

ESTEP SPRING DISSEMINATION EVENT

5-6 JUNE 2025 KRAKOW (POLAND)

Research Fund for Coal
and Steel: future funding
opportunities

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RFCS: looking back in 2021 - 2024

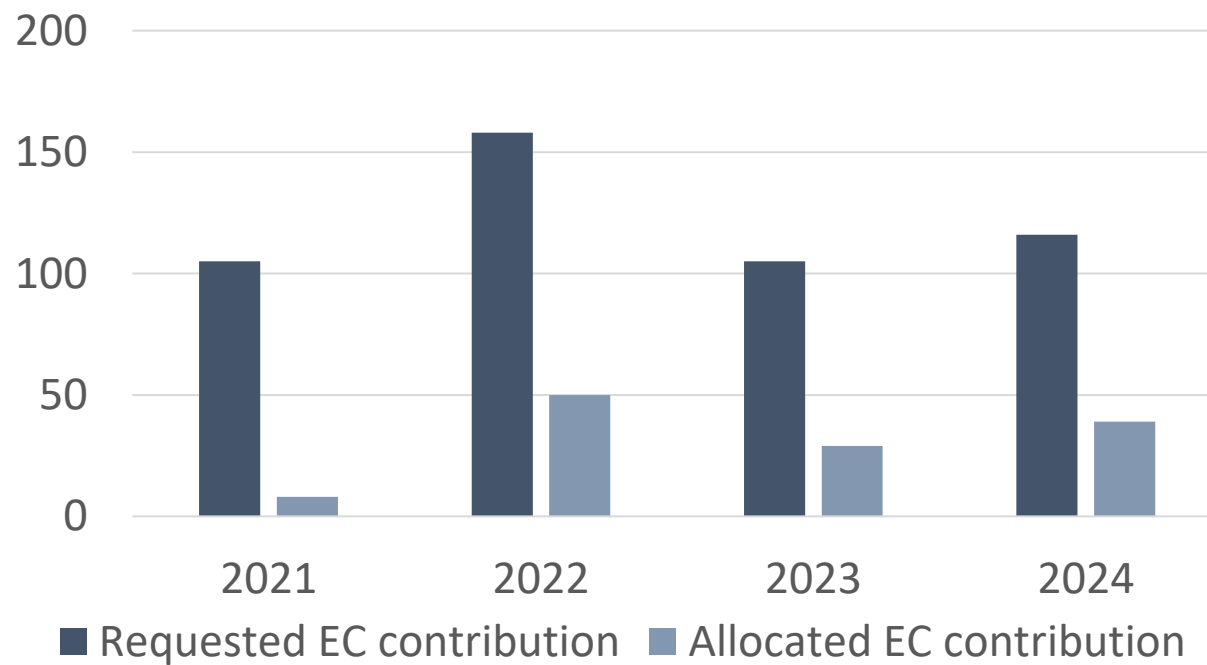
RFCS in a nutshell

Two calls per year

- **Annual call**
 - Funds Accompanying Measures (100% EC funding), Research projects (60%) and Pilot and Demonstration projects (50%)
 - An annual budget of around **EUR 30 million**
- **Big-Tickets call**
 - Fund Pilot and Demonstration projects only (50 % EC funding)
 - An annual budget of around **EUR 100 million**
- Flexibility in the multi-annual allocation of total budget for the period 2021-2027

