in, cascade funding)</li><li>Land collaborative combat including air-land </li></ul>	20 M€ 79 M€ 49 M€ 44 M€
 <b>Protection &amp; Mobility</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Soldier systems (cascade funding) </li></ul>	35 M€
 <b>Naval combat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Digital ship and naval combat cloud  </li></ul>	54 M€
 <b>Underwater warfare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Advanced underwater networks  </li><li>Stand-off anti-submarine warfare </li></ul>	25 M€ 20 M€
 <b>Simulation &amp; training</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Design and analysis framework for Aerial Systems </li><li>Live, Virtual, Constructive training interoperability  </li></ul>	28 M€ 15 M€
 <b>Disruptive technologies</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Great-Depth Enabling Technologies (R)</li><li>Non-thematic research topic</li></ul>	23 M€ 20 M€
 <b>SMEs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Non-thematic research for SMEs and ROs</li><li>Non-thematic development for SMEs</li></ul>	34 M€ 33 M€

Legend:

Research

Development

 STEP

 EUDIS-related



Contributing to identified EDF main expected outcomes



Others

Other actions (outreach, IT, studies, audit, indirect management)

Business coaching for SMEs	6,6 M€
Blending facility for equity funding for SMEs/Mid-Caps	1.6 M€
Business accelerating services	20 M€
Matchmaking events for investors and SMEs	3.8 M€
EDF hackathon events	0.6 M€
CSA for EDF NFP network	0.6 M€
	2 M€

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DEFIS

# European Defence Innovation Scheme (EUDIS)

## What?

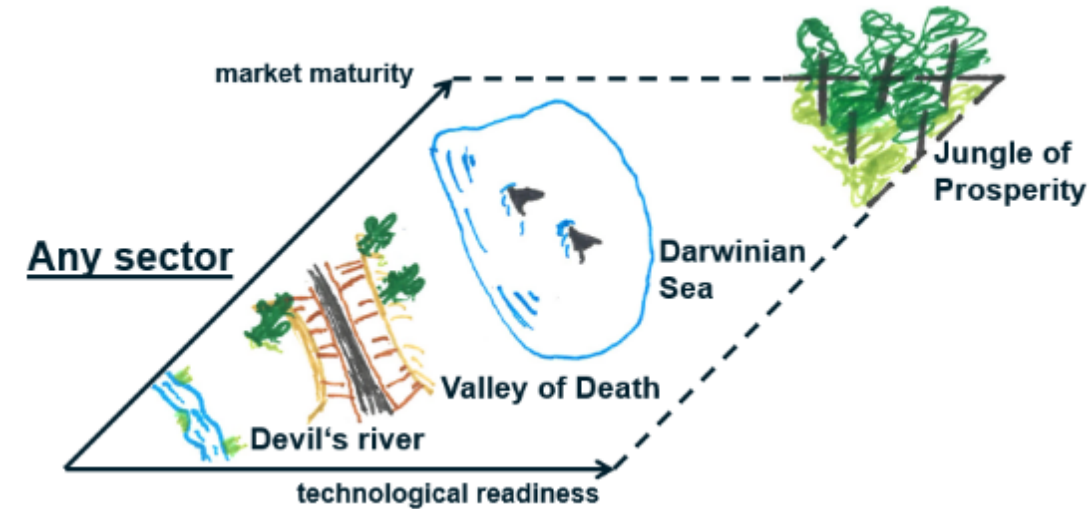
- European Defence Fund's tailored support for EU/Norway's tech founders
- Five defence innovation support tracks to tap into the full potential of civil and defence innovation

## For Whom?

- Start-ups, scale-ups, SMEs, Research Organizations and innovation facilitators in the defence industrial ecosystem

## How Much?

- €1.5 billion until 2027





# Five support tracks for defence tech founders

## GRANTS & BUSINESS COACHING for SMEs

- **Small 'ticket' open calls for SMEs&RTO** (€ 4-6 M)
- **Big 'ticket' thematical calls, including:**
  - Technological Challenges
  - Calls to spin-in civil R&D defence
  - Calls with a requirement to provide acceleration services for start-ups



## DEFENCE HACKATHONS

Held annually in Spring across multiple locations in the EU/Norway  
8 locations in 2025



## BUSINESS ACCELERATOR

8-months & seed funding for 20 start-up, scale-up companies



## ACCESS TO FINANCE FOR INVESTORS

Defence Equity Facility - €175 M equity instrument via the **European Investment Fund** for European private funds: €100M from EDF budget, expected leverage into €500M



