OPEN CALL ANALYSIS

EDIP EDPCI PREPARATION GRANTS 2026

Lump sums of up to €3.375 million for country groups whose defence project proposal was not identified

EUnita strategic translation

This call pays for preparation, not for building anything. A group of at least four EU Member States and associated countries, or a SEAP already established by a Commission implementing act, whose joint proposal for a European Defence Project of Common Interest was not identified, can receive a lump sum of up to €3.375 million to mature that project: common governance, legal and organisational readiness, and two roadmaps for 2028–2034, the first by the end of 2027 and the final one by the end of 2030. Each roadmap carries half of the grant, so delivery decides the money. Companies, universities and NGOs cannot apply; they can supply studies as subcontractors or join without funding as associated partners. The outcome does not commit the Commission to identify the project or to fund it later.

EDIP ANALYSIS

Fit assessment | Sources | What it funds | Boundaries | Budget & competition | Eligibility | Money | Evaluation | Risks

Deadline: 15 December 2026, 17:00 CET (18:00 in Romania)

Topic budget: €13,500,000 | Grant per project: up to €3,375,000 (lump sum) | 4 projects expected | Opened 15 October 2026

Prepared by

EUnita — EU Grant Advisory & Consultancy

Analysis date: 22 November 2026

This analysis interprets the official call documentation for applicants. It is not legal advice. The official texts are the call document EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA (version 1.1, 30 October 2026), the EDIP work programme C(2026) 2174 as amended by C(2026) 7321, Regulation (EU) 2025/2643, the application form and the model grant agreement; where this analysis and an official text differ, the official text prevails. Labels used: ***Confirmed*** *(stated in an official source),* ***EUnita interpretation*** *(a reading or recommendation by EUnita),* ***Derived estimate*** *(arithmetic by EUnita on official figures).*

1. Decision summary: is this call for you?

The call document EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA has one topic, EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA-PREP, under the European Defence Industry Programme (EDIP). It is a coordination and support action paid as a lump sum. It is not an open industry call: only a Structure for European Armament Programme (SEAP) that has already been established by a Commission implementing act, or a group of at least four EU Member States and EDIP associated countries, whose proposal for a European Defence Project of Common Interest (EDPCI) was not identified can apply. The topic budget is €13,500,000 and four projects are expected. Applications close on 15 December 2026 at 17:00 CET, which is 18:00 in Romania. The deadline cannot be extended.

Item	Confirmed position	Source
Call and topic	EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA, single topic EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA-PREP: “Maturing projects for possible future European Defence Projects of Common Interest and preparing their implementation roadmap”	Call document p. 5; Portal
Programme and manager	EDIP, Regulation (EU) 2025/2643. Work programme C(2026) 2174 as amended by C(2026) 7321 of 14 October 2026. Implemented directly by the European Commission, DG DEFIS, unit DEFIS.B	Call document pp. 3, 5; WP p. 41
Type of support	EDPCI coordination and support action; lump sum (“financing not linked to costs”)	Call document p. 6
Who can apply	A SEAP already established by a Commission implementing act, or a group of at least four EU Member States and EDIP associated countries (members of EFTA and the EEA that apply the Regulation, Article 2(3); the work programme names Norway) that submitted an EDPCI proposal to the February 2026 call for expressions of interest and were not identified	Call document p. 10; work programme p. 39; Regulation Arts 2(3), 42–43
Money	€13,500,000 for the topic; at most €3,375,000 per project; 4 projects expected	Call document pp. 8–9; WP p. 41
Duration	Normally 18 to 48 months; two roadmaps, by end 2027 and by end 2030	Call document pp. 7–8, 13
Deadline	15 December 2026, 17:00:00 CET (Brussels); 18:00 EET in Romania; one stage	Call document p. 9; Portal
Next round	No second cut-off of this call is announced. The amending decision (recital 5) and the Council decision (recital 6) say the Commission intends to launch the next call for expressions of interest for EDPCIs before the end of April 2027; the work programme and the call document say “in the course of 2027”	Amending decision, recital 5; Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2221, recital 6; call document p. 8; work programme p. 40
Romania	Romania is an EU Member State and must be involved or consulted in every project. No Romania-specific rule exists. Companies and research bodies have no applicant role	Call document pp. 8, 10

