



Innovate
UK

Horizon Europe Opportunities

Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe

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Innovate
UK

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Pillar 1 EXCELLENT SCIENCE

European Research Council

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions

Research Infrastructures



Pillar 2 GLOBAL CHALLENGES & EUROPEAN INDUSTRIAL COMPETITIVENESS

Clusters

- 1 Health
- 2 Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- 3 Civil Security for Society
- 4 Digital, Industry and Space
- 5 Climate, Energy and Mobility
- 6 Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre



Pillar 3 INNOVATIVE EUROPE

European Innovation Council

European innovation ecosystems

European Institute
of Innovation and Technology

WIDENING PARTICIPATION AND STRENGTHENING THE EUROPEAN RESEARCH AREA

Widening participation and spreading excellence

Reforming and Enhancing the European R&I system

Pillar 3 - Innovative Europe

Supporting and Connecting Innovators Across Europe

- Europe has solid research and industrial base
- Yet it 'could do better' at strengthening the use of scientific excellence and industrial prowess to accelerate innovation and turn innovative SMEs into Technology Giants.
- Focus on supporting the development of disruptive and market-creating innovations and on enhancing European Innovation Ecosystems



Pillar III

INNOVATIVE EUROPE:

stimulating **market-creating breakthroughs** and **ecosystems** conducive to innovation

European Innovation Council

Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

The budget: **€10.6 billion**, incl. up to **€527 million** for ecosystems (including NGEU – Recovery Fund parts dedicated to EIC).

European innovation ecosystems

Connecting with regional and national innovation actors

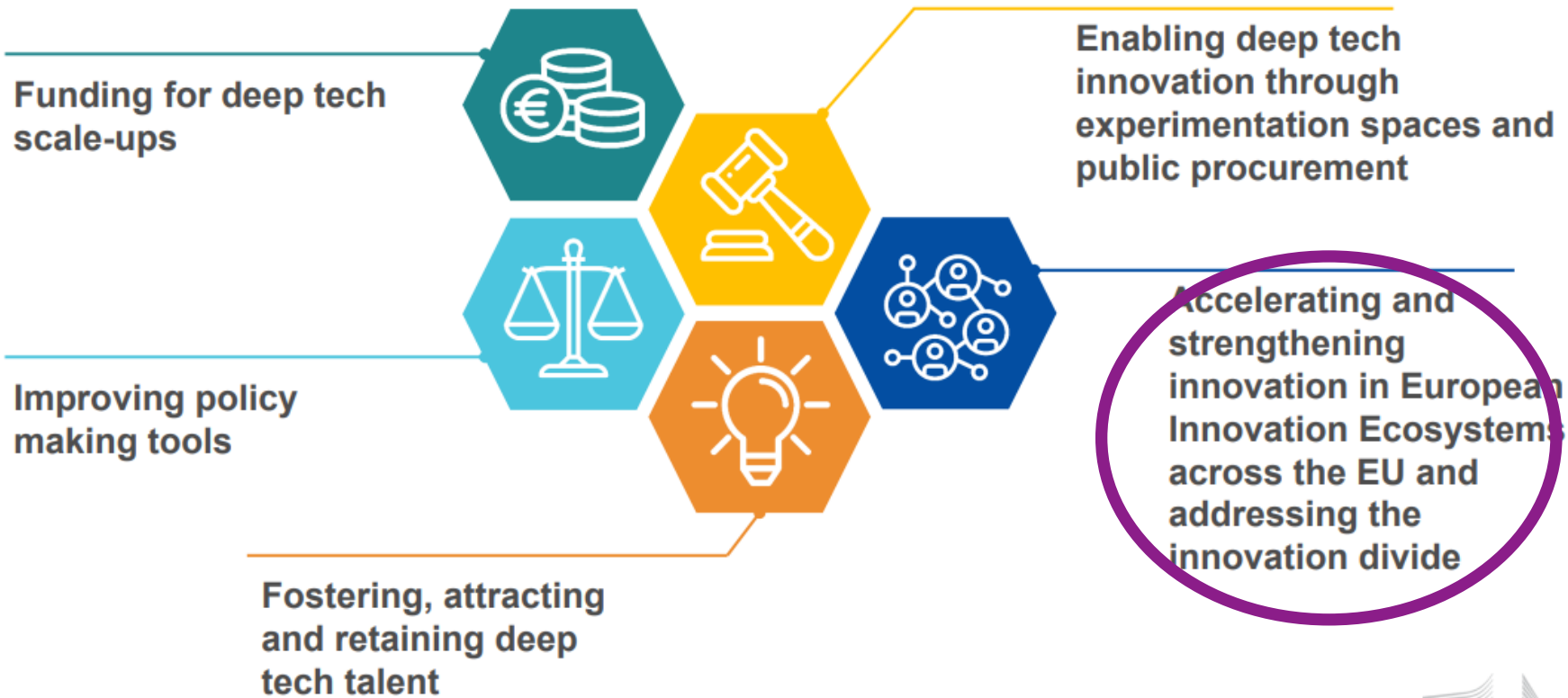
European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT)