## MATCHMAKING

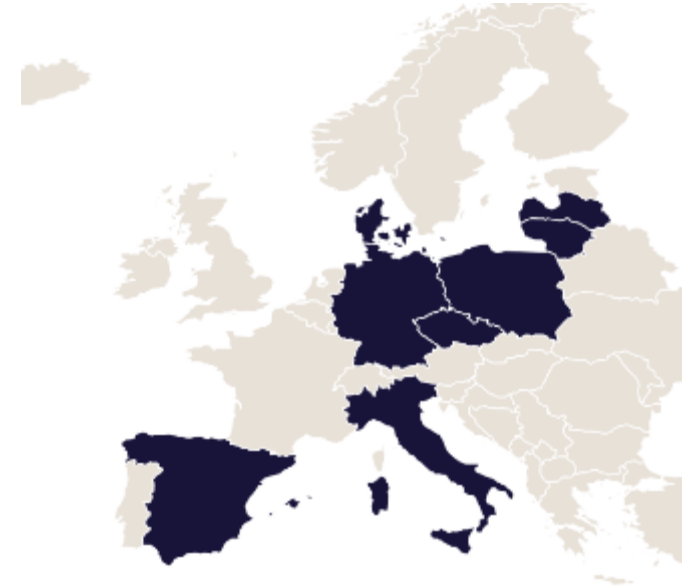
Opportunities to find EDF consortium partners and pitch to investors





# EUDIS Defence Hackathons

- Next hackathon scheduled 9 - 11 May
- 8 local organisers selected after a competitive call:
  - Prague Innovation Institute, **Czech Republic**
  - National Defence Technology Center, **Denmark**
  - Bayern Innovativ GmbH, **Germany**
  - Fondazione E. Amaldi, **Italy**
  - Riga Technological University, **Latvia**
  - Kaunas University of Technology, **Lithuania**
  - Krakow Technology Park, **Poland**
  - Arribes Enlightenment, **Spain**
- **Hackathon participants** and **mentors** from MS/NO and UA can register from this week, please inform your networks.







# EUDIS Business Accelerator & Matchmaking (BAMM)

## EUDIS Business Accelerator

8-month acceleration programme offering **top-level coaching, training, testing and seed-financing** to EU start-ups and scale-ups.

- Applications to open in **March**
- **20 start-ups and scale-ups** selected for the first batch
- First batch from **June 2025 to February 2026** – kick-off at Paris Air Show
- Proposed **themes**:



**Collaborative Combat & Autonomous Operations**



**Cyber Warfare & Information Superiority**



**Combat Medicine & Battlefield Health Resilience**



**Open Call**

*Disruptive technologies for Defence Superiority*

## EUDIS Matchmaking

Bringing together the **European defence innovation ecosystem** to enhance access to finance for defence innovators and facilitate connections among European defence stakeholders.

- Applications to open in **March**
- Target audience: **defence innovators** (start-ups, SMEs and small mid-caps); **investors**; **corporates**; and **defence end-users**.
- Online + physical Matchmaking events
- 1<sup>st</sup> EUDIS Matchmaking Event:  
**Latitude 59 (Tallinn, EE), 21-23 May 2025**



# STEP: what is it about?

- STEP: Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform
  - 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
- 14 topics from EDF WP 2025 are deemed, by design, to contribute to the STEP objectives
  - Identified by suffix '-STEP' in the topic ID
- What benefits to expect (from an EDF perspective)?
  - Extra budget for the EDF: +1.5 Bn€ for the period 2024-2027 (i.e. ~375 M€ per year)
  - Applicants with proposals scoring above threshold will be awarded a **STEP Seal**
    - Enhance better access to EU funding, notably by facilitating alternative cumulative or combined funding from several EU budget instruments
    - Possible promotion on the STEP portal

# Useful links

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EDF general information</b><br/><i>Access annual WP and MAP</i></li></ul>  | <a href="#"><u>DG DEFIS website</u></a>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EDF Calls for proposals</b><br/><i>Application and submission of proposals, call documents, FAQ, tutorials</i></li></ul> | <a href="#"><u>Funding and Tenders portal</u></a>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>European Defence Fund National Focal Points</b><br/><i>Network of NFPs, support at national level</i></li></ul>          | <a href="#"><u>Overview of NFPs</u></a><br><a href="#"><u>NFP support project EOA</u></a>     |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EDF Info days</b><br/><i>2-3 April, Brussels</i></li></ul>   | <a href="#"><u>Website and registration</u></a>   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>EU Defence Innovation Scheme</b><br/><i>EUDIS</i></li></ul>  | <a href="#"><u>EUDIS Website</u></a>  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Remaining questions regarding application to EDF calls for proposals?</li></ul>   | <a href="mailto:DEFIS-EDF-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu"><u>DEFIS-EDF-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu</u></a> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform</b><br/><i>STEP</i></li></ul>   | <a href="#"><u>STEP Website</u></a>   |

## Upcoming important dates in 2025

Feb	Open Call for EUDIS Hackathon participants
All year	3-4 events EUDIS Matchmaking
2-3 Apr	EDF Info Days and Matchmaking in Brussels
May-Jun	Open call to startups for EUDIS Business Accelerator
9-11 May	EUDIS Hackathon/Makeathon in 8 EU/Norway cities
16 Oct	Deadline for Submission of EDF's R&D proposals

# Thank you!