Good fit

- ✓ Authorities of a Member State or an EDIP associated country that sit in a group behind one of the four non-identified proposals (ERCUL, ARTISYS, ARCADIA, EDDS)
- ✓ An established SEAP with at least four members that took part in such a proposal
- ✓ Groups able to deliver a validated roadmap for 2028–2034 and to involve or consult every Member State, associated country and Ukraine
- ✓ Consultancies, research bodies and legal or planning experts who can supply studies to such a group as subcontractors (EUnita interpretation)
- ✓ Industrial and research partners of a non-identified proposal that can join without funding as associated partners

Not a fit

- ✗ Companies, universities, research organisations or NGOs that want to apply or receive the grant
- ✗ Groups of fewer than four countries, or countries that did not take part in the proposal
- ✗ Groups whose proposal was identified as an EDPCI (five projects; direct awards, no call)
- ✗ Entities controlled from outside the EU and associated countries, other than as unfunded associated partners by exception
- ✗ Anyone expecting a commitment to identify the project as an EDPCI or to fund it in 2028–2034
- ✗ Projects started before 5 March 2024 or already fully financed from other sources

EUnita verdict (interpretation)

Not for companies, research organisations or NGOs as applicants. Only a group, or an established SEAP, already formed around one of the four non-identified proposals can still make the deadline of 15 December 2026, 17:00 CET: at least four beneficiaries must be countries that took part in the proposal, so a new group cannot be built now. The documents do not address whether countries from different proposals may combine or whether other countries may be added as beneficiaries. For those groups it is a defined, single-stage lump sum of up to €3,375,000 with payment on two validated roadmaps. For everyone else the call is a signal of where defence-industrial planning for 2028–2034 is heading and a source of supplier or partner roles. The next route to a new EDPCI proposal is the call for expressions of interest that the amending decision (recital 5) says is intended before the end of April 2027 (the work programme says “in the course of 2027”); its conditions are not yet published.

2. Source verification and document status

Confirmed: the figures below were read in the Commission’s own documents and pages and checked on 22 November 2026. The Portal data file shows the topic as open for submission, with its last update on 16 October 2026.

Document	Version and date	Use
Call document EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA (32 pp.)	V1.1, 30 October 2026 (V1.0, 13 October 2026; V1.1 aligned the cover name with the amended work programme and updated section 2)	Rules of this call
EDIP work programme 2026–2027, consolidated (103 pp.)	C(2026) 2174 of 30 March 2026 as amended by C(2026) 7321 of 14 October 2026; section 2.11 is this topic	Topic, budget, reductions (Appendix 2b)
Regulation (EU) 2025/2643 (EDIP)	16 December 2025	Articles 9, 20, 35
Application form, participant information, infrastructure list	Form V3.0, 15 September 2026; two Word templates	Structure of Part B and annexes
Lump-sum model grant agreement	V1.0, 1 April 2026	Milestones, reductions, termination

Document	Version and date	Use
COM(2026) 358 final; Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2221	3 July 2026; 28 September 2026	The nine proposals, five identified, four not

