

# Life Sciences & Health - Your 2026 funding roadmap

Do not miss out on grant and incentive  
opportunities

January 2026



The better the question. The better the answer. The better the world works.



Shape the future  
with confidence

# LSH – latest measures, trends and insights

- **Biotech act**

- The proposed Biotech Act aims to strengthen Europe's biotechnology potential by improving funding options, supporting bio-manufacturing, and easing the path from laboratory research to market. It will simplify regulations, accelerate clinical trial authorisations, establish single regulatory pathways for complex products, and ultimately support the development of innovative therapies and a strong European biotech industry.

- **Safe Hearts Plan**

- Cardiovascular diseases cause 1.7 million deaths annually in the EU, cost €282 billion, and are projected to rise by 90% by 2050. The Safe Hearts Plan introduces the first comprehensive EU strategy with targeted measures to improve prevention, detection and treatment, leveraging personalised tools, digital and AI solutions, reducing health inequalities, and supporting Member States through national plans, dashboards and an AI Incubator.

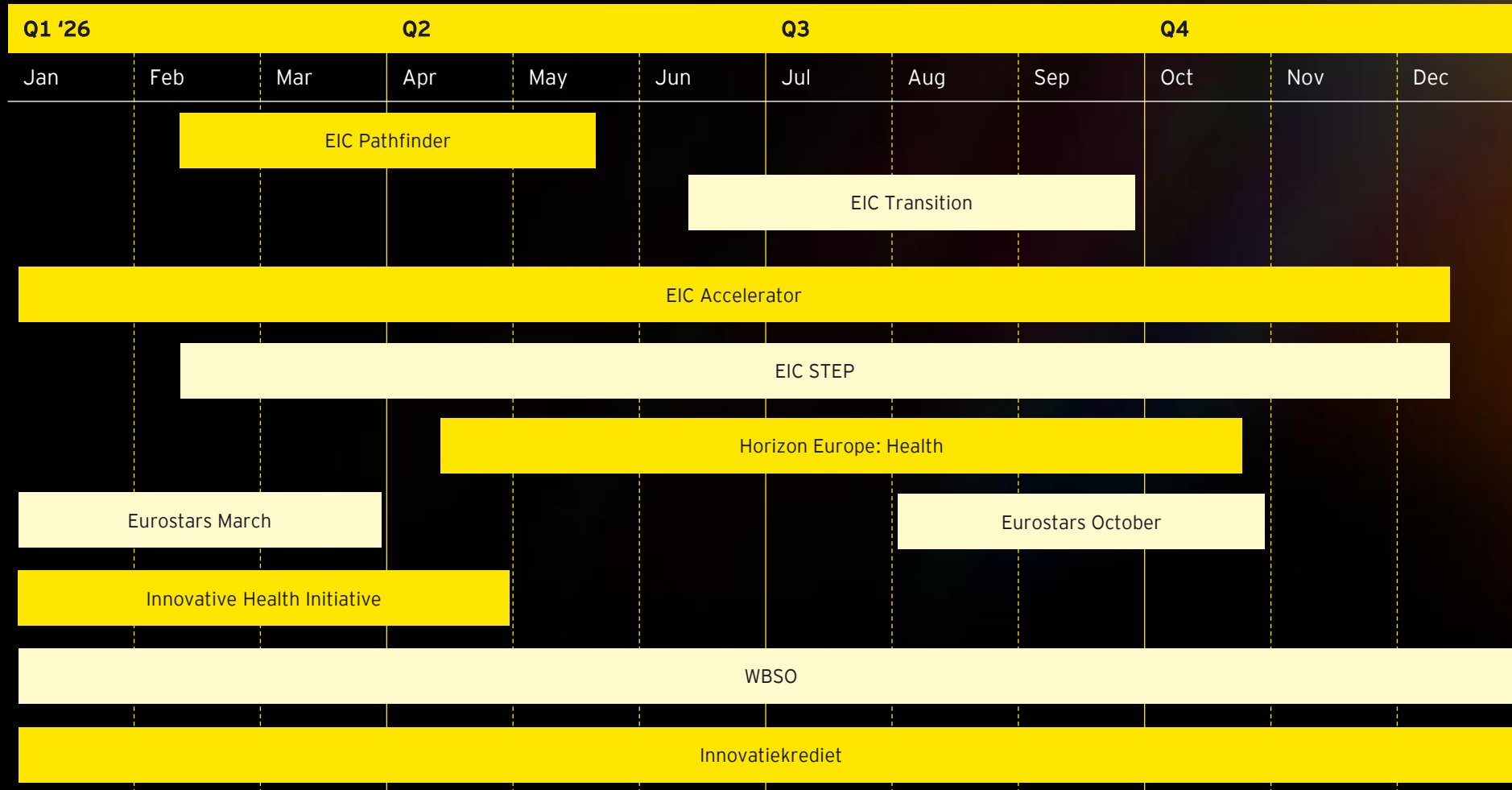
- **Medical devices**

- The EU medical devices sector employs nearly one million people, is worth €170 billion, and faces high costs, bottlenecks and delays under current rules. The proposed reforms simplify regulations, strengthen the EMA's role, speed up access to safe devices and deliver €3.3 billion in yearly savings.