Bringing key actors (research, education and business) together around a common goal for nurturing innovation

circa **€3 billion**

EIE – Why does it exist?

New European Innovation Agenda: five flagships



EIE – Objective and Impact

Objective:

Connected and efficient innovation ecosystems

- Support the scaling of companies
- Encourage innovation
- Stimulate cooperation among national, regional and local innovation actors

Expected impacts

- **Interconnected, inclusive & efficient innovation systems** across Europe
- Elevated scalability potential of business
- Innovative SMEs growth accessing markets & embedding in global value chains.



Women in TechEU



- Cascade funding
 - Consortium led by EIT Manufacturing
 - 2 calls over 2-year project – gender balanced eco-system – 160 beneficiaries
- 75€k per start-up
- Company women-led
- An early-stage start-up in deeptech – TRL3-6
- Is between 6 months and 8 years old
- Raised limited funding – 1M€ at submission
- Based in MS or AC
- Info day 29th Jan - [Register to Women TechEU InfoDay – Women](#)

[About – Women TechEU \(womentecheurope.eu\)](https://womentecheurope.eu)





European Innovation Council

Support to innovations with breakthrough and disruptive nature and scale up potential that are too risky for private investors (**70% of the budget earmarked for SMEs**)

**European
Innovation Council –
a one-stop-shop**

- Helping researchers and innovators create markets of the future, leverage private finance, scale up their companies
- Innovation centric, risk taking & agile, pro-active management and follow up
- Mostly 'bottom up', but also targeting strategic challenges
- EIC Programme Managers to develop visions for breakthroughs and steer portfolios

Complementary instruments bridging the gap from idea to market

PATHFINDER

R&I grants

(from early technology
to proof of concept)

TRANSITION

R&I grants

(proof of concept to
pre-commercial)

ACCELERATOR

**Grants & investment (via EIC Fund) for
single SMEs & start-ups**
(from pre-commercial to market & scale-up)

Backing visionary entrepreneurs

European
Innovation
Council





EIC PRIZES

- Women innovators
- Capital of innovation



EIC ACCELERATOR SERVICES

- Mentors, coaches
- Global partners
- Innovation ecosystems
- EIC Community Platform



SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Fast track to other funding



EIC STEP

Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform

- Co-investments up to €30 million
- Digital, deep tech, biotech, clean tech

EIC ACCELERATOR

- For single companies
- Grants up to €2.5 million
- Equity up to €10 million
- To enter the market & scale-up (TRL 6-9)



EIC TRANSITION

- For consortia & single companies
- Grants up to €2.5 million
- To develop business cases
- (TRL 4-6)



EIC PROGRAMME MANAGERS

- In-house leading experts
- Identifying potential challenges in emerging deep tech areas
- Pro-actively managing EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator portfolios

EIC PATHFINDER

- For consortia
- Grants up to €4 million
- To research technology breakthroughs (TRL 1-4)



