Council of the European Union

Brussels, 29 May 2026
(OR. en)

9837/26

RECH 248
COMPET 642
IND 373
MI 551
EDUC 187
TELECOM 276
ENER 290
ENV 584
AGRI 434
TRANS 355
SAN 361
ATO 23

COVER NOTE

From:	Secretary-General of the European Commission, signed by Ms Martine DEPREZ, Director
date of receipt:	28 May 2026
To:	Ms Thérèse BLANCHET, Secretary-General of the Council of the European Union
No. Cion doc.:	COM(2026) 255 final
Subject:	REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL Annual Report on Research and Technological Development Activities of the European Union and Monitoring of Horizon Europe in 2025

Delegations will find attached document COM(2026) 255 final.

Encl.: COM(2026) 255 final

EUROPEAN
COMMISSION

Brussels, 28.5.2026
COM(2026) 255 final

REPORT FROM THE COMMISSION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE COUNCIL

Annual Report on Research and Technological Development Activities of the European Union and Monitoring of Horizon Europe in 2025

1. BACKGROUND

This report provides an overview of the EU's key research and innovation (R&I) activities and monitoring of Horizon Europe and the Euratom Research and Training Programme in 2025.

It was drafted in accordance with Article 190 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the European Union (TFEU) and Article 7 of the Euratom Treaty, in conjunction with Article 50 of Regulation (EU) 2021/695 of the European Parliament and of the Council establishing Horizon Europe – the Framework Programme for Research and Innovation and with Article 12 of Council Regulation (Euratom) 2021/765 establishing the Research and Training Programme of the European Atomic Energy Community.

2. POLITICAL CONTEXT AND POLICY DEVELOPMENTS

In 2025, R&I have been integral to advancing key EU initiatives, underscoring their vital role in enhancing competitiveness. The following section delves into the transformative impact of these developments across sectors, affirming the EU's commitment to fostering an economy centred on innovation.

2.1. Europe's sustainable prosperity, single market and competitiveness

The Choose Europe initiative was launched in May and seeks to make Europe the most **attractive destination for researchers**. Meanwhile, the EU startup and scaleup strategy aims at making the EU the leading hub for technology-driven startup and scaleup companies. The Commission also adopted the European strategy for research and technology infrastructures to foster world-class, accessible and industry-aligned infrastructure.

The **2025 European Semester** focused on the Competitiveness Compass' priorities, including closing the innovation gap. Reflecting this priority, 26 Member States received a country-specific recommendation on R&I.

At sectoral level, the Commission worked with road transport and batteries relevant partners associations through a Memorandum of Understanding and its deliverables, to implement R&I activities from the new industrial action plan for the European **automotive sector**. R&I also contributed to the new EU Space Act proposal, aiming to foster innovation and a stable business environment. Alongside this, the Commission issued a Communication outlining a vision for the European space economy. The Commission adopted the Vision for **Agriculture** and Food – highlighting R&I as catalysts for an attractive, competitive and fair agri-food system. The **chemicals industry** action plan strengthens the industry's competitiveness, sustainability and resilience by boosting innovation. The Commission adopted a new EU **bioeconomy** strategy and a European **Biotech** Act, with aspects relating to green technologies and competitiveness in the field of food and health.

Furthermore, the Commission adopted the **life sciences** strategy, positioning the EU as a global hub for innovation across health, biotech, food systems and green manufacturing by 2030.

R&I also contributed to the **New European Bauhaus** (NEB) supporting projects for the transformation of the built environment of neighborhoods. The Communication on the New European Bauhaus and the proposal for a Council Recommendation on the NEB recognise the contribution of NEB projects to R&I.

2.2. Strategic autonomy, defence and security

Like competitiveness, security and resilience are policy imperatives closely linked to innovation. The following policy strategies, put forward by the Commission in 2025, identify dual-use research, innovation and technology as key aspects:

- the European Preparedness Union strategy
- ProtectEU – a European internal security strategy
- the White Paper on EU Defence – Readiness 2030, followed by the Defence Readiness Roadmap 2030
- the EU Defence Industry Transformation Roadmap

These highlight the importance of leveraging Europe's wider civilian research and deep-tech innovation ecosystem for defence readiness.

With the defence mini-omnibus, co-legislators provisionally agreed to extend the scope of the Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) to cover defence technologies and allow the EIC Accelerator to support dual-use and defence innovation. The 2025 mid-term review of cohesion policy strengthened support for STEP investments and created new opportunities to integrate emerging R&I priorities into cohesion programmes.

