

# THE EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021-27)

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## ***BRIDGING ACTIONS***



# THE EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021-27)

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***HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09:  
EU AI Media Platform - modular multilingual public-  
interest infrastructure for European news and  
audiovisual media ”***



# **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09: “EU AI Media Platform - modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media” (IA)**

## **1. Expected outcomes**

- Modular, trustworthy and interoperable AI-enabled infrastructure with validated service levels and sustainability pathways.
- Pan-European multilingual and multimodal access to real-time professional news, including low-resource European languages.
- Trust, provenance and accountability by design: attribution, verification, traceability, transparency and governance.
- Integration and operational validation of reusable components and existing pilots in real-world media conditions, reaching TRL 8.
- Innovative, personalised and interactive media experiences, with onboarding and equal access for different types of media organisations.

## **2. Is there anything we do NOT want?**

- Duplication of existing EU-funded assets or a stand-alone pilot that does not build on prior work.
- Closed or monolithic approaches that undermine the required modularity and interoperability.
- Missing infrastructure, multilingual and future-proof media evolution perspectives.

## HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09: “EU AI Media Platform - modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media” (IA)

### 3. Topic evolution

- A horizontal Apply AI “bridging” action intended to move promising AI/media work from pilots towards integration, deployment and scale, to realise the Apply AI Strategy Media Flagship
- Builds on the finished PPPA project MOSAIC, PPPA Citizen Platform action (starting January 2027) and on relevant Horizon Europe, Digital Europe and other pilot actions.
- Emphasis shifts to mature reusable components, declared service levels, real-world validation, governance and a credible route to European-scale deployment.
- **... and links to other topics**
  - **Digital Europe Programme (DIGITAL)** - deployment of AI, data infrastructure, platforms and digital capacities.
  - **EuroHPC JU - AI Factories** - AI-optimised compute, data and services for developing and deploying AI.
  - **GenAI4EU** - support for European generative-AI development and deployment across strategic sectors.
  - **Common European Data Spaces** - interoperable European data infrastructure supporting AI development and data reuse.
  - **DIGITAL – Information Integrity / EDMO** - infrastructure and tools addressing online information ecosystems, disinformation and AI-generated content.
  - **Horizon Europe Cluster 2** - R&I on democracy, online information environments, platforms and societal impacts of AI.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09: “EU AI Media Platform - modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media” (IA)**

### **4. Which existing projects are relevant?**

- PPPA-2026-CITIZEN-PLATFORM-TV (“Citizen Platform”) - the explicitly identified starting point; starts January 2027.
- PPPA-2023 Citizen facing European TV and Video News Portal prototype pilot MOSAIC (finished in 2026)
- Reuse relevant assets where useful: APIs and metadata schemas, multilingual processing pipelines, onboarding tools and provenance components.
- Carry forward evidence and lessons: language coverage, latency/quality KPIs, governance and rights workflows, user findings and interoperability constraints.
- Relevant Horizon Europe, Digital Europe and other pilot actions should also be integrated and scaled where appropriate.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09: “EU AI Media Platform – modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media” (IA)**

### **5. Which types of stakeholders are mainly addressed?**

- Public and private media outlets, publishers and broadcasters, including public-service media, local/small publishers and SMEs.
- AI and language-technology providers, platform developers and technology integrators.
- Content creators - explicitly included in the action and relevant for prototyping and validating new audience-facing formats.
- Fact-checking / integrity actors and rights-management organisations.
- Cultural and heritage institutions and civil-society organisations, where relevant.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09: “EU AI Media Platform – modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media” (IA)**

### **6. Are there additional background documents or other relevant information?**

- Apply AI Strategy - section on cultural and creative sectors and media.
- Communication on the European Democracy Shield.
- MOSAIC website

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09: “EU AI Media Platform – modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media” (IA)**

