

Regulation of the Super Sapiens Europe 2026

1. Introduction

Scientifica S.p.A. (hereinafter, also the "**Organizer**" or "**Scientifica**") selects high-tech projects and start-ups and invests in the pre-seed, seed, and early stages. It also provides support in terms of infrastructure and research laboratories; in addition to Rome and London, it is based in L'Aquila, home to the Scientifica Labs, 4,000 m² of laboratories with areas dedicated to mechatronics, chemistry, and biotechnology, which are available to funded start-ups. Scientifica's mission is to establish the role of science as a driver of economic competitiveness.

2. Super Sapiens Europe 2026: purpose of the Call4Ideas

It is well known that scientific innovation is the key to a future of economic, social, and environmental sustainability. Research activity constitutes a strategic variable in the competitiveness of economic systems, as it allows for the incorporation of high knowledge content into the production of goods and services, resulting in positive impacts on overall economic outcomes.

To foster the innovation process, in addition to cross-disciplinary skills, working groups and knowledge sharing are essential. Beyond coordination capabilities, a comprehensive vision is required; an indispensable condition for establishing a common research and development pathway.

Following the success of the first edition, which received 456 applications from various European countries, Scientifica is launching the second edition: Super Sapiens Europe 2026 (hereinafter, also the "**Call**").

The high quality of the applications received, the variety of technological verticals represented, and the strong involvement of industrial and financial partners have confirmed the validity of the model promoted by Scientifica and the interest of the European ecosystem in programs for the selection and enhancement of scientific innovation.

Based on these results, this second edition aims to consolidate and expand the impact of the initiative, further strengthening the dialogue between research, start-ups, venture capital, and corporate entities, with a specific focus on the European axis and, in particular, on the collaboration between Italy and France.

To implement the Call, Scientifica, in collaboration with IREFI (Istituto per le Relazioni Economiche Francia-Italia), has established an innovation supply chain that connects the world of venture capital and corporates. With this edition, the objective is to promote a European ecosystem by strengthening the Italy-France axis and leveraging the national best practices of the respective ecosystems.

The objective is to support researchers and start-ups presenting innovative technological ideas, guiding them through a structured growth and market positioning process that facilitates their transformation into successful companies.

The Call is structured around various areas of interest, divided into: (i) 4 Core Technologies and (ii) 9 Application Domains as detailed in paragraph 7 of the Regulation below. The Core Technologies represent the primary technology developed or utilized by the start-up, while the Application Domains indicate the market and usage contexts in which such technology may be applied.

These thematic areas involve the participation of ecosystem partners, such as venture capital firms, corporates, accelerators, and other qualified operators, interested in analyzing the solutions presented in detail, based on the specific technologies and their relative application fields. Furthermore, certain partners may offer prizes to selected start-ups, in accordance with the procedures defined in paragraph 5.

Applying to the Call allows projects to be submitted for consideration by multiple actors within the technology and innovation ecosystem, providing the opportunity to develop products in laboratories of excellence and potentially strengthen one's network to promote an existing commercial offering.

3. Eligibility Requirements

Pursuant to this Regulation, (hereinafter, the "**Regulation**"), the following entities may participate in the Call:

- (i) Start-ups;
- (ii) SMEs (Small and Medium-sized Enterprises);
- (iii) Research spin-offs;
- (iv) Teams that have not yet been formally established but are willing to incorporate as one of the aforementioned entities, provided they present innovative projects in line with the verticals referenced in this Regulation (hereinafter, also the "**Participants**").

It is understood that participation is reserved for individuals aged 18 and over. The required Technology Readiness Level (TRL) for the eligibility of applications ranges between 2 and 9.

4. Participation Procedures

The Call will be launched digitally on March 2nd, 2026. It will run for over two months, with the deadline for receipt of applications set for May 15th, 2026. The Organizer reserves the right to extend the deadline for a maximum of an additional two months.

Participants may apply by completing the application form available on the Super Sapiens Europe 2026 [landing page](#), accessible via the Scientifica website.