2.3. Green transition

The Commission advanced the EU's green transition through coordinated industrial, environmental and research initiatives to turn **decarbonisation** into a driver of competitiveness. In February, the Commission launched the Clean Industrial Deal, setting out action for energy-intensive industries, clean technologies and circularity. In parallel, the Research Fund for Coal and Steel was reformed to simplify and accelerate R&I investments that support the decarbonisation of the coal and steel sectors.

Biodiversity, water, oceans and pollution were addressed through integrated, innovation-driven approaches. One example in biodiversity was the new Soil Monitoring Law, supporting the objective of healthy soils by 2050. The European water resilience strategy promotes water security through water cycle restoration, a water-smart economy and access to clean and affordable water for all. The European Ocean Pact prioritises ocean research, skills and innovation.

Climate and energy policies continued to rely heavily on science and innovation. New initiatives in 2025 included the publication of a strategic R&I agenda on health and climate change. In energy, the action plan for affordable energy, the 2025 progress report on competitiveness of clean energy technologies, the Communication on innovative renewable energy technologies, and the European Grids Package all reinforced the role of innovation in accelerating the cost-effective deployment of clean energy.

2.4. AI and digital transition

In October, the Commission adopted its **strategy for AI in science**. A flagship project is the creation of the Resource for AI Science in Europe (RAISE) virtual institute, which will pool and align European scientific talent and excellence, computational power, scientific data and research funding.

The following developments in digital technology also guided the work on R&I.

- On **AI**, moving from regulation to delivery, the Commission adopted the AI Continent action plan and the Apply AI strategy. Further to the announcement of InvestAI, the EU expanded the network of AI Factories, strengthening its 'AI Continent' ambition, paving the way for future AI Gigafactories.

- On **quantum technology**, the Commission rolled out the Quantum Europe strategy, aiming to position Europe as a global leader in the field by 2030.

- The **Cultural Heritage Cloud** was expanded and now involves 187 partner organisations covering all Member States and Horizon Europe associated countries.

- The European Digital Twin of the Ocean prototype was presented by President von der Leyen at the United Nations Ocean Conference in June.

- The International Digital Strategy was adopted, aiming to boost EU tech competitiveness and innovation capacity in collaboration with partners and allies.

2.5. Partnership with Member States

Regarding R&I measures in the **Recovery and Resilience Facility** (RRF), 351 R&I-related milestones and targets have been met. The RRF model is proving effective in driving R&I investments and transformative reforms across the EU, according to a dedicated study on R&I in the RRF. In terms of synergies with cohesion policy, budget transfers from the European Regional Development Fund to Horizon Europe are being implemented in Malta and Lithuania.

Bilateral discussions between the Commission and Member States were deepened throughout the year through **enhanced dialogues** with Denmark, Bulgaria, Portugal, Finland and Spain. Moreover, the **Policy Support Facility** continued to help Member States and associated countries to reform their R&I systems. Country-specific activities for Bulgaria, Czechia, Finland and Ukraine were concluded. Mutual learning exercises were held on the topics of research careers, national policies for AI in science, bridging the gap between science and policy, and public engagement in R&I, with a high number of countries involved. In addition, the triennial 'She Figures' report was published to support Member States and stakeholders in improving gender equality within the European Research Area.

The new European Commission–**OECD** Science, Technology and Innovation Policy Compass was launched, aggregating data on R&I policy initiatives and trends in a single platform.

2.6. A global Europe

The EU continued to support **Ukraine**'s recovery by launching the International Coalition for Science, Research and Innovation in Ukraine, together with Ukraine, Italy and UNESCO.

Partnerships with **Africa** and the **Mediterranean** were also reinforced, notably through negotiations for an EU–**Nigeria** Science and Technology Agreement and the renewal of PRIMA agreements with **Jordan**, **Lebanon** and **Morocco**. Strategic cooperation with key global partners deepened, including through the EU–**India** Trade and Technology Council. Cooperation with **Latin America and the Caribbean** gained momentum with the first EU–CELAC Ministerial Meeting on R&I.

While the year started with the successful renewal of the **EU–US** Science and Technology Agreement, subsequent US policy shifts have affected key areas such as climate action. In this context, the EU maintained open dialogue and reinforced multilateral initiatives, particularly in climate and ocean observation.