UK exclusions in EIC

- As set out in the UK's Trade and Cooperation Agreement which sets out the details of the UK's association to Horizon Europe, UK entities shall not participate in the European Innovation Council ('EIC') Fund established under Horizon Europe. (TCA, Protocol 1, Article 6)
- The EIC confirmed at their recent Info Day on the 2025 EIC Work Programme (5 November 2024) that UK entities are not eligible for the equity part of the EIC Accelerator or the EIC Step Scale Up call which is equity only. (Details: EIC Info day, time stamp 5:32:00)

EIC IMPACTS

CROWDING IN OTHER INVESTMENTS

- **€ 10 billion** follow up investments to EIC supported companies
- Leverage effect: **3.5** times private co-investment on EIC Fund investments
- **8 unicorns** - value € 1 billion+
- **150 centaurs** - value € 100 million+

ADDRESSING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- Main thematic in:
 - ✓ **Green Deal**
 - ✓ **Digital**
 - ✓ **Health**

GROWING SUPPORT TO STARTUPS & SMEs

- **1600** supported since 2014
- **Close to 500** selected for blended finance with **€ 2.6 billion** equity proposed
- Increase in startups with female CEOs

A PIPELINE OF BREAKTHROUGH TECHNOLOGIES

- **400** research projects
- **800** innovations tracked
- **Pilot of Transition funding** to follow up research results into applications



EIC Open vs Challenge Calls

- **EIC Open** – to support projects in any field of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities (bottom-up)
- **EIC Challenges** – to support projects within predefined thematic areas with the aim of achieving specific objectives for each challenge (top-down)

EIC Programme Manager

- Follow on LinkedIn and listen to their ‘Tech Talks’
- Establishes a common roadmap
- Proactively steers the portfolio towards the goal of each challenge
- Projects are expected to:
 - Interact and exchange
 - Remain flexible & reactive
 - Progress together toward goals

[EIC Programme Managers - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://eic.europa.eu)

What is the EIC Pathfinder?

EIC Pathfinder

- Advanced research to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies
- Build on **new, cutting-edge** directions in science and technology
 - Disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities
 - Create new opportunities by **realising innovative technological** solutions grounded in high-risk/ high gain R&D
- Taking forward **deep tech** projects with a high degree of scientific and technological ambition and risk (**TRL1-4**)
- Results should include top-level publications, protection of **IP PLUS** assessment of relevant aspects related to **regs, certification & standards**
- **Key actors** encouraged to become **future leaders**
- Empower **female researchers** and achieve **gender balance** in work package leaders



Pathfinder Options

EIC Pathfinder Open

to support **projects in any field** of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities ('bottom-up')

EIC Pathfinder Challenges

to support **coherent portfolios** of projects within predefined thematic areas with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge

EIC Pathfinder challenges 2025

European
Innovation
Council



PATHFINDER CHALLENGES



Biotech for Climate Resilient Crops and Plant-Based
Biomanufacturing

€ 30 million



Generative-AI based Agents to Revolutionize Medical Diagnosis
and Treatment of Cancer

€ 30 million



Towards autonomous robot collectives delivering
collaborative tasks in dynamic unstructured
construction environments

€ 30 million



Waste-to-value devices: Circular production of renewable fuels,
chemicals and materials

€ 30 million

Indicative call budget

€ 120million

Infoday on Pathfinder
Challenges with
Programme Managers
in Spring 2025

EIC Pathfinder – Open & Challenges

- **OPEN**
- Deadline: 21 May 2025
- **Consortia only**
- 100% grant up to 3M€
- Info Day - [European Innovation Council online Info Day - Work Programme 2025 - European Commission](#)
- **CHALLENGE**
- Deadline: 29 October 2025
- **Single entities**
- Consortia of two
- Consortia of three or more
- 100% grant up to 4M€
- Challenge Guide
- Info day TBD

Can you apply?

- **Single legal entity – Challenge Only** - established in MS or AC
 - (mid-caps and larger companies not permitted)
- **Consortia of two entities – Challenge Only**
 - Must be two independent legal entities from two different MS or AC
- **Consortia of three or more entities**
 - At least three legal entities, independent from each other
 - Established in different countries
 - At least one legal entity established in a MS; &
 - At least two other independent legal entities, each established in different MS or AC
- Legal entities may be universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons.