Where the official documents differ

- **Programme label.** The Portal says “European Defence Fund”, type “EDF-LS”; the call document and work programme say EDIP. EUnita interpretation: the Portal label reflects the lump-sum model grant agreement, which is titled “EDF, ASAP, EDIRPA, EDIP and USI Lump Sum MGA”. EDIP is followed.
- **Work programme.** The Portal topic page links the original work programme of 30 March 2026, which has no topic PREP (it has a different EDPCI topic of €25,000,000). The call document cites the amended text of 14 October 2026, which alone contains this topic. The amended text is followed.
- **Countries that count.** The call document says all Member States, associated countries and Ukraine must be involved or consulted (section 2, p. 8); for the amount it speaks of “all the countries which participated in the proposal” (section 6, p. 13). The application form (pp. 21–22) also ties the count to the countries that took part in the proposal (“or all but one”), as does Appendix 2b(b) of the work programme (“listed in the project proposal”); the work programme also counts Ukraine, the form does not. One missing country: €2,875,000 or no grant (call document); a reduction of €0.5 million (work programme). The documents do not say what happens to the amount if a country outside the proposal is not consulted. The amounts of section 6 and Appendix 2b are used.
- **Cross-reference.** Section 2.11 of the work programme and the amending decision point to “Appendix 2c, paragraph 2, point b”; the rule is in Appendix 2b, point b (2c is the EDPCI deployment action). The call document does not refer to the appendix.
- **SEAP status.** Section 2.11 of the work programme (p. 39) names a SEAP “established by a Commission implementing act”; the SEAP supporting action (section 2.7) also accepts a SEAP “in the process of being established”. The call document describes SEAPs as “legal entities set up in accordance with Articles 40 to 51” of the Regulation (p. 11). The wording of section 2.11 is followed.
- **Ownership control.** Annex 2 puts the assessment before grant signature; footnote 6 and section 13 treat the declaration as part of the proposal. Article 9(9) of the Regulation exempts contracting authorities, SEAPs and others from the control rules; the call document does not repeat it.
- **Budget annex.** The call document says the detailed budget table is not applicable; form V3.0 lists it as mandatory. The call document is followed.
- **Tie-break.** Announced but not given in the text (call document p. 17). **Act name:** “Decision COM(2026) 358” is the Commission’s proposal; the Council adopted Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2221.

3. What the call funds

Confirmed: the aim is “to support the maturation of forming collaborative projects towards possible future European Defence Projects of Common Interest (EDPCI) and the preparation of their implementation roadmap for the period 2028-2034”, including “all preparatory activities necessary prior to the potential implementation of the project during the next Multiannual Financial Framework (2028-2034)” (call document p. 7).

Activities

The call document lists, “in particular”, activities that the work programme calls mandatory (“must include”):

- maturation of the project within the participating countries and the relevant Priority Capability Area coordination groups;

- coordination to align the countries on scope, objectives and roles, “while considering the inclusion of additional participants where necessary”;
- cross-border cooperation frameworks, common governance, and legal and organisational preparedness;
- coordination of implementation and deployment sequencing;
- planning of interoperability and industrial coordination. This can include the preparation or procurement of studies.

Deliverables

A first implementation roadmap by the end of 2027 (activities to start in 2028–2030) and the final roadmap at the latest by the end of 2030 (activities to start until 2034). Each roadmap sets out activities, outcomes, cost estimates including the expected EU support, milestones and planning; the state of play and links to existing EU projects; which countries take part in each activity and their responsibility; the legal entity (for example a procurement agent or contracting authority) managing each activity; the cooperation framework (for example a letter of intent, memorandum of understanding or contracts); and how the activities deliver the overall capacity. The work must lead to “the timely delivery of a consolidated project proposal for a possible EDPCI and a roadmap”.

Involving every country

All EU Member States, associated countries and Ukraine “must be involved or consulted” in the maturation and the roadmaps, “even though not necessarily as members of the consortium”. The European Defence Agency may join as an unfunded associated partner. The proposal must explain organisation and governance. The design authority requirement applies: control over system architecture and specifications, over integration, a legal right to remove or replace restricted components, and no veto rights for non-associated third countries.

Policy anchors

EDIP aims to strengthen the resilience of the EU defence industry by aggregating demand and reducing strategic dependencies. An EDPCI is a collaborative industrial project of at least four Member States, identified by Council implementing act under Article 35 of the Regulation. The amending decision (recital 5) directs support also to projects not designated as EDPCIs, “in view of a next call for expressions of interest, intended to be launched before the end of April 2027”. The outcome “will not commit the Commission to propose to identify the project as an EDPCI nor to provide the expected EU contribution under the next multiannual financial framework 2028-2034” (call document p. 8).

4. Boundaries: avoid the wrong door

This topic does not fund deployment, technology development or industrial production. It also does not fund the five projects the Council identified on 28 September 2026. Other EDIP actions have their own call documents, which are not summarised here; the points below come from the work programme, the Portal data files and the DG DEFIS EDIP page.