In compliance with the aforementioned terms, applications must be submitted, under penalty of exclusion, no later than May 15th, 2026. Applications received through channels other than the one indicated shall not be accepted.

Applications must include the information marked as mandatory fields in the *application form*, including a project presentation.

The presentation deck, to be attached in PDF format, must not exceed 10MB in size and must include the following information:

- **Business Overview:** a concise description of the project, highlighting the innovative content, distinguishing features, the business model applied or to be applied, and the current corporate structure, in case of an already established company;

- **Team:** identification of key people and resources involved in the initiative, along with their respective roles and level of commitment. A brief description of the academic/professional background of each team member;
- **Development stage:** indication of the TRL (Technology Readiness Level) of the submitted project, along with the target TRL to be achieved as a result of the potential investment;
- **Technology and intellectual property:** description of the technology underlying the proposed solution. Indication of any patents, including their filing status and potential registration. Indication of the key milestones already achieved or to be achieved concerning the project's technological roadmap;
- **Target market:** description of the target market(s), including the identification of the addressable market and related growth estimates. Definition of the strategic positioning of the product/solution within the competitive landscape of the relevant market;
- **Financial requirements:** indication of the funding round, detailing the investments necessary to initiate/develop the submitted project. Specifically, a breakdown of the required investments is requested, including both tangible and intangible resources (e.g., scientific equipment, machinery, physical resources, marketing activities, etc.), along with, where possible, an indication of the expected economic outcomes.

Additionally, Participants have the option to provide further materials to elaborate on the potential of the project. In this case as well, the documentation must be uploaded using the specific field in the application form, in PDF format, and must not exceed 10MB in size.

All submitted documents must be written in English.

5. Selection process and evaluation criteria

Firstly, the Scientifica team shall conduct, at its sole and absolute discretion, a preliminary screening of the applications submitted by the Participants. This process serves to verify eligibility in accordance with the requirements set forth in this Regulation and the application form, as well as the completeness of the information provided within the documentary set shared by each Participant.

Following the conclusion of the application collection phase, Scientifica, in coordination with the partners of the Call (hereinafter, the "**Contributing Partners**"; for details regarding the entities involved, please refer to the Call landing page available on the Scientifica website), will proceed with an in-depth analysis of the submitted profiles.

In a subsequent phase, Scientifica and the Contributing Partners shall, at their sole and absolute discretion, select up to a maximum of 12 "**Finalist Projects**".

Such Finalist Projects shall be entitled to participate in a dedicated pitching session before the Contributing Partners, aimed at the technical and commercial presentation of their respective initiatives. This session is tentatively scheduled to take place in June, according to terms, locations, and operating procedures (physical or digital) that will be defined and communicated by Scientifica at a later stage.

The schedule of activities and deadlines relative to each selection phase will be communicated and periodically updated on the Call's landing page. It is the responsibility of the Participants to monitor said page to remain informed of the process's evolution.

The "**Awards**", defined independently by the Contributing Partners, may include, by way of example but not limited to:

- Access to the due diligence phase aimed at potential investment operations (subject to the provisions of the subsequent Art. 6 "Investment Procedures");
- Grants;
- Proof of Concept (field validation);
- Commercial contracts;
- C-level mentorship;
- Access to Scientifica Lab and Lab Approved Network;
- Further forms of support for the development of the initiative.

It is understood that the granting of Awards and the identification of beneficiary start-ups shall take place at the sole discretion of the individual Contributing Partners and shall not entail any obligation of investment or future collaboration.

Following the selection of the Finalist Projects, Scientifica and/or one or more Contributing Partners reserve, in any case, the right to initiate due diligence processes and subsequent negotiations aimed at the potential disbursement of one or more Awards. This remains entirely subject to the positive outcome of the internal evaluations of the individual Contributing Partners and the execution of the relevant agreements.

Preliminary screening and evaluation activities may take place throughout the duration of the Call and, where deemed necessary by Scientifica and/or the Contributing Partners, even after its closure, and shall in any case be conducted at the sole discretion of Scientifica and the Contributing Partners.

