CASCADE FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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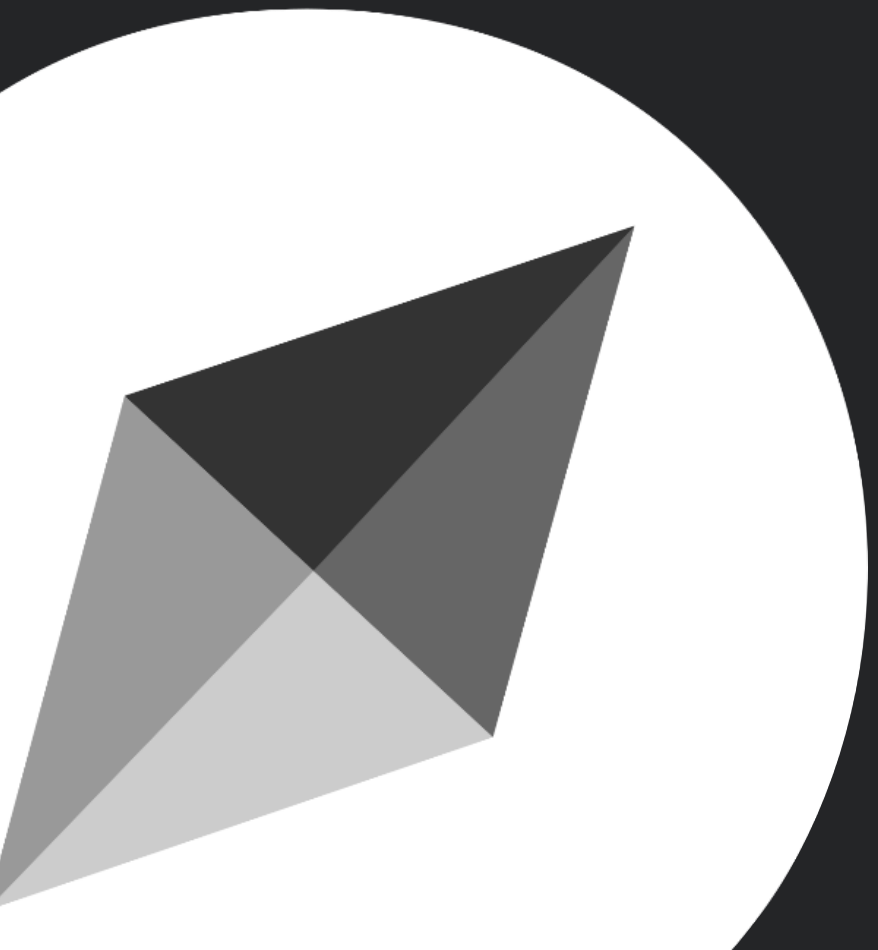
sploro.eu

About Sploro

Sploro
disrupting innovation



SPLORO ™ is an innovation consultancy firm. Our mission is to make innovation understandable and reachable for any organisation through consulting services and digital technologies

We have over 30 years of accumulated experience in the innovation industry. This experience enables us to find innovative solutions to our clients' needs and help them manage their R&D projects more effectively.

About Sploro

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INNOVATION CONSULTING

We deliver digital solutions and innovation services to get ideas funded.

CASCADE FUNDING

We design and manage digital-first cascade funding programmes that connect innovators with opportunity.

EU GRANTS & PROJECT LIFECYCLE SUPPORT

We simplify international funding and project support through smart digital tools — from proposal to project success.

What is Cascade Funding?