Action	What it is	Dates and money
Identified EDPCIs (DECODER, IMSD, SPACE, EU-FIAMD, EFW)	Five projects identified by Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2221. The work programme provides direct awards (no call) for a coordination and support action	€2,300,000 each, €11,500,000 in total (WP pp. 35–39)

Action	What it is	Dates and money
EDPCI deployment actions	Invitation-based awards without a call, only for the five identified EDPCIs (DECODER, IMSD, SPACE, EU-FIAMD, EFW). There is nothing to apply for on the Portal	€60,000,000 each, €300,000,000 in total (work programme section 2.9)
Industrial Reinforcement Actions	Legal entities in Member States and Norway; key electronic components, and platforms and end-products	Deadline 16 February 2027; €122.25 million (up to €20 million per project) and €152.75 million (up to €30 million per project)
USI-IRA	Unmanned and counter-unmanned systems	Deadline 16 February 2027; €80 million; up to €10 million per project
Common Procurement Actions	Consortia of national contracting authorities of Member States and Norway	Up to €20 million per project; second call deadline 16 February 2027
SEAP supporting action (EDF-EDIP-P-2026-2027-FNLC-SA-SEAP)	Continuous call for supporting actions that help established SEAPs start operating; open to a SEAP established by a Commission implementing act or in the process of being established	Cut-offs: 12 November 2026 (passed), 16 February 2027, 28 September 2027, 27 January 2028 and 30 May 2028; €10,000,000 in total, up to €2,000,000 per project (work programme section 2.7; Portal topic data, 22 November 2026)

EUnita interpretation: a company that wants production or procurement money should read the industrial reinforcement and common procurement calls, not this one.

5. Budget, competition and expected number of grants

Confirmed: the call document gives an estimated available call budget of €13,500,000 and expects to fund 4 projects; it reserves the right not to award all available funds or to redistribute them between the call priorities (pp. 8–9). The work programme sets a maximum EU contribution of €3,375,000 per project, “allowing several proposals to be funded”, and shows the topic’s appropriations as €2,430,000 in 2026 and €11,070,000 in 2027 (p. 54). The Portal budget overview shows no figures for applications or grants.

Confirmed: the Commission’s proposal COM(2026) 358 records nine proposals submitted by 29 May 2026. Five were proposed for identification. Four others, “European Robotic Combat Units for Land operations (ERCUL), Artillery Systems (ARTISYS), Multi Domain Operation Platform systems (ARCADIA) and European Defence Data Space for AI (EDDS)”, were found “to not yet fully comply with all criteria” but “may therefore receive EDIP funding to support their further development”. The call document states that only proposals not identified in that decision can take part (p. 7).

Derived estimate: four proposals can be funded, and four non-identified proposals exist

- €13,500,000 divided by €3,375,000 is exactly 4, which matches the call document’s expectation of four projects.
- Nine proposals less five identified leaves four eligible proposals. If each of the four groups applies once and reaches the threshold, the budget covers all four at the maximum amount.
- Not published: how many applications will arrive, whether more than one group may apply for the same proposal, and the countries in each of the four proposals. Multiple proposals are allowed for different projects; for very similar projects only one is accepted (call document p. 26).

6. What has been funded before

Confirmed: nothing has been funded under this topic. EUnita interpretation: this is the first call of this type under EDIP. Success rates, applicant numbers and evaluation statistics are not published.

- The February 2026 call for expressions of interest was launched on 16 February 2026 and closed on 29 May 2026 with nine proposals from Member States. The Council identified five EDPCIs on 28 September 2026.
- For the five identified EDPCIs the work programme provides direct awards of €2,300,000 each for a coordination and support action, €11,500,000 in total.
- The original work programme of 30 March 2026 planned one coordination and support action for EDPCIs with a budget of €25,000,000. The amended programme replaces it with the five direct awards (€11,500,000) and this topic (€13,500,000), which together make the same €25,000,000 (derived).