Furthermore, it is specified that the technical evaluation will adopt a series of criteria, including, but not limited to, the following:

- ✓ coherence of the presented initiative with respect to the (i) Core Technologies and (ii) Application Domains of the Call;
- ✓ grade of innovation of the technology underlying the solution/product presented;
- ✓ technical feasibility, ensured by the possibility of successfully developing and implementing the proposed solution with the technological resources and expertise currently available;
- ✓ economic feasibility, guaranteed by the project's capacity to command a specific target market and consequently ensure scalability;
- ✓ expertise, academic/professional background, and commitment of the Participants/team;
- ✓ potential benefit brought by the proposed solution to the Italy-France economic axis.
- ✓ ownership of intellectual property rights;
- ✓ sustainability of the solutions and products presented, which must result in positive impacts on the quality of human life and the planet, fostering social, economic, and environmental progress.

By participating in the Call, Participants agree to exhibit and represent their respective projects and related materials at specific presentation events organised by Scientifica.

6. Investment procedures

Following the selection of Finalist Projects, Scientifica reserves the discretionary right to identify initiatives of specific interest for the commencement of a due diligence phase (technical, legal, tax, and financial).

It is expressly understood that the status of "Finalist Project" does not grant an automatic right to due diligence or investment. Decisions not to proceed do not require justification and shall not give rise to any claim or indemnity.

Should due diligence yield a satisfactory result, Scientifica may provide an investment ticket up to a maximum of €1,500,000.00 (one million five hundred thousand/00). The terms and conditions will be governed by a separate Investment Agreement.

Additionally, co-investment processes with Contributing Partners or third-party investors may be evaluated. The investment may consist of a cash component and a services component designed to guide and strengthen the development of the initiative.

The contribution related to the ticket, as indicated above, may consist of a cash component and a service component, which include a series of activities aimed at guiding and strengthening the development of the funded initiative.

The services provided by Scientifica include, but are not limited to:

- **Scientifica Lab Approved:** access to laboratories within the Lab Approved network for scientific research, pre-industrial development, and PoC realization.
- **Technology validation:** support from qualified resources for technological assessment and validation using instrumentation in Scientifica Lab spaces.
- **Marketing and communication:** assistance in branding strategies, online/offline tool development, and market positioning.
- **Funding support:** identification of partners for national and European projects, public incentives, and support in setting up funding rounds for equity/semi-equity investments.
- **Ad hoc acceleration programs:** potential selection for acceleration programs delivered by Scientifica for "in-scope" start-ups.

7. Focus on investment areas

The Call aims to bridge the gap between the world of scientific research and market requirements by identifying and selecting ideas and solutions capable of generating significant industrial and commercial impact.

To provide visibility to the prestige and excellence of the involved players and to address the challenges across various economic and production sectors, the Call has been divided into: (i) 4 Core Technologies and (ii) 9 Application Domains, to which all applications must adhere.

The areas of interest taken into consideration are defined as follows:

Core Technologies:

- Smart Materials & Critical Raw Materials
- Advanced Manufacturing & Industrial Sensing
- AI & Software Engineering
- Quantum & Photonics

Application Domains:

- **Energy Transition & Climate Tech:** it includes technological solutions aimed at mitigating climate change and supporting the energy transition. It encompasses climate tech and energy tech, including technologies related to next-generation nuclear and fusion, the blue economy, and intelligent energy networks (smart grids), such as advanced transformers, solid-state electronics, high-capacity conductors, and load orchestration systems. It also covers technologies for water and gas grid management, carbon capture, utilization and storage (CCUS) systems, environmental management, renewable energy, and energy storage solutions.
- **Circular Economy:** it includes solutions aimed at reducing the environmental impact of production processes and products through circular and low-carbon economy models. It covers technologies for the recovery and valorization of critical raw materials and rare earths, processes for graphite purification and recycling, PFAS removal, as well as bio-based and circular chemistry solutions, including biomaterials and sustainable materials for industrial and consumer applications.
- **HealthTech:** it includes technologies and solutions aimed at improving health, prevention, and quality of life. It encompasses MedTech, Life Sciences, Biotech, and Wellness Tech, including medical devices, diagnostic and therapeutic technologies, digital health solutions, biotech platforms, and tools for wellness and preventive medicine.
- **Space Technologies:** it includes technologies and solutions for the aerospace sector, both upstream (launchers, satellites, payloads, propulsion systems, advanced materials) and downstream (satellite data-based services, Earth observation, communications, and navigation). It also encompasses technologies for space exploration, orbital infrastructure, space manufacturing, space robotics, and services supporting defence, security, and industrial applications.
- **Smart Cities, Mobility & Infrastructure:** it includes solutions for the development of smart cities and advanced infrastructure, with a focus on mobility, automotive, transport, logistics, and the management of critical infrastructure. It covers technologies for optimising urban flows, sustainable mobility, intelligent transport systems, digital and physical infrastructure, as well as TMT (Telecom, Media & Technology) solutions supporting connectivity and urban services.

- **Robotics & Autonomous Systems:** it includes advanced robotics solutions and autonomous systems for industrial, civil, and dual-use applications. It encompasses drones, ground robots, autonomous systems for complex environments, and control, navigation, and sensing technologies for operations in challenging or remote contexts.
- **Cybersecurity & Digital Transformation:** it includes solutions for digital security and the transformation of business processes. It also covers cybersecurity technologies, data protection and digital infrastructure security, as well as software platforms for the digitalisation of vertical processes such as HR Tech and InsurTech
- **Maritime and Underwater technologies:** it includes technologies and solutions for the maritime sector, targeting applications both for surface vessels (autonomous or remotely operated) or Underwater Unmanned Vehicles (UUVs). Solutions and enabling multi-domain communication, swarm control and operations or autonomous navigation in GPS-denied spaces (like deep waters) shall be included.
- **Agri-Food Technologies:** it includes technological solutions for the innovation of agricultural and food systems, with a focus on sustainability, efficiency, and safety. It encompasses AgriTech (precision agriculture, sensing technologies, agricultural automation), FoodTech (new ingredients, production processes, alternative proteins), technologies for waste reduction, traceability, and improving the resilience of agri-food supply chains.

Moreover, Participants will be required to indicate any dual-use applicability of their solution with respect to the selected application sectors and underlying technologies.

8. Legal and Privacy section

I. Intellectual property

By submitting their application, Participants represent and warrant that they are the owners, including on an exclusive basis, of the intellectual property rights relating to the projects developed and presented to Scientifica and the Contributing Partners, or otherwise legally hold such rights by virtue of licensing agreements, concessions, or other valid and

effective legal titles permitting their exclusive use and presentation within the scope of the initiative.

Only prototypes, materials, and original projects that do not in any way infringe upon the intellectual property rights of third parties are eligible for the Call.

By participating in the Call, the Participants commit to indemnify and hold harmless Scientifica, the Partners, and their respective representatives from any and all liabilities, claims, actions, demands for damages, and/or compensation that may be brought by any third party in relation to the use and ownership of the intellectual property of prototypes, projects, and materials, and which may be related to the exploitation and/or even just the publication and dissemination of the same, including by Scientifica and the involved Partners.

The Participants acknowledge and agree that, following the selection process outlined in paragraph 5 of the Regulation, those who are selected will have the opportunity to enter into one or more agreements with Scientifica and/or one or more Contributing Partners. These agreements will detail, *inter alia*, the terms and conditions for the disbursement and utilization of the investment (and the related services), as well as the forms and terms of the participation of Scientifica and/or one or more Partners in the development and economic exploitation of the project (which may include, as necessary, forms of allocation of intellectual property rights).

Notwithstanding the above, by submitting the application, the Participant authorizes the Organizer to: (i) use their name, company name, and image, as well as the name, image, and identifying marks of the project, for promotional and advertising purposes strictly related to the Call; and (ii) disclose such information to Partners who may be interested in investing or contributing in any manner to the development, commercialization, and economic utilization of the project, in order to allow the evaluation of a potential co-investment and, in any case, to support the project.