### **7. What are relevant upcoming events?**

- 14 October 2026 - Horizon Europe Information Days, Cluster 4 (Apply AI session includes this Bridging topic).
- 16 October 2026 - Horizontal Activities Info Day: Nature & Bridging.
- 16 November 2026 (TBC) online - Info session as part of the Apply AI Summit

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-09: “EU AI Media Platform – modular multilingual public-interest infrastructure for European news and audiovisual media” (IA)**

### **8. Are there any future trends / emerging initiatives that proposers should be aware of?**

- Wider scale-up from 2028 onward is an explicit direction of travel; proposals should show a credible post-grant sustainability pathway.
- Broad European language coverage, including low-resource languages, and multimodal / immersive formats.
- Social-media-facing interaction, contextualisation and possible AI companion-style interactions via APIs.
- Stronger provenance safeguards for synthetic/manipulated content, plus explainability, logging, audit, redress and multi-stakeholder governance.
- Open APIs/SDKs, multiple front ends and onboarding pathways for smaller players; open-source approaches where relevant.

### **9. Are there plans for follow-up funding?**

- No specific follow-up call or funding commitment is stated in the supplied materials.
- The topic is explicitly designed to prepare for wider scale-up from 2028 onward.

# THE EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021-27)

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***HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10:***

***Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities (IA) - Apply AI***



## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10: “Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)**

### **1. Expected outcomes**

- **Bridge technical maturity and commercial deployment**
- **Strengthen European competitiveness**
- **Enable safer, more sustainable and accessible urban mobility**
- **Demonstrate scalable L4 services and vehicles** in real-traffic urban environments
- **Enable secure access to data, AI models and tools**
- **Demonstrate scalable, future-proof supporting infrastructure** for autonomous mobility
- **Identify deployment barriers**

## HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10: “Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)

### 2. Is there anything we do **NOT** want?

- **Technology demonstrations without a credible path to operational scale and commercial viability.**
- **Isolated city pilots** that cannot be replicated or connected across cities/countries.
- **Closed data ecosystems** that prevent secure data sharing, interoperability and scaling.
- **Fragmented approaches** that duplicate existing European initiatives, platforms and infrastructures.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10: “Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)**

### **3. Topic evolution**

- **From pilots to large-scale operational deployment** of Level 4 autonomous mobility in European cities, with a clear pathway towards commercially viable services.
- **From individual technologies to integrated urban mobility ecosystems**, combining vehicles, AI/AD stacks, data, infrastructure and mobility services.
- **Stronger focus on European technological capability and sovereignty**, while remaining open to international cooperation.

### **... and links to other topics**

- Apply AI Strategy; Automotive Action Plan; European Connected and Autonomous Vehicle Alliance (ECAVA); CCAM Partnership; cross-border testbeds; AI Factories/Data Labs; European Mobility Data Space (EMDS); software-defined vehicles and the Technological Sovereignty Package.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10: “Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)**

### **4. Which existing projects are relevant?**

- **ECAVA** – industrial cooperation and roadmaps on AI/data, SDV, hardware and autonomous deployment.
- **CCAM Partnership / large-scale demonstrations** – R&I, validation and deployment experience.
- **Cross-border automated-driving testbeds** – including the Joint Declaration of Intent and related national/regional initiatives.
- **AI Factories / Data Labs, EMDS and relevant CEF/5G infrastructure** – enabling data, AI and connectivity layers.
- Relevant **national and city-level autonomous mobility deployments and testbeds** should also be considered.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10:**

### **“Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)**

#### **5. Which types of stakeholders are mainly addressed?**

- Cities and public authorities – defining mobility needs, deployment environments and enabling conditions.
- European vehicle manufacturers and suppliers, including AD stack and technology providers.
- Mobility service providers, operators and brokers.
- AI, software, data and connectivity companies, including innovative SMEs and start-ups.
- Research and technology organisations, infrastructure/testing organisations and relevant associations.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10:**

### **“Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)**

#### **6. Are there additional background documents or other relevant information?**

- ADACities Scoping Paper and Call for Expression of Interest (CEoI) – key reference documents.
- Apply AI Strategy and Automotive Action Plan – strategic policy context.
- ECAVA Terms of Reference / roadmaps – industrial and technological context.
- Joint Declaration of Intent on cross-border automated-driving testbeds.
- Relevant CCAM Partnership, AI Factories, EMDS and EU technological sovereignty materials.

**HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10:**

**“Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)**

## **7. What are relevant upcoming events/developments?**

- **ADACities** follow-up/matchmaking and consortium-building activities
- **ECAVA** activities & **Paris Motor Show** (12 October)
- **CCAM** Partnership and relevant automated-driving / mobility events
- **PACT**-related events

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-10: “Autonomous Drive Ambition Cities–Apply AI” (IA)**

### **8. Are there any future trends / emerging initiatives that proposers should be aware of?**

- **AI-enabled L4 and European AD technologies:** increasingly capable AI-native systems, European AD stacks, SDV/open-source building blocks and ECAVA developments on AI, data and autonomous driving.
- **Enabling EU framework:** AI Act innovation
- **Scaling deployment including multi-city and cross-border deployment**

### **9. Are there plans for follow-up funding?**

- This would depend on the next MFF and other possibly emerging instruments /funds

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***HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12:***

***Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI"***



## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12: “Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI” (IA)**

### **1. Expected outcomes**

- Market-ready, low-impact AI-driven IoT platforms for enhanced grid operations, renewables integration and energy assets orchestration.
- Cross-border real-world multi-stakeholder pilots with secure data exchanges, leveraging EU digital infrastructures (AI factories, digital twins, data spaces, cloud-edge) and existing research.
- Measurable benefits through quantifiable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions, energy savings, and enhanced grid flexibility.

### **2. Is there anything we do NOT want?**

- Non-intermittent renewables (hydro) unless flexible (e.g. storage)
- No purely AI-solutions without IoT system

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12: “Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI” (IA)**

### **3. Topic evolution**

- Build up on previous and ongoing related projects and initiatives such as the MetaOS for the edge (*HORIZON-CL4-2021-DATA-01-05*) and the swarm (*HORIZON-CL4-2022-DATA-01-03*) project clusters, the Edge-IoT large scale pilots in energy (*HORIZON-CL5-2023-D3-01-15*) and the Operational Digital Platforms in CEF Digital (e.g. Begonia).

### **... and links to other topics**

- HORIZON-CL5-2026-02-D3-19: Innovative solutions for a generative AI-powered digital spine of the EU energy system
- HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-24: Large scale operational validation and upscaling of state-of-the-art (Generative) AI tools and models powering a next generation digital energy system

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12: “Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI” (IA)**

### **4. Which existing projects are relevant?**

- CEF Digital
  - Begonia (<https://www.begonia-project.eu/>)
- Horizon Europe
  - ODEON (<https://odeonproject.eu/>) and HEDGE IoT (<https://hedgeiot.eu>)
- DIGITAL Europe
  - INSIEME (<https://insieme.energy/>)

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12: “Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI” (IA)**

### **5. Which types of stakeholders are mainly addressed?**

- Energy actors (TSOs, DSOs, retailers, aggregators),
- Digital technology providers from AI, cloud, edge, IoT
- Mobility actors (EV manufacturers, EV fleet operators and charging operators)
- Energy communities
- Research organisations
- Public authorities.

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12: “Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI” (IA)**

### **6. Are there additional background documents or other relevant information?**

- Apply AI strategy

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12: “Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI” (IA)**

### **7. What are relevant upcoming events?**

- Apply AI Summit – session on energy (<https://digital-strategy.ec.europa.eu/en/policies/apply-ai-summit>)
- Enlit Europe 2026 – session on digital backbone in EU projects zone

## **HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-12: “Large-Scale piloting of next-generation AI-driven digital platforms for a more affordable, secure and sustainable European energy system (IA) - Apply AI” (IA)**

### **8. Are there any future trends / emerging initiatives that proposers should be aware of?**

- ...