7. Who should apply, and with which ideas

Romanian public bodies

Confirmed: the applicants must be a SEAP (established by a Commission implementing act, work programme p. 39) or a group of at least four countries that took part in one of the non-identified proposals (call document pp. 10, 12). Romania appears in the documents only in the country lists of the five identified EDPCIs. Whether Romania took part in ERCUL, ARTISYS, ARCADIA or EDDS is not published. EUnita interpretation: a Romanian public authority can therefore be a beneficiary only inside such a group. The call document does not say which national bodies may act as beneficiary or affiliated entity. For the five identified EDPCIs the work programme speaks of “the legal entities that will represent each country in the consortium (i.e. beneficiaries)” (sections 2.9 and 2.10); no such sentence exists for this topic. Public bodies are normally exempt from the financial capacity check and from the operational capacity check.

Romanian companies, research organisations, universities and NGOs

Confirmed: the documents name no applicant role for them. “Other entities may participate in other consortium roles, such as associated partners, subcontractors, third parties giving in-kind contributions, etc.” (p. 10). An associated partner bears its own costs, needs a draft PIC and must meet the establishment and control conditions; an entity that fails them may join only exceptionally, with the granting authority’s agreement and without funding (p. 11). Subcontracting “should normally constitute a limited part” of the action and must be justified above 30% of the total eligible costs; subcontractors submit an ownership control declaration (pp. 10, 25).

Ideas that fit

EUnita interpretation: the roadmaps are the product. A strong proposal treats them as decision documents: a table of countries and responsibilities, the legal entity (procurement agent or contracting authority) for each activity, the cooperation framework (letter of intent, memorandum of understanding, contracts), links to EDF, Horizon Europe, EU Space, Connecting Europe Facility and Digital Europe projects, a plan for interoperability and industrial coordination, and a record of how each country, and Ukraine, was involved or consulted. Suppliers can offer studies on governance and legal vehicles, cost estimates, supply-chain dependencies and interoperability, because the call allows the preparation and procurement of studies.

8. Eligibility checklist

✓	Applicants (beneficiaries and affiliated entities) are a SEAP established by a Commission implementing act (work programme section 2.11, p. 39), or a group of at least four EU Member States and EDIP associated countries, that submitted an EDPCI proposal to the February 2026 call for expressions of interest and were not identified (call document p. 10).
✓	A consortium has at least four EU Member States or EDIP associated countries that took part in the proposal as beneficiaries; affiliated entities do not count. A SEAP may apply alone if it is composed of at least four such countries (p. 12). A SEAP has at least three members, at least two of them Member States (p. 11), and for this topic it must already be established by a Commission implementing act (work programme p. 39; Regulation Articles 42–43).
✓	Established in the EU or an EDIP associated country (members of EFTA and the EEA that apply the Regulation, Article 2(3); the work programme names Norway) with executive management there; not controlled by a non-associated third country or entity, unless a prior investment screening with adequate measures or “guarantees approved by the Member State or associated country of establishment” apply (Regulation Art. 9; call document Annex 2, pp. 30–31).
?	Article 9(9) of the Regulation says the control rules do not apply to contracting authorities of Member States and associated countries, SEAPs, international organisations and the European Defence Agency. The call document does not repeat the exemption; the call document’s ownership control declaration applies to beneficiaries, affiliated entities and subcontractors (pp. 10, 25).
✓	The action implements Article 4 of the EDIP Regulation; the design authority requirement applies; it did not start before 5 March 2024, is not completed and is not fully financed from other sources (pp. 8, 12–13).
✓	Every Member State, associated country and Ukraine is involved or consulted (p. 8); for the full amount, all countries that took part in the proposal; for €2,875,000, all except one (p. 13; application form pp. 21–22).
✓	Every beneficiary, affiliated entity and associated partner holds a PIC; beneficiaries and affiliated entities are validated by the Central Validation Service (pp. 10–11, 25).
✗	Not eligible: natural persons (except sole traders), international organisations as applicants, and entities under EU restrictive measures in any role (pp. 10–12).
✗	Not eligible actions: products prohibited by international law, cluster munitions or anti-personnel mines, lethal autonomous weapons outside responsible human command and control (pp. 12–13). Financial support to third parties is not allowed.
?	A SEAP applicant should check, before preparing a proposal, that its establishing implementing act is in force: section 2.11 of the work programme names a SEAP “established by a Commission implementing act” and does not repeat the “in the process of being established” route of the SEAP supporting action (section 2.7).
?	The documents do not say which national bodies act as beneficiaries, whether countries from different proposals may combine or whether other countries may be added as beneficiaries; the countries in the four proposals are not published.