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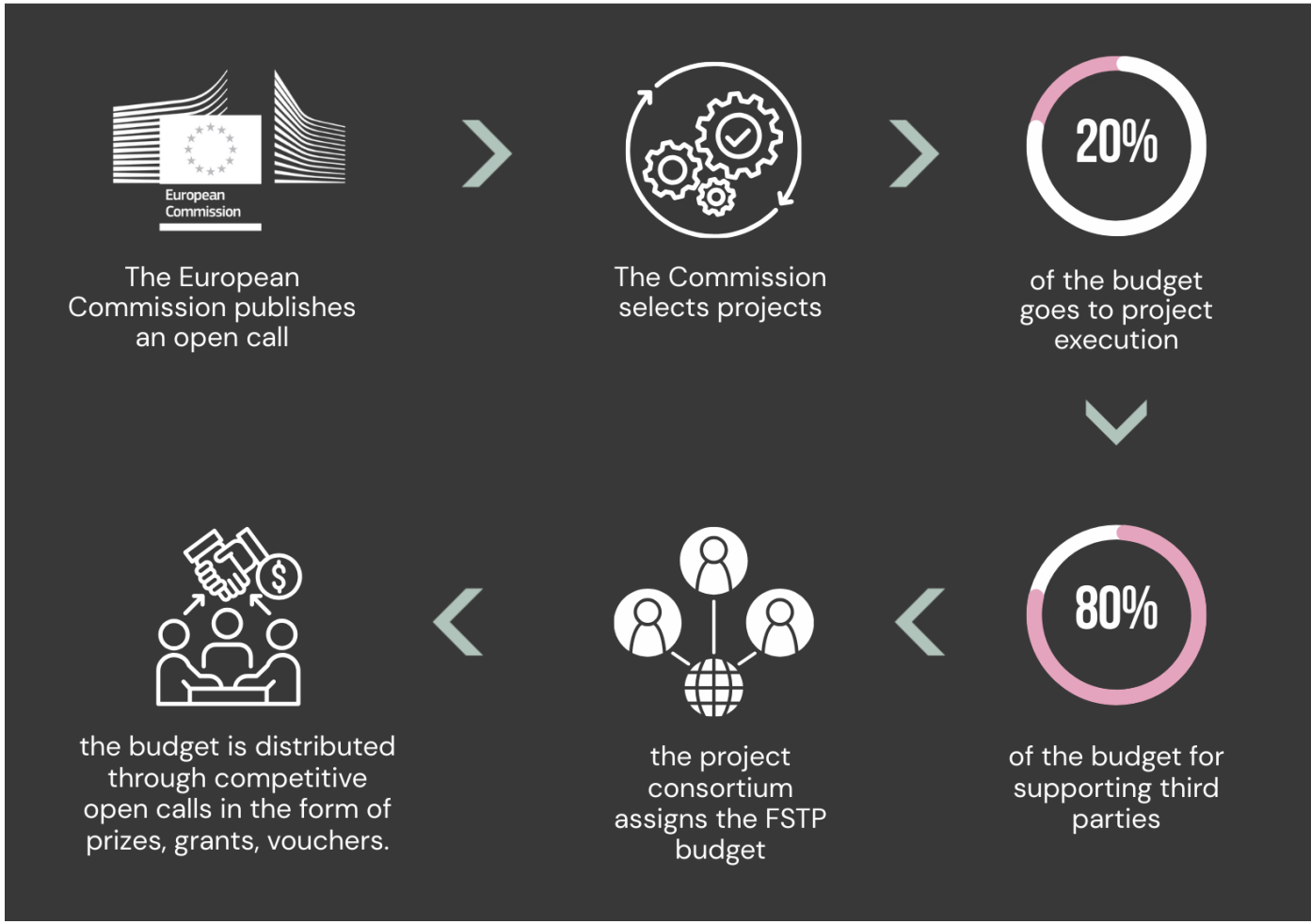
disrupting innovation

Cascade funding is an instrument of the European Commission to distribute public funds to SMEs, startups and/or mid-caps, in the **adoption or development of digital technologies**.

- SIMPLER PROCESSES
- HIGHER SUCCESS RATES
- TECHNOLOGY-ORIENTED
- FREE SUPPORT SERVICES
- SHORTER PROJECTS
- NON-REFUNDABLE FINANCING
- FREE FROM FINANCIAL REPORTING
- EQUITY FREE FUNDING