This commitment to **multilateralism** was reflected in the adoption of the G20 Tshwane Package, which promotes open innovation, and the EU's strengthened role in global science diplomacy. Additionally, the Commission co-chaired the Group on Earth Observations Global Forum 2025 and chaired the All-Atlantic Ocean Research and Innovation Alliance. The Commission organised the Alliance's forum in September, at which the All-Atlantic Network of Coastal Resilience Beacon Sites and the Blue Intergenerational Programme were launched. Within **Mission Innovation**, the EU accelerated the clean energy transition, identifying 101 Hydrogen Valley projects across 38 countries.

Horizon Europe plays a crucial role in supporting Global Gateway priority areas.

2.7. Non-nuclear direct actions implemented by the Commission's Joint Research Centre (JRC)

The JRC produced 824 peer-reviewed publications and 917 science-for-policy and technical outputs. Highlights include the following:

- an outlook report on **generative AI** providing a forward-looking analysis of its transformative potential in the EU, including the socio-economic impact on healthcare, education, employment and beyond;
- the launch of a new JRC **Border Security** Lab, a network of laboratories working closely with EU law enforcement agencies;
- a new edition of the **Atlas of Migration**, offering a harmonised overview of worldwide migration;
- a science for policy report on capturing the potential of the **circular economy** transition in energy-intensive industries;
- the launch of the **Transport Poverty Hub**, enabling interventions and progress monitoring towards more inclusive EU transport systems.

- two new **atlases on fine particulate matter** (PM2.5) – covering for the first time cities in enlargement countries.

3. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING OF HORIZON EUROPE & EURATOM

3.1. Horizon Europe in 2025 – highlights & new features

2025 was characterised by major programming developments for the final three years of Horizon Europe 2021-2027. The Horizon Europe 'main' work programme 2025 was adopted in May, followed by the 'main' work programme 2026-2027 in December. Both work programmes placed a strong emphasis on simplification, with the latter also introducing the use of horizontal calls in strategic areas.

Association of third countries to Horizon Europe

The number of associated countries reached 22. Several association agreements were signed during the year: while Switzerland and Egypt joined the entire Horizon Europe, the Republic of Korea joined its Pillar II. The combined operational contribution from associated countries in 2025 was EUR 3.3 billion, with over 15 500 participations since the beginning of this framework programme.

3.2. Horizon Europe simplification

2025 marked a turning point for the simplification of the EU R&I support landscape.

Horizon Europe delivered the following practical reforms that reduced administration and accelerated innovation outcomes.

- **Lump sum funding** was gradually rolled out, reducing the need to report actual costs and facilitating participation, particularly for SMEs and newcomers. The key objectives are to reduce administrative complexity for beneficiaries and financial errors.
- The work programmes proposed **fewer topics**, with shorter descriptions, and a shortened work programme text. They also introduced more **open topics**, while maintaining strategic direction.
- **Proposal requirements** were streamlined, with less upfront information required on several policy-related aspects, resulting in a shorter proposal form.
- **Two-stage evaluation** was used for 29 topics, allowing applicants to first submit shorter proposals and only prepare full proposals if selected for the second stage. Many of these short proposals are evaluated blindly, as a way to avoid potential risk of bias.
- **Transparency** was enhanced by making draft work programme texts publicly accessible.

Implementation dialogues and **reality checks** enabled direct feedback from startups, researchers and innovators on bottlenecks in proposal submission, evaluation and grant management, helping to identify priorities for further simplification.

Implementation was simplified through **improved digital tools**. The user-friendliness and functionality of the EU Funding & Tenders Portal were further enhanced and the new 'EU funding & me' mobile app was introduced, in a process informed by a survey of 30 000 applicants and beneficiaries.

3.3. Horizon Europe monitoring data

Funding opportunities

Source: Commission internal monitoring systems, 6/1/2026

The 787 calls for proposals under the 2021-2025 work programmes covered a total of 3 061 research topics with a budget of EUR 67.9 billion.

Project proposals and success rates

Source: Commission internal monitoring systems, 5/1/2026

Interest in the programme remained strong with **148 884 eligible proposals** submitted[1] over the period 2021-2025. Their overall quality remained stable, with over half of the eligible proposals (57%) reaching the minimum evaluation score threshold.

By January 2026, 21 329 proposals had been selected for funding for a total estimated EU contribution of EUR 57.4 billion. The success rate of proposals decreased to 14% as compared to 15.3% in January 2025 but remained higher than under Horizon 2020 overall (11.9%).

Approximately 70% of proposals that passed the threshold for funding were not financed. An estimated EUR 118.5 billion of additional funding would have been needed to fund all such proposals submitted over 2021-2025.