9. How the money works

Confirmed: the grant is a lump sum, “a fixed amount, based on financing not linked to costs”. There is no detailed budget table and no cost-based funding rate. The amount depends on how many countries are involved or consulted: €3,375,000 if all countries that took part in the proposal are involved or consulted, €2,875,000 if all except one, no grant if fewer. The grant awarded may be lower than requested (call document pp. 13–14).

Milestone	Share of the contribution	Evidence
M1: first roadmap (end 2027)	50% of the Union contribution	Roadmap document; governance and coordination arrangements; the future role of each country; formal validation and endorsement by all countries involved and acknowledgment by all consulted; evidence of involvement or consultation
M2: final roadmap (at the latest end 2030)	50% of the Union contribution	Same evidence for the final roadmap

- **Work packages** follow the milestones; each roadmap is a deliverable; there are separate packages for management and for communication. “The EU contribution will only be paid out for work packages that have been completed and if the milestones, deliverables and results … have been fully achieved” (pp. 19–20).
- **Reductions** (work programme Appendix 2b, pp. 62–63): the whole €3,375,000 if the roadmaps are not delivered and validated as expected; €0.5 million if one country is neither involved nor consulted; if more than one, the project may be closed with no compensation and advance payments recovered.
- **Payments:** the 50% shares above are the value of each milestone; the cash is paid as a prefinancing of normally 35% of the maximum grant amount (exceptionally less or none), one or more interim payments and a balance, on a schedule fixed in the grant agreement (call document p. 20). All payments go to the coordinator. Any financial security for the prefinancing is fixed in the grant agreement.
- **Other:** no profit; no double funding; liability regime and certificate thresholds are set in the grant agreement. Beneficiary names, addresses, purpose and maximum amount are published.

Derived estimate: what the percentages mean at the maximum

- 35% of €3,375,000 is €1,181,250 of prefinancing; each 50% milestone is worth €1,687,500.
- At €2,875,000 each milestone is worth €1,437,500.
- The grant agreement may set interim payments differently; the model agreement shows an interim ceiling of 90% of the maximum grant, which is a model entry only.

10. Evaluation

Confirmed: one stage, one evaluation step, by a committee of at least three Commission statutory staff, which may be assisted by independent external experts (Regulation Art. 18; work programme p. 85). Admissibility and eligibility are checked first, then operational capacity and the award criteria; proposals are ranked by score and those above the threshold are considered for funding within the budget (call document p. 17).

Criterion	Weight	What is assessed
Objectives	2	Alignment with the objective, scope and priorities; contribution to competitiveness; resilience and geographical distribution
Expected results	2	Compliance with the expected results; increase in interoperability
Implementation	3	Work plan and work packages: effectiveness and practicality, usefulness and comprehensiveness of milestones and deliverables; project and quality of management: structures, risk, financial and project management, allocation of tasks and resources

Each criterion is scored from 0 to 5 in half points (0 fails or cannot be assessed; 1 poor; 2 fair; 3 good; 4 very good; 5 excellent). The maximum weighted score is 35 and the overall threshold is 23. “There is no minimum pass score for individual criteria.” (call document pp. 17–18).

Derived estimate: the threshold in plain terms

- 23 of 35 is 65.7%. The same score on all three criteria must be at least 3.3 (7 × 3.3 = 23.1). With half-point steps, 3.5 on each gives 24.5 and 3.0 gives 21.
- EUnita interpretation: Implementation carries three sevenths of the score. A work plan with clear milestones, deliverables and allocation of tasks between countries matters more than the objectives text.

Confirmed: the call document announces an approach for ranking equal scores but none follows; the work programme says the ranking procedure is set in the call document. An invitation to grant preparation is not a commitment; legal entity validation, financial capacity and exclusion checks follow. Operational capacity is assessed with the Implementation criterion; public bodies and Member State organisations are exempt.