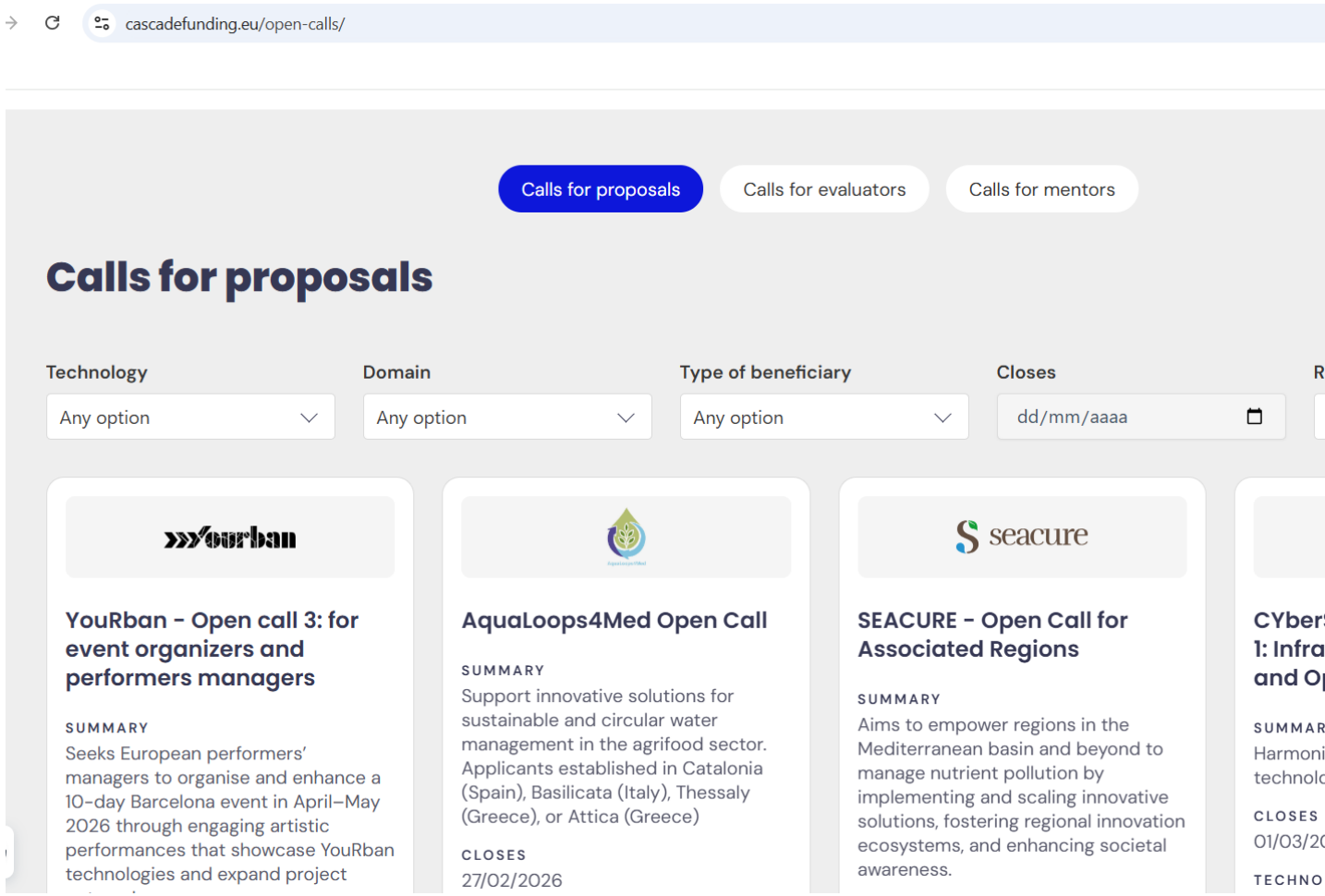
Want to Learn More?

cascadefunding.eu

Be informed:

- Thematic monthly online webinars
- Email alerts when a call opens

We can help you with your project submission: cascadefunding@sploro.eu



Funded by
the European Union

Open Horizons

Funding Women-Led Startups

HORIZON-EIE-2024-CONNECT-01-02

Open Horizons

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Open Horizons is more than just funding

It connects leading corporations with high potential, women-led digital and deep tech startups

Open Horizons

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€1.2 million in funding

3 open calls -> 39 women-led startups selected.

Startups receive up to €55,000 equity-free funding & support in **corporate engagement**, **investment readiness**, and **scaling** opportunities.

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Piloting programme

A two-stage, performance-based scheme

Inception Stage (1 month)
Piloting Stage (5 months)

Startups co-develop and validate their solution with a corporate partner based on KPIs and deliverables

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Cohorts

	Inception Stage	Piloting Stage
1st Open Call 06 - 07/2025	7 startups	5 startups
2nd Open Call 20/11/2025 - 29/01/2026	17 startups	6 startups
3rd Open Call 02/03/2026 - 19/05/2026	16 startups	7 startups

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Domains

AI
Cybersecurity
Next Gen Internet
Blockchain
Advanced Computing
Fintech

Internet of Things
Metaverse
Energy
Greentech
Agritech
Retailtech

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Project partners

Coordinator:
PEDAL Consulting (SK)

Partners:
SPLORO (ES), INNOVX (RO), MIGROS (TR)

Associated partners:
Stahl, Repsol, Siemens

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Corporate partners (OC3)

SIEMENS

Stahl

EY

MIGROS

*not all corporate partners are published, due to confidentiality

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Categories of challenges (OC3)

- Industrial AI & Manufacturing
- Retail & Logistics Optimisation
- Avanced Materials & Circular Economy
- FinTech, RegTech & International Expansion
- Data Analytics & Market Forecasting
- HR Tech & Entreprise Automation

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Key dates OC3

02 Mar

3rd Open Call opens

18 Mar

Info Day #1
10:00 CET

16 Apr

Info Day #2
16:00 CEST

19 May

Deadline!

