

A Finnish SME is looking for max 2 business support organisations and max 2 investors hubs in the EU to apply for a Horizon Europe funding call that closes on January 20, 2026.

Summary

Profile type

Research & Development Request

Company's country

Finland

POD reference

RDRFI20250919018

Profile status

PUBLISHED

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Targeted countries

- Austria
- Spain
- Belgium
- Czechia
- Bulgaria
- Croatia
- Luxembourg
- Estonia
- Cyprus
- Sweden
- Slovakia
- Lithuania
- Italy
- France
- Germany
- Poland
- Netherlands
- Portugal
- Romania
- Ireland
- Hungary

- Denmark
- Slovenia
- Latvia
- Greece
- Malta

Contact Person

[Marcin MERCHEL](#)

Term of validity

22 Sep 2025**22 Sep 2026**

Last update

22 Sep 2025

General Information

Short summary

The project aims to matchmake early-stage investors from Europe's strongest innovation hubs with startups from emerging and moderate innovator regions.

The ideal partners would have previous EU funding experience (preferably Horizon Europe) and be active in the financial services and fintech space. The project proposal has already been written for a previous call and only needs to be adapted.

An abstract is available upon request.

Full description

A Finnish SME is looking for max 2 business support organisations and max 2 investors hubs in the EU to apply for a Horizon Europe funding call that closes on January 20, 2026.

The overarching objective is to connect startups from less connected ecosystems with foreign investors from Europe's strongest hubs, thereby enhancing international market expansion, access to capital, and ecosystem resilience. To achieve this, the project will deliver a comprehensive set of co-designed activities consistent with the Horizon Europe scope:

Training & Market Orientation: Design and implement a tailored private investment readiness programme, delivered in collaboration with local business support organisations, to prepare at least 75 deep-tech and climate-tech founders for cross-border fundraising and international market entry.

AI-powered Matchmaking Tool: Develop and pilot a novel tool that compares startups' fundraising data with investors' due diligence criteria, generates data rooms and pitch materials, provides regulatory and market information, and enables warm, CRM-tracked introductions to foreign investors.

Investment Access & Visibility: Organise five international bootcamps and competitions that bring together local founders and foreign investors, supported by roadshows to Europe's leading hubs and participation in international forums to raise awareness of regional deal flows.

Investor Support: Facilitate the entry of foreign investors into underserved markets by providing central points of

information on tax, incentives, legislation, and cultural aspects, as well as administrative support throughout the investment cycle.

Policy & Ecosystem Engagement: Collaborate with public agencies, innovation hubs, and business support organisations to align policies, share best practices on market entry facilitation, and deliver actionable recommendations for regulators to ease cross-border investment.

Sustainability & Scale-up: Implement a business plan to commercialise and scale both the training programme and AI tool across Europe, ensuring synergies with Enterprise Europe Network, EIC communities, and other EU-funded initiatives.

Advantages and innovations

Technical specification or expertise sought

The Finnish SME is looking for:

- 1 Investors Hub from a more 'strong' and 'connected' innovation region in the EU
- 1 Investors Hub from an 'emerging' or 'less connected' innovation region in EU
- 1 Business Support Organisation or Innovation Agency from a more 'strong' and 'connected' innovation region in the EU
- 1 Business Support Organisation or Innovation Agency from an 'emerging' or 'less connected' innovation region in EU

Stage of development

Under development

Sustainable Development goals

- **Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
- **Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure**
- **Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
- **Goal 10: Reduced Inequality**

IPR Status

No IPR applied

IPR Notes

IPR Notes

Partner Sought

Expected role of the partner

Role are to be decided together with the new partners.

The Finnish SME is seeking:

- 1 Investors Hub in a more connected EU region
- 1 Investors Hub in a less connected EU region
- 1 Business Support Organisation or Innovation Agency in a more connected EU region
- 1 Business Support Organisation or Innovation Agency in a less connected EU region

Type of partnership

Research and development cooperation agreement

Type and size of the partner

- **SME 11-49**
- **SME <=10**
- **SME 50 - 249**
- **Big company**
- **R&D Institution**
- **Other**
- **University**

Call Details

Framework program

Horizon Europe

Call title and identifier

Interconnected Innovation Ecosystems (2026.1) (HORIZON-EIE-2026-01)

Submission and evaluation scheme

Single-stage submission scheme

Anticipated project budget

€1M

Coordinator required

No

Deadline for EoI

20 Nov 2025

Deadline of the call

20 Jan 2026

Project duration in weeks

100

Web link to the call

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/to-pic-details/HORIZON-EIE-2026-01-CONNECT-02?isExactMatch=true&status=31094501,31094502,31094503&callIdentifier=HORIZON-EIE-2026-01&order=DESC&pageNumber=1&pageSize=50&sort>

Project title and acronym

Borderless Fundraisers: Bridging the gap between startups in less connected regions with investors from other EU countries.

Dissemination

Technology keywords

- **01004010 - Quality Management System**
- **01003003 - Artificial Intelligence (AI)**

Market keywords

- **09002006 - Other finance, insurance and real estate**
- **09002005 - Investment groups**

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Sector groups involved

- Digital