Funded projects

As of end 2025, **EUR 52.8 billion** were awarded through **19 456 grants**. The average grant size remained stable at EUR 2.7 million, higher than under Horizon 2020 (EUR 2.3 million[2]), with an average of six participants per project.

The European Innovation Council (EIC) also includes an equity investment instrument, the **EIC Fund**, aimed at the most innovative startups and scaleups. On top of the figures presented in the table below, the EIC Fund has approved over EUR 2.3 billion in equity investments for Horizon Europe beneficiaries, of which EUR 931.9 million has been disbursed so far.[3]

Programme part	Eligible proposals	Accepted proposals	Success rate of proposals (% of eligible)	Share of high quality proposals (% of eligible)	Signed grants	EU contribution in signed grants (in EUR million)	Average grant size (in EUR million)
Pillar 1 - Excellent Science							

[1] Number of eligible proposals submitted only under the calls that are closed and fully evaluated.
[2] SME instrument not included.
[3] For more information about EIC Fund supported ventures, see EIC Impact Report 2025.

Programme part	Eligible proposals	Accepted proposals	Success rate of proposals (% of eligible)	Share of high quality proposals (% of eligible)	Signed grants	EU contribution in signed grants (in EUR million)	Average grant size (in EUR million)
European Research Council (ERC)	41 431	5 781	14%	27%	5 651	10 199	1.8
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA)	56 730	8 152	14%	82%	6 692	3 893	0.6
Research infrastructures	402	170	42%	86%	179	1 230	6.9
Pillar II - Global Challenges and European Industrial Competitiveness							
Cluster 1 – Health	2 753	640	23%	55%	657	5 269	8
Cluster 2 – Culture, creativity and inclusive society	2 460	339	14%	59%	350	1 178	3.4
Cluster 3 – Civil security for society	1 533	183	12%	64%	194	820	4.2
Cluster 4 – Digital, industry and space	6 947	1287	19%	74%	1169	8 426	7.2
Cluster 5 – Climate, energy and mobility (including NEB Facility)	7 093	1264	18%	61%	1311	9 135	7
Cluster 6 – Food, bioeconomy, natural resources, agriculture and environment	4 114	845	21%	71%	839	4 938	5.9
Pillar III – Innovative Europe							
European Innovation Council (EIC)	20 340	1 417	7%	33%	1 330	3 532	2.7
European innovation ecosystems	1 502	275	18%	58%	282	304	1.1
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)[4]	40	36	90%	100%	35	2 115	60.4
Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area							

[4] The figure only refers to the grants initiating the EIT Knowledge and Innovation Communities, which are then tasked with implementing the activities.

Programme part	Eligible proposals	Accepted proposals	Success rate of proposals (% of eligible)	Share of high quality proposals (% of eligible)	Signed grants	EU contribution in signed grants (in EUR million)	Average grant size (in EUR million)
Widening participation and spreading excellence	3 165	831	26%	77%	657	1 487	2.3
Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system	374	109	29%	69%	110	236	2.1
Total for Horizon Europe	**148 884**	**21 329**	**14%**	**57%**	**19 456**	**52 760**	**2.7**

Table 1 Proposals and signed grants per programme part, over 2021-2025 (Source: Horizon Proposals and Projects Dashboards frozen on 5/1/2026)

Addressing EU policy priorities

Source: Horizon Europe Performance Programme Statement

R&I play a central role in accelerating the green transition. So far, Horizon Europe is well on track to meet its target of 35% of spending allocated to address climate change, while further work will be needed to reach the target of 10% spending for biodiversity for 2026-2027.

In 2025, an estimated EUR 58.7 million was also allocated to projects whose principal objective is to improve gender equality and EUR 1 848 million to projects that will contribute to gender equality.

Applicants and beneficiaries

Source: Commission internal monitoring systems, 5/1/2026

The projects signed in the first five years of the programme involve **31 006 distinct participants** from **175 different countries,** including 35% participation[5] from SMEs. On average, each participant takes part in 3.9 projects.

New participants in the programme ('newcomers') represent 55% of all participants compared to 54% a year ago. Newcomers' participation rate (i.e. the average number of projects joined by each participant) is lower than that of non-newcomers (1.2 versus 5). Newcomers mainly come from the private sector – with many being SMEs – and have been granted 16.7% of all Horizon Europe funding so far.

The highest shares of participants come from higher education institutions (35%), receiving the highest financial contribution (EUR 19 billion). Private-sector entities and

[5] Of unique participants.

research organisations represent 30% and 22% of participation and receive EUR 13.5 billion and 14 billion respectively.