11. Application package and timeline

Confirmed: proposals are submitted only in the Funding & Tenders Portal submission system, opened from the topic page. An EU Login account, two-factor authentication and a PIC for every participant are needed. Paper submission is not possible, except for classified parts, which must not go through the Portal.

- **Part A:** administrative data, filled in online. **Part B:** at most 50 pages (unclassified and classified together), A4, Arial 9 at least, margins at least 15 mm; sections: summary (up to 3 pages), Objectives, Expected results, Implementation, other points, declarations including the number of countries as beneficiaries and the number involved or consulted.
- **Annexes:** participant information (key staff, previous projects) and the list of infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources. The call document says the detailed budget table is not applicable.
- **Zip:** Part B and annexes in one password-protected zip (AES-256), under 100 MB. The password must be e-mailed before the deadline to DEFIS-EDIP-PROPOSALS-PWD@ec.europa.eu with the proposal ID and the zip name. A confirmation e-mail with date and time follows; without it the proposal has not been submitted.
- **Language and tools:** any official EU language, abstract in English, English strongly advised. Generative AI is allowed, with disclosure of tools and responsibility with the applicant.
- **Classified information:** contact DEFIS-EDIP-PROPOSALS-PWD@ec.europa.eu well in advance. Exchange uses the ZEUS system up to RESTRICTED for governmental bodies, SEAPs or the European Defence Agency, and electronic systems or certified courier up to SECRET.
- **Questions:** DEFIS-EDIP-PROPOSALS@ec.europa.eu, quoting the call and topic reference; the call document says capacity for direct enquiries is limited and does not say whether eligibility questions are answered. The Portal Q&A for the topic was empty on 22 November 2026.

Date	Event	Status
15 October 2026	Call opened; submission session available from 16 October 2026	Confirmed
15 December 2026, 17:00 CET (18:00 in Romania)	Submission deadline, single stage; proposals can be changed and resubmitted until then	Confirmed; cannot be extended
December 2026 to March 2027	Evaluation	Indicative

Date	Event	Status
March 2027	Information on evaluation results	Indicative
April to June 2027	Grant agreement signature	Indicative
End 2027	First implementation roadmap (milestone 1)	Confirmed
End 2030, at the latest	Final implementation roadmap (milestone 2)	Confirmed
31 December 2033	Activities normally completed	Confirmed (“normally”)
In the course of 2027	Next call for expressions of interest for EDPCIs: “in the course of 2027” (call document p. 8; work programme p. 40). The amending decision (recital 5) and Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2221 (recital 6) say the Commission intends to launch it before the end of April 2027. A separate call, not a second round of this one	Intended; conditions not published

12. Risks and red flags

Red flags before committing

- **Membership cannot be checked from public documents.** The countries in the four non-identified proposals are not published, at least four beneficiaries must be countries that took part in the proposal, and the documents do not address other beneficiaries.
- **All-or-nothing money.** The whole €3,375,000 is at risk if the roadmaps are not delivered and validated; €0.5 million is lost if one country is not involved or consulted; with more than one missing the project may be closed and advance payments recovered.
- **Deadline.** 15 December 2026, 17:00 CET, cannot be extended; the zip password must reach the mailbox before the deadline and the confirmation e-mail is the proof of submission.
- **Ownership and control papers.** A missing or non-compliant ownership control declaration normally makes the participant ineligible; if several or all are missing the proposal may be inadmissible. The timing in Annex 2 and in footnote 6 differs.
- **No commitment beyond the grant.** The outcome does not bind the Commission to identify the project as an EDPCI or to fund it in 2028–2034.
- **Unclear points.** The tie-break approach is not given in the text; the Portal links the original work programme; the Portal support box shows no contact address.
- **Classified information** cannot go through the Portal; the exchange route must be arranged before submission.

EUnita interpretation: for a supplier the main risk is relying on a role that the group has not confirmed. A group that has not named its subcontractors cannot promise them a place; the call document only allows studies to be prepared or procured.