What is the EIC Transition?

EIC Transition

Validate and demonstrate technology in application relevant environment

Deadline: 17 September 2025 @ 17:00 CET

- Grant: max 2.5M€
- Who can apply – previously funded projects e.g.
 - Pathfinder and H2020 FET
 - ERC PoC
 - EDF
 - H2020 Societal Challenges and LEIT + HE Pillar 11
- Validated in the 'lab' & ready for next steps towards maturation and validation
 - TRL 4 to 5 / 6
- Performed early market / competition collaborations
- Team motivated for commercialisation
- Mono-beneficiary or small consortia – very specific rules



Should I apply?

Only proceed **IF**

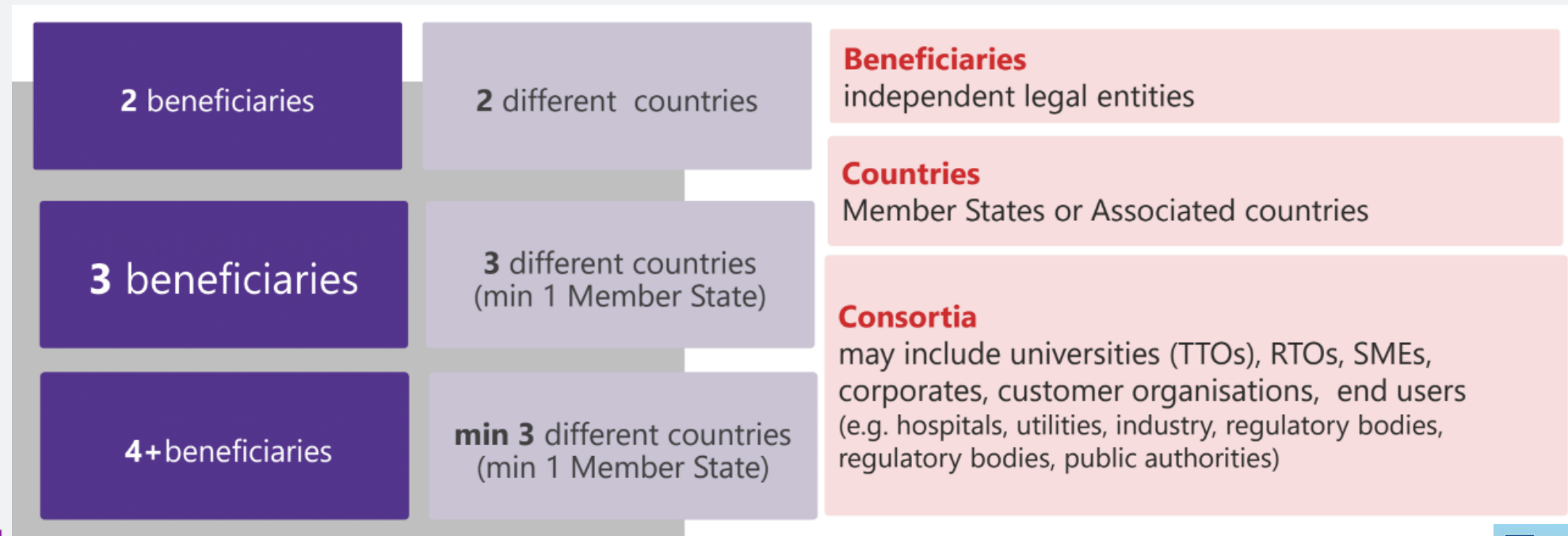
You've identified EU-funded project results with **commercial potential**.

All following questions receive a **definite "YES"!**

- Is the novel technology **prepared for maturation and validation** towards specific, high-potential commercial applications?
- Have you conducted a **preliminary market research** to identify potential markets and explore potential competitors?
- Do you envisage building a motivated and entrepreneurial team with a **mix of skills**, (researchers, businesspeople, marketers) to drive the idea towards commercial success??