RFCS annual call

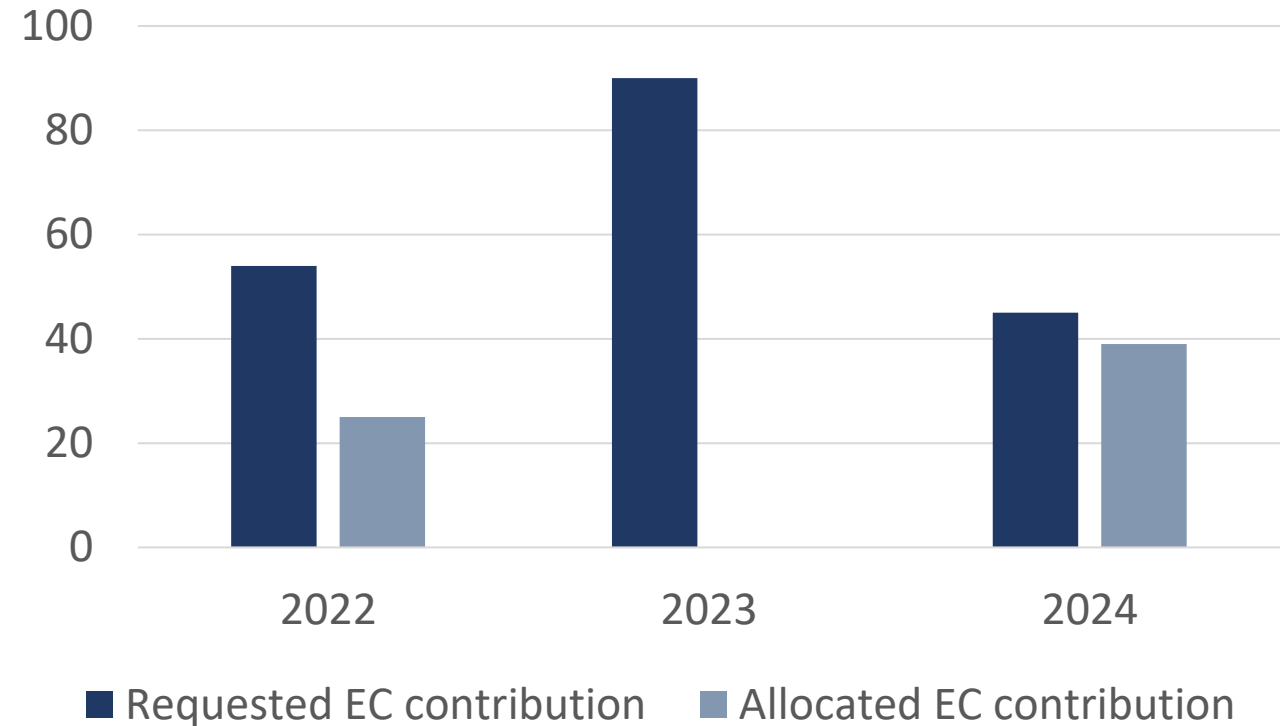
	Proposals submitted	Proposals funded
2021	84	6
2022	103	33
2023	61	21
2024	72	24