II. Privacy Protection and Confidentiality

The Participants agree not to disclose or communicate to third parties the contents of the documentation and any information provided by Scientifica (and the involved Contributing Partners) or otherwise acquired as a result of their participation in the Call and the related

initiatives Scientifica S.p.A., as the data controller (with its registered office at Via SS 17 SNC – Tecnopolo D’Abruzzo 67100 (L’Aquila) - Tax ID 02130080662), will process the personal data provided primarily through electronic and telematic means, in accordance with the purposes outlined in Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (GDPR).

For more information, the complete privacy notices are available on the Scientifica website.

In accordance with Legislative Decree No. 196 of June 30, 2003 (hereinafter, referred to as the "**Privacy Code**"), as amended and supplemented, as well as Regulation (EU) 2016/679 (hereinafter referred to as the "EU Regulation"), all personal data exchanged between the parties will be processed, respectively by each party, solely for the purpose of executing this agreement and in a manner instrumental to its fulfillment, as well as to comply with any legal or regulatory obligations, European Union regulations, and/or requirements issued by the Data Protection Authority. The data will be processed, manually and/or through automated means, in accordance with principles of lawfulness and fairness, ensuring the protection of confidentiality and the rights of the data subjects, and in compliance with appropriate security and data protection measures, including sensitive data or data capable of revealing health status, as provided by the Privacy Code and the EU Regulation.

In particular, each party hereby agrees that, should it be required to process third-party personal data on behalf of the other party for the execution of this agreement, it will be designated by the latter, without any additional burden on either party, as the Data Processor under Article 28 of the EU Regulation, through a specific act to be attached to this agreement. Similarly, should the execution of the agreement result in joint control of third-party personal data by both parties, they agree to sign, without any additional burden on either party, a joint controller agreement under Article 26 of the EU Regulation, to be attached to this agreement, and to comply with the obligation to inform the data subjects. Any breach of the provisions in this article will subject the defaulting party to compensation for any damages caused to the other party.

III. Limitations of Liability

In relation to the participation procedures outlined in this Regulation, Scientifica and the involved Partners cannot be held liable for any failure or incomplete electronic registration

of Participants, or for any errors and/or omissions in the documentation submitted, for any reason. Furthermore, Scientifica and the involved Partners assume no responsibility for technical malfunctions, hardware or software failures, network connection interruptions, temporary system unavailability, failed, incorrect, inaccurate, incomplete, illegible, damaged, lost, delayed, misdirected, or intercepted submissions, or for delayed electronic or other communications, or any other technical issues related to the registration and content upload as part of the Call.

Any form of reimbursement and/or compensation, either partial or full, in favor of the Participants and/or third parties is also excluded for:

- any damage to property, for any reason and/or cause, occurring during the various phases of the initiative;
- any injuries and/or damages incurred by the applicants during the various phases of the initiative;
- any theft and/or loss of objects or goods of any kind left unattended by the applicants in the spaces where the various phases of the initiative will take place.

IV. Warranties and Indemnities

Each Participant in the Call is solely responsible for everything submitted to finalize their application to the Call, as well as for their own project, documentation, equipment, IT resources, and personal belongings.

Therefore, each Participant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless Scientifica and the Partners from any claims, including claims for damages, that may be brought for any reason in connection with the submitted materials, documentation, or otherwise arising from their participation in the event, except in cases of willful misconduct or gross negligence.

The Participants declare that the project submitted for the purpose of the Call application: (i) is not subject to any contract with third parties; (ii) contains no defamatory content, offensive representation, or any other material that could harm the name, honor, or reputation of the Organizer, the Contributing Partners, or any other person or company; (iii) contains no pornographic or sexual content, or content that is discriminatory in any way (specifically including discrimination based on race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and/or political beliefs of individuals or groups), nor does it contain content that

promotes violence or harm toward any living being, or any other offensive, obscene, or inappropriate material; (iv) contains no threats or content intended to intimidate, harass, or invade the privacy of any individual; (v) does not violate any law.