Participants from Member States account for 80% of all eligible applications submitted, with 19% originating from 'widening' countries. Overall, Member States were awarded EUR 47.3 billion or 89.6% of the funds. Widening Member States[6] were awarded 13.1% of the funds, a higher share than for the same countries under Horizon 2020.

The reporting method for Horizon Europe associated countries has been adapted in the table below to reflect the date when the association agreement became effective.

Country group	Applications in eligible proposals	% of total applications	Success rate of application	Participation in signed grants	% of all participations	EU contribution in signed grants (in million EUR)	% of total EU contribution in signed grants
Member States (MS)	518 481	80%	18%	99 895	83%	47 292	89%
Non-widening countries	395 074	61%	19%	79 093	66%	40 371	76%
Widening countries	123 407	19%	16%	20 802	17%	6 921	13%
Associated country (without Switzerland)	61 637	10%	15%	8 613	7%	4 470	8.5%
Switzerland – associated country	2 690	0.4%	14%	75	0.1 %	92	0.2%
Switzerland – non-associated third country	12 101	2%	21%	2 827	2%	126	0.2%
Third countries	49 748	8%	20%	9 062	7%	780	1%
TOTAL	**644 657**	**-**	**-**	**120472**	**-**	**52 761**	**-**

Table 2: Applicants' and beneficiaries' country of origin

Key impact pathways

Source: KIPs dashboard frozen on 5/1/2026

[6] Member States only (Bulgaria, Czechia, Estonia, Greece, Croatia, Cyprus, Latvia, Lithuania, Hungary, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia and Slovakia).

Key impact pathways (KIPs) were introduced in Horizon Europe to track the programme's impact through short-, medium- and longer-term indicators.

Data is based mainly on the project's periodic reporting system. 2 664 projects (14%) were closed at the time of this analysis and 40% of projects had completed at least one periodic report. As most medium-term and longer-term indicators need a significant number of projects to finish before giving meaningful results, this section focuses on short-term indicators only.

Scientific impact

- Horizon Europe projects have so far reported 18 478 peer-reviewed publications (KIP 1).

- Horizon Europe involves 126 407 early-career researchers (KIP 2), 44% of whom are women.

- 80.8% of research outputs produced by the programme (publications, datasets, software) were made available in open access via beneficiaries (KIP 3).

Societal impact

- Over 99% of all Horizon Europe outputs are tagged as relevant for one of the policy priorities of the EU – either the priorities of the 2019-2024 Commission, the Sustainable Development Goals, or climate adaptation/mitigation goals (KIP 4)[7].

- EU Mission projects have produced 206 peer-reviewed publications and 284 innovative results (KIP 5).

- 41% of projects have structured mechanisms to involve the public or end users in the co-creation of R&I content (KIP 6).

Economic/technological impact

- Projects have reported 7 645 innovative outputs (products, processes, methods, etc.). Additionally, beneficiaries have already declared 283 non-confidential intellectual property right outputs, of which 94 patent applications – a number that is expected to increase once confidentiality is lifted from most applications (KIP 7).

- Funded projects support at least 95 798 jobs (full-time equivalent employees) in participating legal entities (KIP 8).

- Alongside the initial investment from the EU, project participants have made direct co-investments of at least EUR 12.9 billion (KIP 9).

Focus on European partnerships

Source: Horizon Projects Dashboard frozen on 5/1/2026

[7] JRC and EIT are not included in the calculation.

By the end of 2025, 54 European partnerships were active, with two that were to be signed in January 2026 and another four to be signed later. A total of 1 345 grants were signed across all partnerships, involving 9 568 unique participants and representing an EU contribution of EUR 12.5 billion.

Since 2021, **10 active joint undertakings**[8] have signed 701 grants amounting to a total of **EUR 6.7 billion** and involving 5 350 unique participants. Additionally, **EUR 4.3 billion** from Horizon Europe supported 11 **co-programmed partnerships**, with 635 grants to 4 944 distinct organisations. With regard to **co-funded partnerships**, 18 grant agreements have been signed for a total of EUR 1.5 billion, involving 754 unique participants.

Focus on EU missions

Source: Horizon Proposals and Projects Dashboards frozen on 5/1/2026

In the 2025 work programme, nine mission calls were launched. Between 2021 and 2025, mission-related calls attracted 1 515 eligible proposals. 321 grants were signed, involving 3 845 beneficiaries and totalling EUR 2.48 billion.