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Eligibility criteria

Established between 6 months and 6 years

Autonomous SME with:
Employees < 250
Annual turnover < €50M or balance sheet < €43M

Having raised < €1M in equity

No conflict of interest, no double funding of proposed activities

Application complete, and in English

Digital and/or 'deep-tech'

Founded or co-founded by a woman

Holding a top management position

Women should own more than 25% of the shares

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Eligibility criteria

Be located in one of the eligible countries:

EU Member State:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, and Sweden

Horizon Europe Associated Country:

Albania, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Faroe Islands, Georgia, Iceland, Israel, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Norway, Serbia, Switzerland, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, UK

Evaluation criteria

Excellence

- Challenge alignment
- Degree of innovation
- Feasibility, technical approach, expected impact
- Open Science practices

Impleme-ntation

- Team composition & expertise
- Clarity in the activity plan
- Gantt chart
- Risk management

Impact

- Relevance & innovation
- Implementation readiness and market entry potential
- Green, digital, social transitions
- IPR

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Inception stage

Up to 16 startups
Duration: 1 month
September 2026

Focuses on planning and preparation, with an initial payment for successful planning.

Funded with **10.000€**

Activities

- Virtual kick-off
- BMC training
- 1:1 onboarding with matched corporate
- Evaluation interview

Deliverables

- **D1.1:** Business Model Canvas tailored to your use case
- **D1.2:** 5-month Pilot Plan outlining key activities, milestones, and KPIs

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Piloting Stage

Up to 7 startups
Duration: 5 months
October 2026

Focuses on executing the pilot project, with payments based on progress and successful completion.

Funded with **45.000€**

-> €20,000 after mid-term review (M4)
-> €20,000 upon pilot completion (M6)
-> €5,000 granted for participation in Final Demo Day (M6)

Activities

- Ongoing KPI monitoring
- Pilot implementation
- Participation in the Final Demo Day

Deliverables

- **D2.1 Mid-term Report:** progress against KPIs
- **D2.2 Final Report:** full pilot results, challenges, and impact

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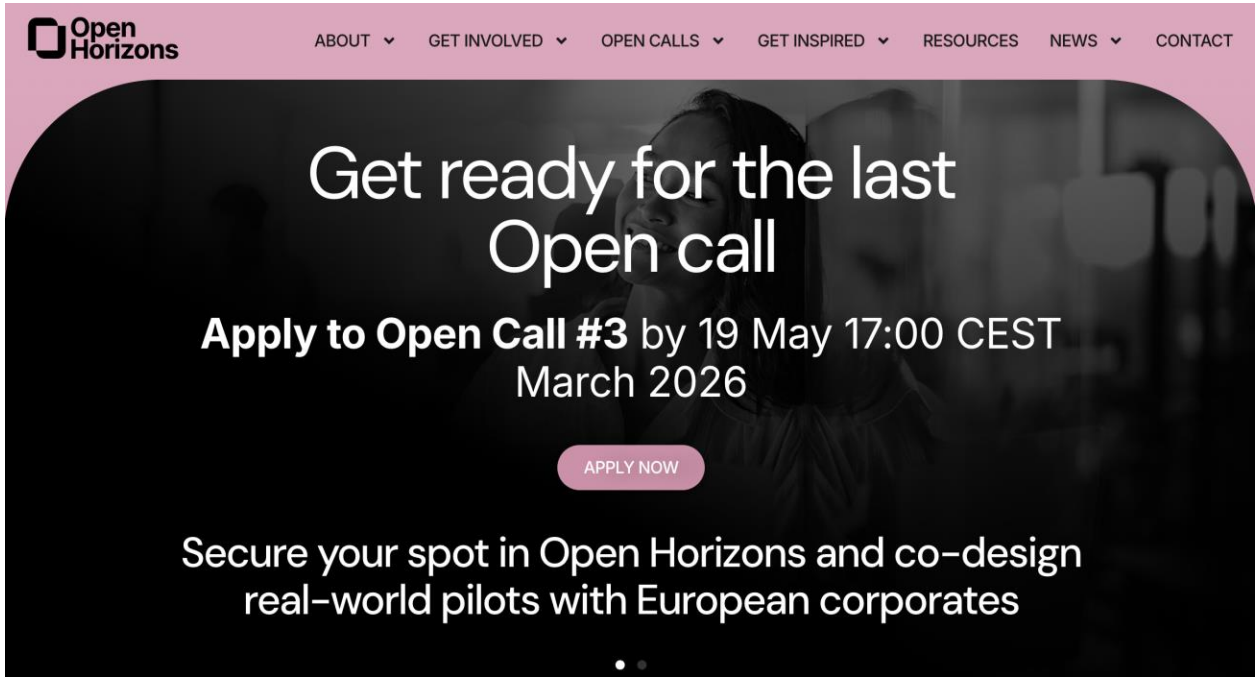
Apply now!

Application & Information:
openhorizonsproject.eu

Helpdesk: oh@sploro.eu

Deadline: 19/05/2026, 5 pm CEST



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Thank you.

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