### **9. Are there plans for follow-up funding?**

- Plans beyond current MFF are under development
- Upcoming call HORIZON-CL5-2027-02-D3-24: Large scale operational validation and upscaling of state-of-the-art (Generative) AI tools and models powering a next generation digital energy system

# THE EU RESEARCH AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME (2021-27)

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## ***HORIZON-BRIDGING-2027-01-13: EU Frontier AI Initiative: Advanced Scaling Frameworks for High-Performance AI Models (RIA) - Apply AI***





## BRIDGING-2027-01-13

### EU Frontier AI Initiative: Advanced Scaling Frameworks for High-Performance AI Models (RIA) - Apply AI

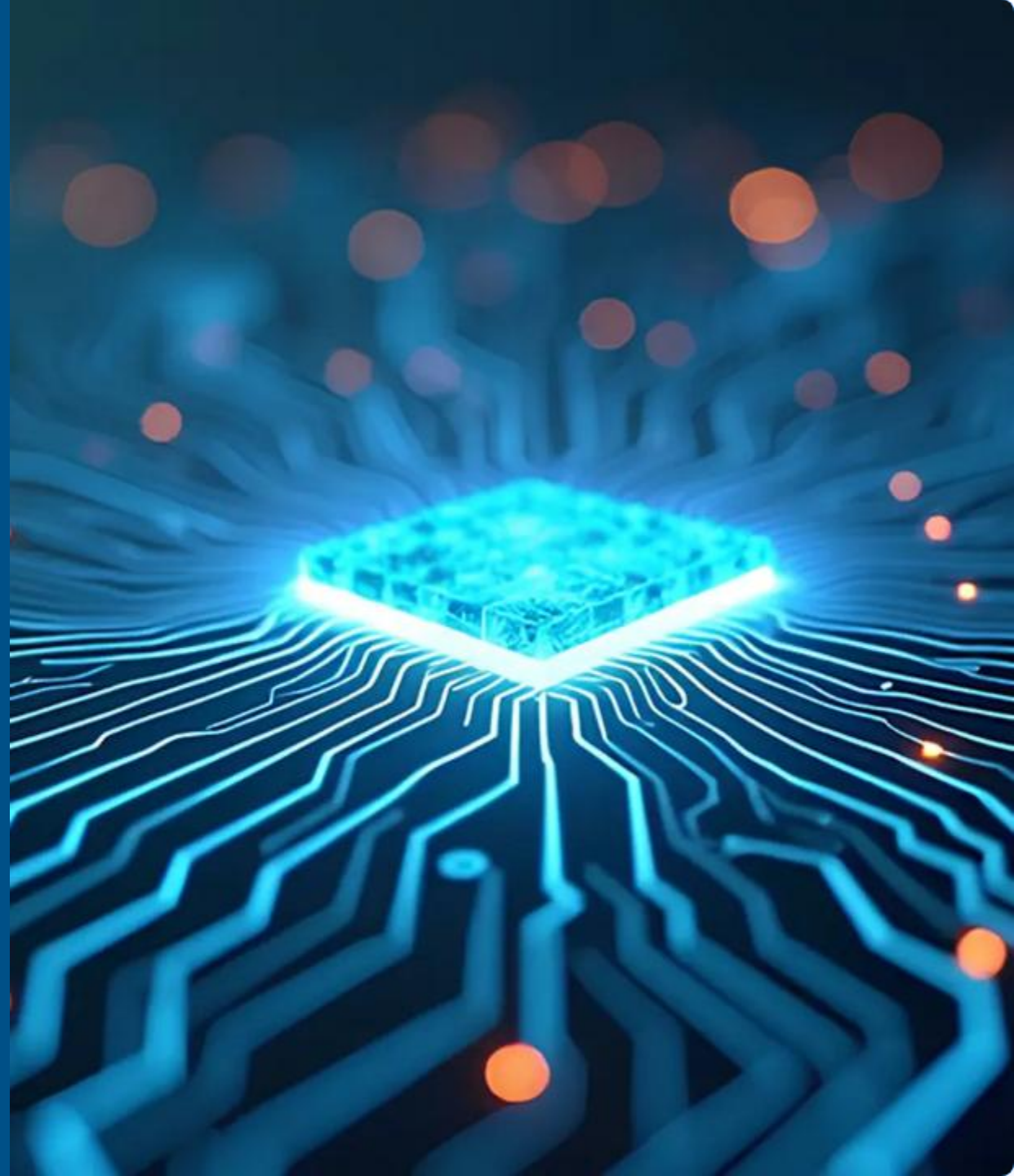
- Indicative budget – **15 Million** EUR
- Expected EU contribution per project – **15 Million** EUR
- Type of Action – Research and Innovation
- TRL –Achieving TRL 4-5
- Eligibility conditions: **Article 22.5**
  - Member States together with Iceland and Norway. Additional associated countries, Canada, Israel, Republic of Korea, New Zealand, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom
  - Direct or indirect control restrictions