13. EUnita recommendations

1. **Settle membership first.** A public body should confirm with the national authority that coordinated its country’s February 2026 submission whether the country took part in ERCUL, ARTISYS, ARCADIA or EDDS. Without that, no application is possible. A SEAP should also check that it has been established by a Commission implementing act.
2. **Companies and research bodies:** do not prepare an application. Prepare a short offer of studies for the groups, register a draft PIC, and keep establishment and ownership control papers ready.

3. **Groups:** register every PIC and enable two-factor authentication now; submit well before 17:00 CET on 15 December 2026 and send the zip password in time.
4. **Write to the weights.** Put effort into the work plan, milestones, deliverables, management and the split of tasks between countries (weight 3), then into objectives and expected results (weight 2 each).
5. **Plan the payment evidence from the start:** keep records of every involvement or consultation, including Ukraine, and the route to validation and endorsement of each roadmap.
6. **Prepare for the next call.** The funded work is meant to prepare a proposal for the next call for expressions of interest, intended before the end of April 2027 according to the amending decision (the work programme says “in the course of 2027”); read its documents when published.

Unresolved points

- The countries and legal entities in the four non-identified proposals, and whether Romania is among them: not published.
- Whether a group may combine countries from different proposals, whether other countries may be added as beneficiaries, and which national bodies may act as beneficiary or affiliated entity: not addressed in the documents.
- What happens to the amount if a country outside the proposal is not consulted (see section 2), and how the ownership control exemption of Regulation Article 9(9) applies to this call: not addressed in the call document.
- The tie-break approach, the number of applications, success rates and any repeat of this call: not published.
- Reporting periods, interim payment dates and any prefinancing security: set in grant preparation.
- The conditions and exact date of the next call for expressions of interest (see section 11): not published.

Sources

- Call document EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA, version 1.1 (30 October 2026): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/edf/wp-call/2026/call-fiche_edf-edip-p-2026-fnlc-csa_en.pdf
- Funding & Tenders Portal topic page EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA-PREP: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/opportunities/topic-details/EDF-EDIP-P-2026-FNLC-CSA-PREP
- Portal data file of the topic: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/data/topicDetails/edf-edip-p-2026-fnlc-csa-prep.json
- EDIP work programme 2026–2027, consolidated as amended by C(2026) 7321: https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/a3b1d0b4-91a3-4002-a735-2c6d332769b4_en?filename=EDIP%20-%20Financing%20decision%20and%20work%20programme%20%28amended%29.pdf (103 pp.)
- Amending decision C(2026) 7321 of 14 October 2026: https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/7e99e233-391d-46d9-af39-29f8874b3f16_en?filename=C_2026_7321_1_EN_ACT_Amending%20EDIP%20WP.pdf
- Regulation (EU) 2025/2643 establishing EDIP: https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/document/download/cdfd533e-8a69-4198-8054-69ea5ca2f04d_en?filename=OJ_L_202502643_EN_TXT.pdf
- Application form, version 3.0 (15 September 2026): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/edf/temp-form/af/af_edip-and-usi_en.pdf
- Participant information template: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/edf/temp-form/af/participant-information_edip-and-usi_en.docx
- List of infrastructure, facilities, assets and resources template: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/edf/temp-form/af/list-of-infrastructures-facilities-assets-and-resources_edip-and-usi_en.docx
- Lump-sum model grant agreement, version 1.0 (1 April 2026): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/edf/agr-contr/ls-mga_edf-asap-edirpa-edip-and-usi_en.pdf
- Commission proposal COM(2026) 358 final (3 July 2026): https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2026-07/Proposal-for-a-Council-Implementing-Decision-on-the-establishment-of-european-Projects-of-Common-Interest.pdf
- Council Implementing Decision (EU) 2026/2221 (28 September 2026): https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=OJ:L_202602221
- DG DEFIS page: EDIP, Forging Europe’s Defence: https://defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-defence-industry/edip-forging-europes-defence_en
- Rules for legal entity validation, LEAR appointment and financial capacity assessment, version 6.0: https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/docs/2021-2027/common/guidance/rules-lev-lear-fca_en.pdf

Checked 22 November 2026. Official updates prevail.