Requested and allocated EC contribution in millions of Euro for years 2021-2024

RFCS Big-Tickets calls

	Proposals submitted	Proposals funded
2022	9	4
2023	9	0
2024	6	5



Requested and allocated EC contribution in millions of Euro for years 2022-2024

RFCS Big Tickets 2025 - Steel

The RFCS 2025 Big Tickets STEEL: submission statistics



Proposals submitted

7



Call budget

100 MEUR



Requested EC contribution

63 MEUR



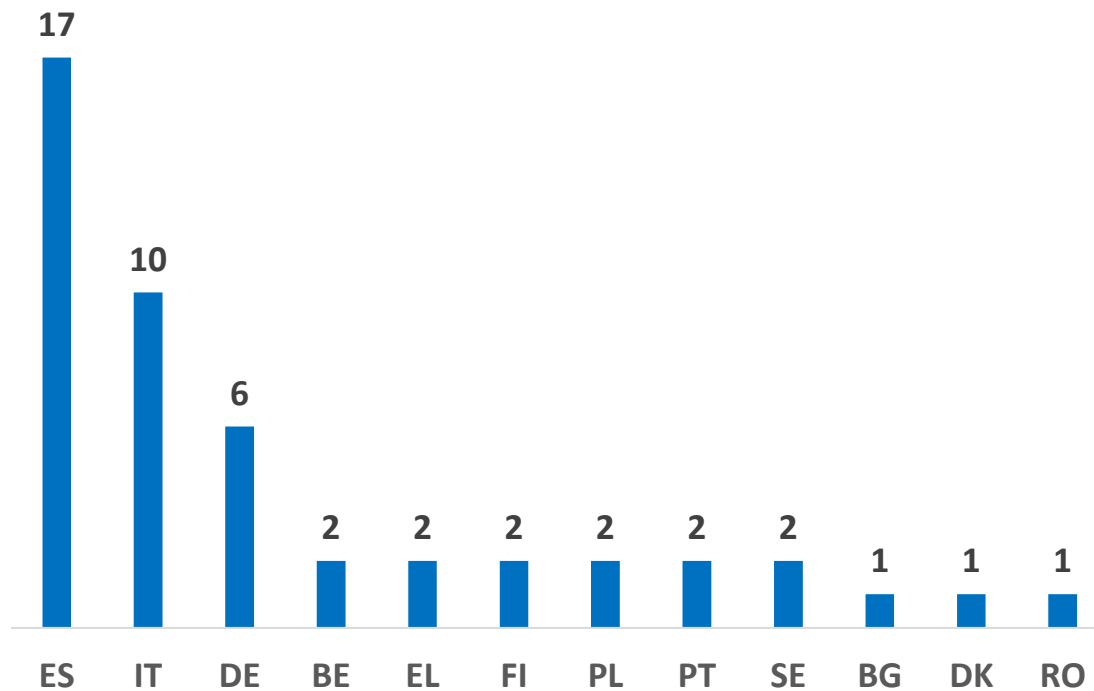
Applicants in total

48

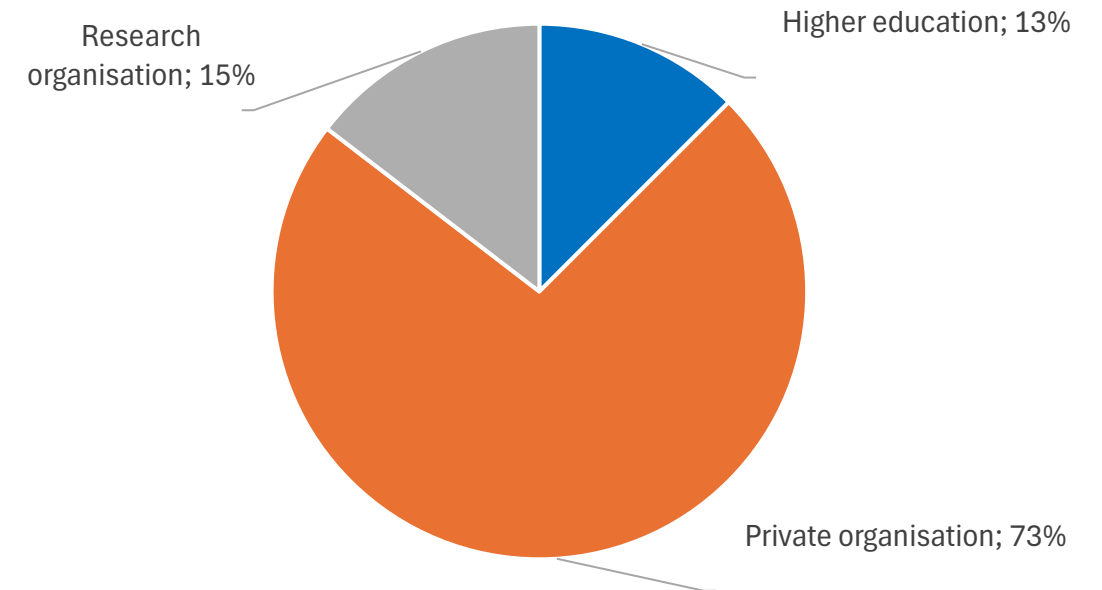
2 resubmissions

The RFCS 2025 Big Tickets STEEL: submission statistics

Participants geographical distribution



Participants type



The RFCS 2025 Big Tickets STEEL: call objectives



Cross cutting issues:
digitalisation,
skills and social
innovation in the
steel sector



CO2 neutral iron
ore reduction
(Increasing the use
of pre-reduced iron
carriers)



Technologies to
improve energy
efficiency, increase
heat recovery and
enhance Process
Integration (PI)
approaches in steel
production



Advanced steel alloys
for special
applications



Circular economy and
sector coupling
solutions to meet the
zero-waste
goal for steelmaking