# Towards European Frontier AI

**Frontier AI :** Current advances in AI are paving the way for more powerful capabilities. These "Frontier AI" models are becoming strategic assets in the global technology stack.

**Strategic Priority:** For the EU, developing highly capable models is essential to reinforce sovereignty and competitiveness.

**EU Assets:** Building on world-class computing infrastructure, scientific talent, and a commitment to open source and safety.



# The Frontier AI Initiative



## Collaborate

Bring together Europe's leading industrial and academic actors.



## Innovate

Unlock advanced capabilities and new use cases for frontier AI models.



## Compete

Launch EU-wide competitions for open frontier AI models.



# Foundation Models Development

## HORIZON EUROPE

- **Advancing Large AI Models:** Integration of New Data Modalities & Expansion of Capabilities  
Total budget €50 million



## DIGITAL EUROPE

- Making available a **high performing open-source European foundation model**  
Total budget €38 million



## EIC ACCELERATOR

- **Two challenges supporting AI startups developing Foundation Models.**  
€100 million

# BRIDGING-2027-01-13

## Expected Outcomes

### Some of:

- Establishment of robust scaling laws and predictive frameworks that allow for the reliable estimation of model performance before large-scale compute investment.
- Enhanced competitiveness of European advanced AI models through optimised dataset mixtures, refined architectures, and superior hyperparameter configurations.

# BRIDGING-2027-01-13

## Expected Outcomes

- Optimised development for frontier AI models, achieved via automated and scientifically grounded scaling methodologies.

# BRIDGING-2027-01-13

## Scope

- **Automated Scaling Law Derivation:** Research into scaling laws to predict performance across diverse modalities
- **Exploratory Architecture Search:** Developing automated methods to discover and refine model architectures that maintain performance while scaling both in training and inference.

# BRIDGING-2027-01-13

## Scope

- **Dataset Mixture Optimisation:** Research into the systematic selection, weighting, and sequencing of datasets. This includes developing tools for automated data quality assessment.
- **Advanced Hyperparameter Tuning and Stability:** Developing methodologies for stable training at large scales.



## BRIDGING-2027-01-13

### Some Considerations

- The selected project should actively support **Advanced AI labs** and **High-performance Computing Centres** already engaged in the development of frontier AI, ensuring that methodological advances are immediately validated in high-stakes environments.
- Proposals should describe the link between their planned activities and the objectives of topic HORIZON-CL4-2027-04-DIGITAL-EMERGING-11



## BRIDGING-2027-01-13

### Some Considerations

- The project selected in this topic should link to the resources offered by the AI Factories and the Data Labs.
- Some funding could be devoted to the acquisition of compute resources.
- Where relevant, links could be established to European companies developing frontier AI models to foster a pre-competitive exchange of expertise and explore ways to mobilise the wider developer community for the efficient reuse of results.



## BRIDGING-2027-01-13

### Key actors

- Advanced AI labs and High-performance Computing Centres already engaged in the development of frontier AI