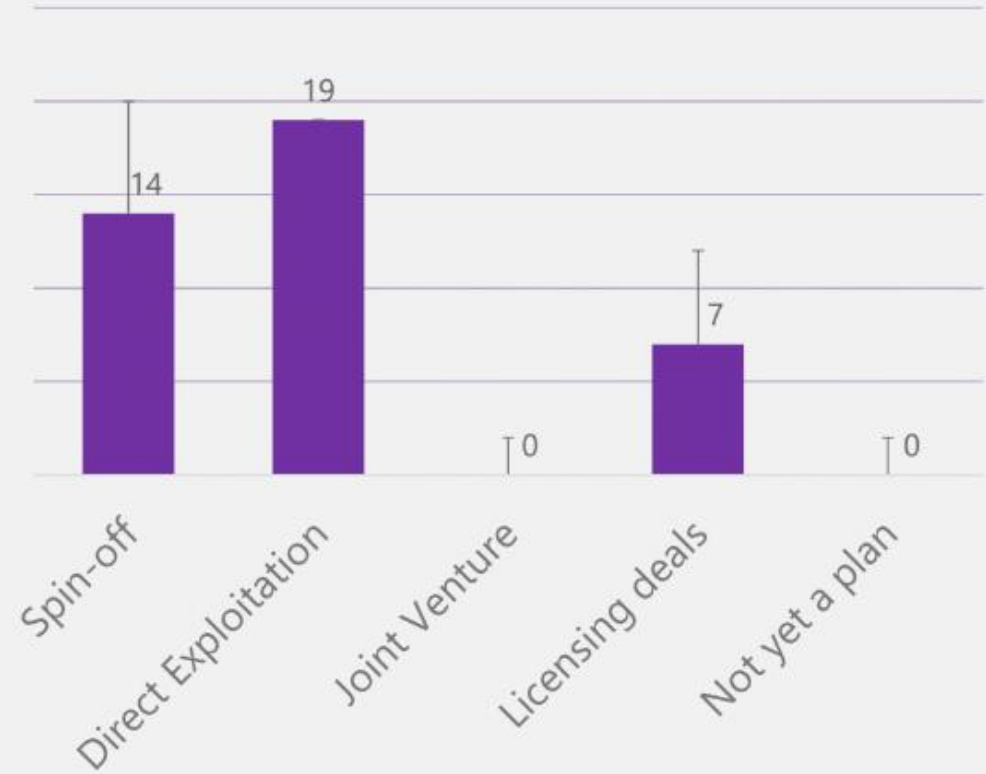
Who can apply

- List of eligible projects - [EIC Transition - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](https://ec.europa.eu/eic/transition)
- **Mono-beneficiaries PLUS**



If not part of the initial consortium

- You can still apply, BUT :
- Include in your proposal a commitment letter from the relevant owners of the result(s)
- Confirming the commitment of the owner of the eligible project result to negotiate with you fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory access to such results, including IPR, for the purpose of future commercialisation.



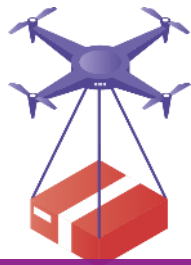
EIC Transition Pathways

A 'Transition to Technology' for collaborative project **to further develop strategic and high impact technology** up to TRL 5/6. This may require a multi beneficiary approach (e.g. SMEs, RTOs and potential users / customers).

A 'Transition to Market' for project **led by an SME/Start-up that identifies an opportunity** in the research results towards a specific market application. It may require, or lead to, a **license agreement** with the SME.

A 'Transition to Entrepreneurship' for project driven by **entrepreneurial researchers** to turn research results into a viable product **by looking for a suitable business model and creating spin off company.**

What is the EIC Accelerator?