Carbon capture of
steel CO/CO2 gases

CSP-1

CSP-2

CSP-3

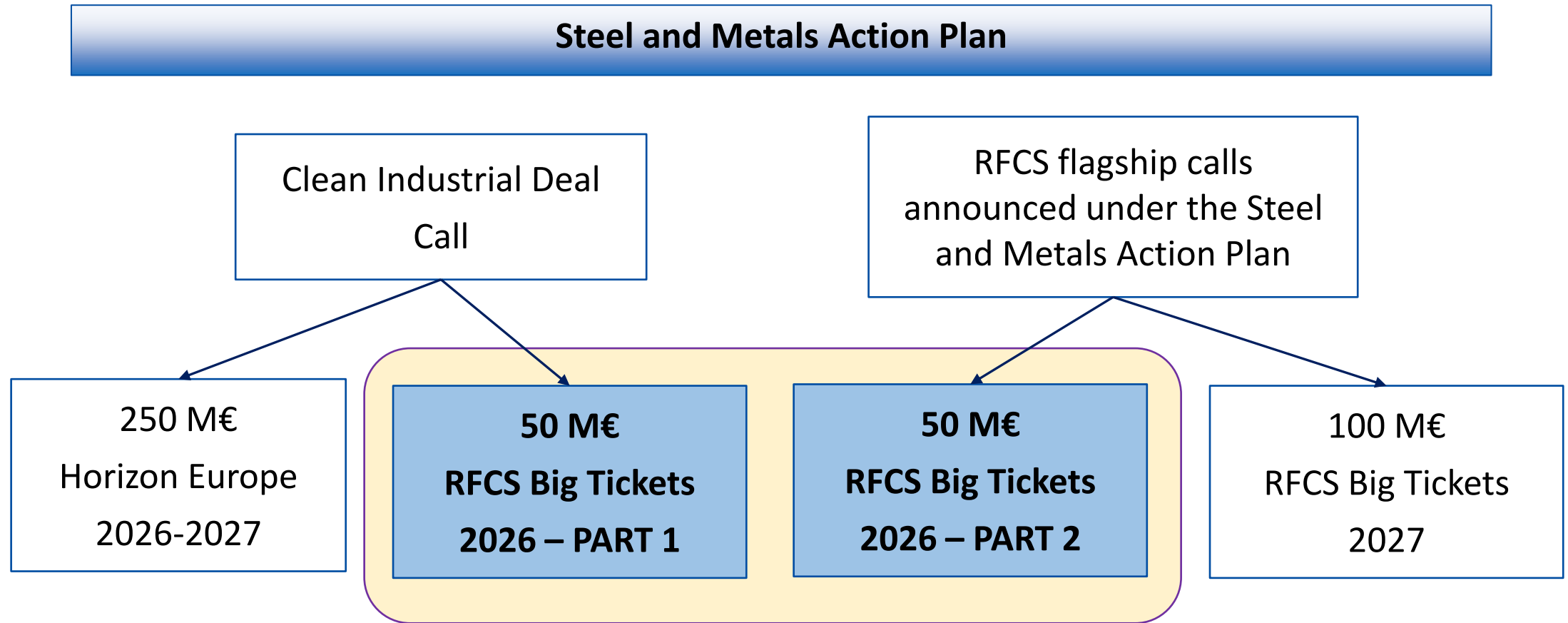
CSP-4

CSP-5

CSP-6

RFCS Big Tickets 2026

The Big Tickets Steel 2026 in the Policy Context



Objectives of the Big Tickets Call for Steel

PART 1 – Clean Industrial Deal:

- Recycling technologies for steel (announced in the Steel and Metals Action Plan).

PART 2 – Applies simplification and non prescriptiveness:

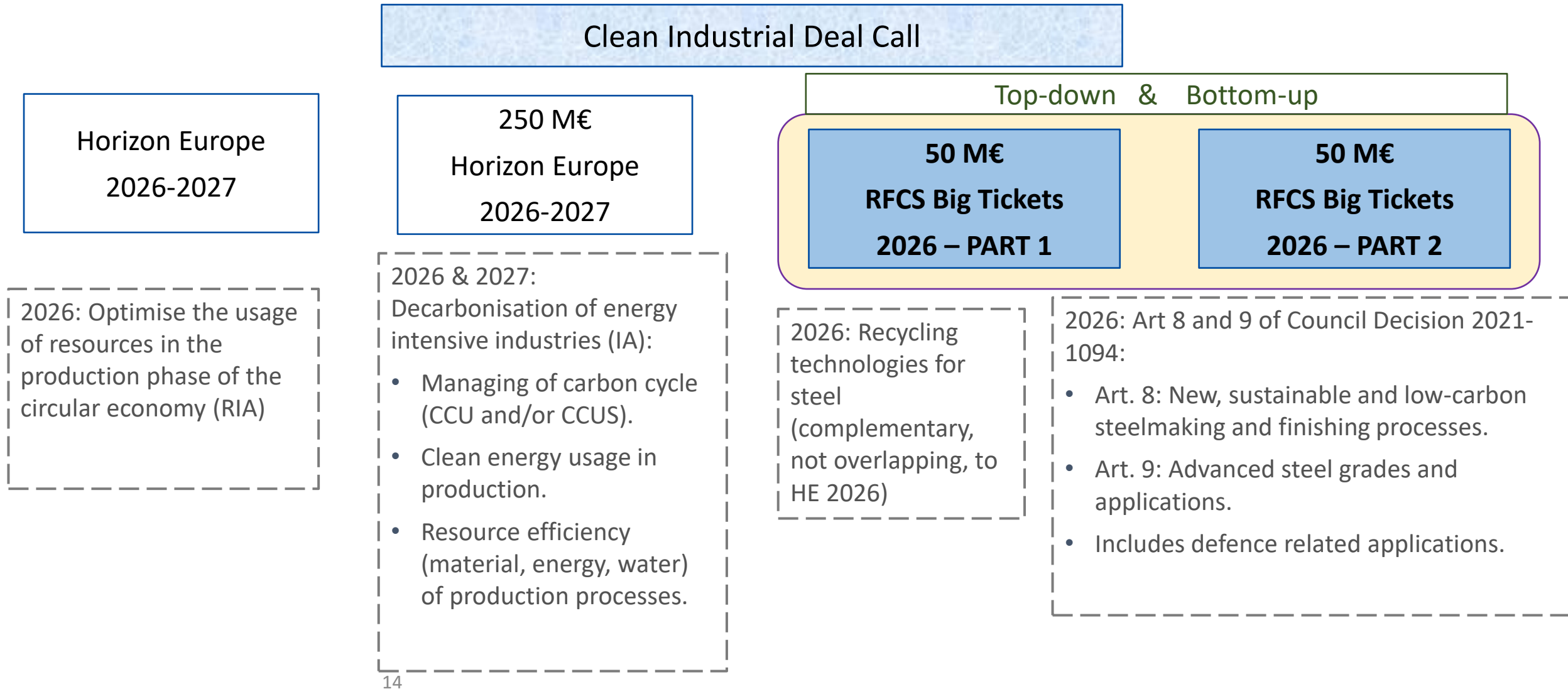
- Follows the research objectives of the RFCS legal base (Council Decision 2021-1094) and focus on:
 - Art. 8: New, sustainable and low-carbon steelmaking and finishing processes.
 - Art. 9: Advanced steel grades and applications.
- At least 1 proposal will be funded on defence-related applications.
- Excludes Art .10 on conservation of resources, protection of the environment and circular economy (under CID call part 1 and HE 2026-2027), and Art. 10a on management of work force and working conditions.

Process and Timeline

RFCS Work Programme 2026

- Formal discussion meeting with other DGs end of May / beginning of June 2025.
- RFCS WP 2026 finalized in July 2025 and presentation at the informal COSCO meeting on 16 July 2025.
- Adoption procedure to start in September 2025.

Overview of Calls



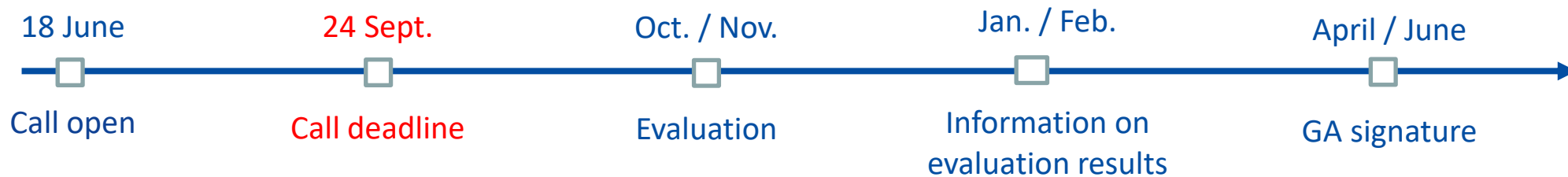
Upcoming events

RFCS annual call 2025

Budget for steel

- **Accompanying Measures** → € 1,000,000.00
- **Research Projects** → € 20,500,000.00
- **Pilot and Demonstration Projects** € 7,620,000.00
- Possibility to redistribute funds between the call topics

Timeline



RFCS annual call 2025

Info Day

- Date: 3 July 2025. Hybrid event hold in REA and online
- Participants will be informed about:
 - funding opportunities and their objectives,
 - the most updated information on the submission and the evaluation process.
- Networking coffee and cocktail after the event (registration required)
 - Check our webpage for further information available soon:

[Research Fund for Coal and Steel - European Commission](#)

RFCS annual Steel event 2025

The Future of EU Steel Research - How to foster EU steel leadership

- Date: 26 November 2025
- Hybrid event
- Venue: SMS training centre, Mönchengladbach (15 km to Düsseldorf)



THANK YOU!!

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