3.4. In-depth analysis: Horizon Europe monitoring flashes and other studies

Several thematic reports on Horizon Europe implementation and performance were published in 2025:

- a monitoring flash presenting an overview of gender equality in EU R&I programmes;
- a monitoring flash presenting Horizon Europe's contribution to the five EU Missions;
- a study developing a quantification of Horizon Europe's environmental benefits, particularly through energy or resource savings;
- a study assessing the macroeconomic impact of Horizon Europe on GDP and employment;
- a monitoring flash on the use of technology readiness levels in Horizon Europe;
- a study taking stock of 20 years of EU-funded (civilian) security research.

Horizon Europe interim evaluation

In April, the Commission published the interim evaluation of Horizon Europe. A Communication was also issued to the European Parliament and the Council, providing lessons learned and proposals for future action. Key findings show Horizon Europe's strong impact through tangible innovations and its scientific excellence. The programme amplifies the impact of innovation, with each euro invested through the EIC Fund attracting over three euro in private investment. Participation from widening Member States has also increased to 58% from 47% under Horizon 2020.

[8] Institutionalised partnerships based on Article 187 TFEU.

Impact assessment and proposal for future Horizon Europe and European Competitiveness Fund

The Commission also published an impact assessment for the future Horizon Europe (2028-2034) and a new European Competitiveness Fund. It subsequently adopted proposals for the two interconnected programmes, which will support the entire innovation journey from lab to market. Following their adoption by the Commission in July, the proposals are now being negotiated by the co-legislators.

3.5. Dissemination and exploitation

The Commission continued to run and develop the Horizon Results Platform and the Booster service to support Horizon Europe beneficiaries in disseminating and exploiting their results. The Horizon Results Platform saw 569 new results uploaded and actively supported 25 companies in their go-to-market journey with dedicated funding and opportunities to participate in investor events. The Booster provided 764 services for 1 602 beneficiaries ranging from dissemination to go-to market support.

The Commission produced several CORDIS publications, including 20 Thematic Packs, 10 'Results in Brief' videos and 10 CORDIScovery podcast episodes.

3.6. Implementation and monitoring of the Euratom Programme

Following the Commission's proposal, the Council adopted an extension of the Euratom research and training programme for 2026 and 2027, underpinned by the interim evaluation of the 2021–2025 programme.

The 2021-2025 programme has a total budget of EUR 1.38 billion. It is implemented through direct and indirect actions, accounting for 38.5% and 61.5% of the budget respectively. Under the indirect actions strand, 61 project grants had been signed by the end of 2025, including four co-funded partnerships. These brought together 578 unique participants and represented EUR 816 million in Euratom contributions.

In September, the Commission unveiled its proposal for the next Euratom research and training programme (2028-2032).

a) Nuclear direct actions implemented by the JRC

In 2025, the JRC delivered 102 peer-reviewed articles on nuclear research topics, 90 technical reports, three items of reference material and three validated methods incorporated in international nuclear libraries, four technical systems aimed at reinforcing nuclear safeguards and one contribution to international standards.

The JRC has contributed to the small modular reactors (SMR) strategic action plan, endorsed by the European Industrial Alliance on SMR, which aims to facilitate their safe development and deployment by 2030.

b) Indirect actions of the Euratom research & training programme

The Commission launched initiatives to address shortages of specialised nuclear skills, in particular in nuclear safety, innovative technologies and radiological protection. The Skills4Nuclear project supports the development of a qualified workforce for existing

and emerging nuclear technologies. In parallel, the PIANOFORTE co-funded partnership, with 108 partners across 26 countries, launched its third transnational open call, selecting six new projects. The EURAD 2 co-funded partnership further strengthened European capabilities through the launch of its mobility programme.

4. OUTLOOK FOR 2026

In 2026, the Commission aims to strengthen Europe's R&I ecosystem through the **European Innovation Act** and the **European Research Area Act**. These will accelerate market uptake of innovation, align EU and national priorities, and help achieve the 3% of GDP R&I investment target across the EU. These initiatives will help bring innovative ideas to market across all sectors, reducing fragmentation, and will enhance the free circulation of researchers, knowledge and technology.

2026 will see the launch of the multi-billion euro **Scaleup Europe Fund** to support Europe's most promising strategic technology companies, and the **Advanced Materials Act**, which aims to accelerate innovation and scale-up of advanced materials. New R&I initiatives will also be launched in areas including **AI, batteries, data access, health, climate, agriculture, rural development, biodiversity**, **ocean** and **water resilience**, among others.