- **EY Firepower report: life sciences dealmaking – trends in 2026**

- Life sciences dealmaking firepower and M&A growth strategy. Learn how life sciences organizations can accelerate dealmaking strategies to succeed.

# Funding roadmap 2026 - Opportunity selection



# Relevant grants and incentives in 2026

Programs - Life science and biotech*	Description	Consortium?	Estimated grant range	TRL level	Funding rate	Deadline
<a href="#"><u>EIC Pathfinder</u></a>	European innovation program that funds early-stage, high-risk research to develop breakthrough technologies with transformative potential	Yes	Max. €4m	1-3	100%	12 May 2026
<a href="#"><u>EIC Transition</u></a>	European innovation program that supports the maturation and commercialization of breakthrough technologies developed in earlier research projects, bridging the gap between lab results and market-ready innovations	Yes/No	Max. €2.5m	4-5	100%	16 September 2026
<a href="#"><u>EIC Accelerator</u></a>	European innovation program that provides funding and support for SMEs and startups to scale up and bring high-impact, market-ready innovations to global markets	Yes/No	Max. €2.5m + €1-10m equity	6-8	Max. 70%	6 deadlines throughout the year
<a href="#"><u>EIC STEP</u></a>	New initiative under the European Innovation Council designed to help deep-tech companies scale up internationally by providing large-scale investment (10-30M) and strategic support for growth beyond the EU market	No	€10 - 30m equity	8-9	Investment	4 deadlines throughout the year
<a href="#"><u>Horizon Europe - Health</u></a>	Funding program under Horizon Europe that supports research and innovation to improve health and well-being, strengthen healthcare systems, and tackle major health challenges across Europe	Yes	€6 - 8m	3-9	Max. 70/100%	16 April 2026
<a href="#"><u>Eurostars</u></a>	European funding program that supports innovative SMEs and their partners in collaborative international R&D projects aimed at developing new products, processes, or services for market introduction	Yes	€500k	4-6	Max. 50%	19 March 2026 and October 2026
<a href="#"><u>Innovative Health Initiative</u></a>	European public-private partnership that funds collaborative research projects to accelerate the development of innovative healthcare solutions, integrating pharmaceuticals, biotech, medical technology, and digital health	Yes	€5 - 15m	5-8	55%	21 April 2026
<a href="#"><u>WBSO</u></a>	Dutch fiscal scheme offering tax benefits for companies conducting R&D activities in innovative technologies and processes	No	Project specific	1-8	Max. 50% of eligible costs	Year-round
<a href="#"><u>Innovatiekrediet</u></a>	Dutch government loan program that provides risk-bearing financing for innovative development projects with high technical and commercial potential, helping companies bridge the gap between R&D and market introduction	No	€5m-€10m	3-8	Max. 70%-100%	31 December 2026

# Contact details



**Gerben Wedekind**

**Partner**

gerben.wedekind@nl.ey.com  
+31 6 29 07 82 50



**Mohammad Tabibi**

**Manager**

mohammad.tabibi@nl.ey.com  
+31 6 29 08 47 81



**Florance de Bruin**

**Consultant**

florance.debruin@nl.ey.com  
+31 6 21 25 27 47



**Julia Regelink**

**Consultant**

julia.regelink@nl.ey.com  
+31 6 21 25 26 90

## EY | Building a better working world

EY is building a better working world by creating new value for clients, people, society and the planet, while building trust in capital markets.

Enabled by data, AI and advanced technology, EY teams help clients shape the future with confidence and develop answers for the most pressing issues of today and tomorrow.

EY teams work across a full spectrum of services in assurance, consulting, tax, strategy and transactions. Fueled by sector insights, a globally connected, multidisciplinary network and diverse ecosystem partners, EY teams can provide services in more than 150 countries and territories.

All in to shape the future with confidence.

EY refers to the global organization, and may refer to one or more, of the member firms of Ernst & Young Global Limited, each of which is a separate legal entity. Ernst & Young Global Limited, a UK company limited by guarantee, does not provide services to clients. Information about how EY collects and uses personal data and a description of the rights individuals have under data protection legislation are available via [ey.com/privacy](https://ey.com/privacy). EY member firms do not practice law where prohibited by local laws. For more information about our organization, please visit [ey.com](https://ey.com).

© 2026 EY Belastingadviseurs B.V.  
All Rights Reserved.

ED None  
Non-binding

This material has been prepared for general informational purposes only and is not intended to be relied upon as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice. Please refer to your advisors for specific advice.

[ey.com](https://ey.com)