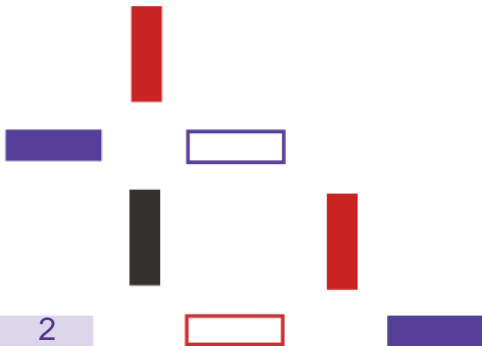
Grants for up to €2.5 million for developing your innovation (TRL 6 to 8)

Also Investments of €0.5 up to €15 million in the form of direct equity or convertible loans for scaling up your innovation and attracting co-investors



EIC ACCELERATOR

Single start-ups and SMEs (including spin-outs), individuals (intending to launch a start-up/SME) and in exceptional cases small mid-caps (fewer than 499 employees)



What is the EIC looking for?

Start-ups and SMEs seeking to **scale-up** high impact innovations with the **potential to create new markets** or disrupt existing one

Innovation building on **scientific discovery** or technological breakthroughs („**deep tech**“)

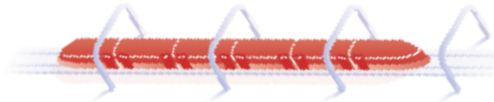
Innovations where **significant funding** is needed over a **long timeframe** and are **too risky** for private investors alone

EIC Accelerator

- Single SMEs or start-ups/Spin-offs
- Natural person or legal entity
- UK entities can only apply to ‘Grant-only’ for TRL 6 – 8
 - Max 2.5m€
 - eligible costs reimbursed up to maximum of 70%
- 12th March & 1 October 2025 @17:00 CET
- You provide evidence that you have sufficient financial means (e.g. revenue flow, existing investors or shareholders) to finance the deployment and scaling up of your innovation

APPLICATION PROCESS

Step 1



IDEA PRESENTATION

- Applicants have a disruptive / deep tech idea with a potential to scale up. any time. Evaluation by remote evaluators within 4-6 weeks.

Submit any time

Access business coaching

Step 2



BUSINESS PLAN SUBMISSION

- Submit full proposal to regular cut-off deadlines, to be assessed by remote evaluators.
- To help you draft your full proposal, you will be entitled to receive 3 days of remote coaching from the EIC Business Acceleration Services.

Two cut-offs per year

Step 3



PITCH

- Successful Step 2 applicants will pitch their innovation in front of EIC Jury Members. If selected, applicants will be awarded funding.
- If not selected, applicants will be awarded a Seal of Excellence to help you secure funding from other sources as well as get support from EIC Business Acceleration Services.

Apply up to three times

Open or Challenges

EIC Accelerator **Open**



to support **projects in any field** of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities ('bottom-up')

EIC Accelerator **Challenges**



to support projects within **predefined thematic areas** with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge



EIC Accelerator challenges

ACCELERATOR CHALLENGES



Acceleration of advanced materials development and upscaling along the value chain

€ 50 million



Biotechnology driven low emission food and feed production systems

€ 50 million



GenAI4EU: Creating European Champions in Generative AI

€ 50 million



Innovative in-space servicing, operations, robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure

€ 50 million



Breakthrough innovations for future mobility

€ 50 million

Indicative call budget

€ 250 million

Infoday on Accelerator Challenges with Programme Managers on 6/11/2024

[EIC Accelerator Challenges – Work Programme 2025 - YouTube](#)