V. General Conditions

Registration, adherence, and participation in the Call imply the Participants' unconditional acceptance of this Regulation.

The Participants acknowledge and accept that Scientifica has the right, at any time, to cancel, modify, or suspend, in whole or in part, the Call, as well as any of its content, aspects, or selection criteria, or to select several projects lower or higher than initially foreseen, at its sole discretion, upon communicating such changes on the Scientifica website.

By submitting their application and documents for participation in the competition, the Participants declare that the information provided is truthful and that any decision made by the Scientifica team and the involved Contributing Partners will be accepted unconditionally.

Scientifica may transfer or assign any right or obligation arising from the Call and/or this Regulation to any company within its group.

It is understood that participation in the Call is free of charge and will not result in any obligation or commitment beyond what is provided in this Regulation, either for Scientifica (and the Contributing Partners) or for the Participants.

The Participants, in any case, will accept any decision and evaluation made indisputably by the Scientifica team and the Partners regarding the project evaluation process.

Under no circumstances shall the submission of an application, the selection, or the awarding of the Call be understood or interpreted as an offer or employment contract between Scientifica (and/or the Contributing Partners) and the Participant, nor as an obligation to contract on the part of Scientifica (and/or the Contributing Partners). In no case shall the Call and its related Regulation be understood and/or interpreted as a public offer under Article 1336 of the Italian Civil Code.

Any violation of the Regulation, as well as any conduct that may suggest or imply unlawful behavior and/or any irregularity committed before or during the Call, will result, depending

on the circumstances and based on the unquestionable decision of Scientifica, in non-participation, expulsion, or disqualification, as well as the removal of any materials and/or content already submitted or published.

VI. Truthfulness of Information

The Participants commit to carrying out all necessary checks to ensure the truthfulness of all information, data, and, more generally, any other materials provided to Scientifica and the Contributing Partners during the application submission and/or at any other stage of the Call. They therefore guarantee that such information is accurate, correct, truthful, and complete, assuming full and exclusive responsibility for it.

VII. Effectiveness

The obligations contained in the Regulation will become effective upon the submission of the application and will remain in force until the conclusion of the Call, except in cases where, due to the nature or type of certain provisions in the Regulation, their observance is required even after the conclusion of the Call.

It is specified that this Call does not constitute a contractual offer, does not establish legal relationships or obligations of any kind for Scientifica (and/or the Partners), including any obligation to enter into contracts of any kind, and in no way binds Scientifica and/or the Partners. Therefore, they are free to suspend, modify, cancel, or relaunch the procedure related to this Call at any time without Participants having any claims.

VIII. Disclaimer

The Participant acknowledges that participation in the Call in no way binds Scientifica and/or the Partners. Therefore, the latter do not undertake any commitment toward the Participant in relation to their application or any other circumstances connected to the Call. Any commitments between the Organizer (and/or the Partners) and the Participant can only be made through the execution of specific agreements.

The Participant agrees to unconditionally accept any decision made by Scientifica and/or the Contributing Partners (including through their respective teams) regarding the evaluation process of the applications.

With regard to content covered by industrial and intellectual property rights, as well as all relevant documentation, the Organizer assumes no obligation regarding confidentiality

and/or the dissemination of such content. Therefore, these materials may be shared with the Partners and third parties for the purpose of conducting activities related to the evaluation and selection process of the submitted projects, and in connection with this Call. Consequently, the Organizer cannot be held responsible for any potential use of content covered by industrial and intellectual property rights by third parties, nor for any damages that may result to the Participant.

IX. Applicable Law and Jurisdiction

This Regulation is governed by Italian law and must be interpreted accordingly. All disputes related to and/or arising from this Regulation, as well as any potential disputes, shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the Court of Rome.

X. Information and Contacts

For all information regarding the Call, you can consult the Scientifica website or contact the following email address: info@supersapienseurope.com.

By completing the application form for the Call and submitting their project, the Participant declares that they have read and accepted the contents of the Regulation and the preceding Disclaimer.