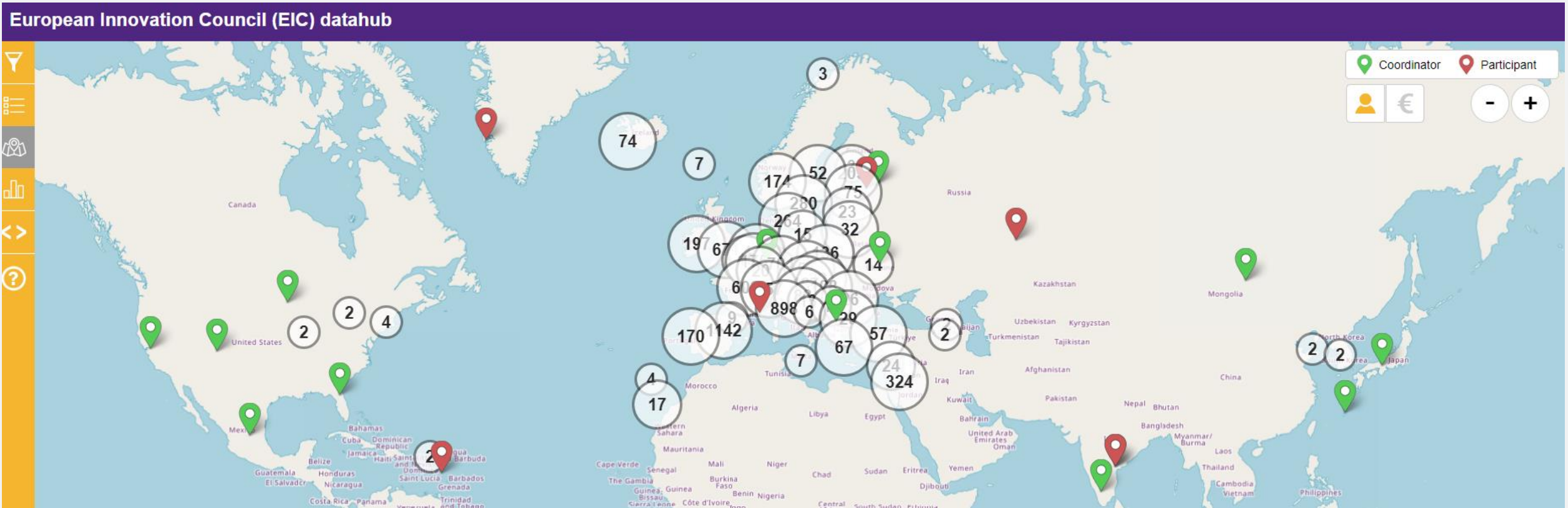
EIC Accelerator Open Indicative budget
€ 384 million

Impact of EIC Accelerator

- Read the EIC Impact report - [The European Innovation Council Impact Report 2023: a €70 billion deep-tech portfolio - European Commission \(europa.eu\)](#)
- Incentivised over 12Bn€ in follow on investment
- 1686 unique innovations generated
- Over 150 centaurs (valuation above €100 million) , 15 have a valuation above €500 m including 8 over 1Bn€ (**Unicorns**)

EIC - Projects funded

[European Innovation Council \(EIC\) datahub \(eisma.eu\)](https://eisma.eu)



EIC - Lump Sum



Eligible costs determined as lump sum during evaluation.



No financial reporting for beneficiaries.



Lump sum based on estimated project costs from 07/07/21*



Strictly respect the template; non-compliance may lead to ineligibility.



New template includes lump sum specifics, requiring additional information.



More: Lump sum funding on *[Horizon Europe](#)*

* *Decision of 07/07 2021*

- Info Day presentation
- [EIC Info Day WP2024_Lump Sums.pdf \(dropbox.com\)](#)
- Funding and Tenders Portal
- [EU Funding & Tenders Portal \(europa.eu\)](#)

EIC Accelerator: 2025 cut-off dates

European
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Council



Short proposal evaluation

Submit any time during the year
Evaluation starts every first Tuesday of the month
Feedback within 4-6 weeks

Full proposal - cut off

Date when a round of evaluations of **full proposals** start

Full proposal evaluation

Cut-off	Interview weeks (tentative)
12 March 2025	9-13 June 2025
1 October 2025	19-23 January 2026



EIC 2025 WP UK INFO day

Online – 4th November 2024



Horizon Europe National Contact Points (NCPs)

Team of national advisors, appointed by the Government to support UK applicants to Horizon Europe by:

- Raising Awareness of the programme
- Helping stakeholders find the right Topic
- Identifying the best ways to find partners
- Navigating the EU funding & tender opportunities portal
- Developing the proposal
- Answering any other Horizon Europe related questions
- **Newsletter** - [Horizon Europe| NCP \(ukri.org\)](https://www.horizon-europe.org/ukri)

<https://www.gov.uk/business-finance-support/horizon-europe-funding>



Find National Contact Points from all participating countries





UK Research
and Innovation

Questions?