Horizon Europe:
EIC Info Day in the UK

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

20 November 2025

Opening remarks

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

European Innovation Council (EIC)

Ana Barjasic
EIC Board Member
CEO, Global Entrepreneurship Network, Global Advisor

Agenda

09:30-10:00 – Registration & Networking
10:00-10:05 – Opening remarks
10:05-10:15 – European Innovation Council, Ana Barjasic
10:15-10:20 – Format & Agenda for the day, Claire Griffin
10:20-10:30 – Audience exercise
10:30-11:00 – Overview of EIC funding opportunities 2026, Claire Griffin
11:00-11:15 – Refreshments & networking
11:15-11:45 – Continued Overview of EIC funding opportunities 2026, Claire Griffin
11:45-11:50 – Audience exercise
11:50-12:00 – Applications – How do I complete them?, Ben Morris, Claire Griffin
12:00-13:00 – Evaluators & Jury and Q&A, Melina Zempila & Christina Nesheva

Agenda

13:00-14:00 – Networking lunch
14:00-14:10 – How to prepare for an EIC Interview, Claire Griffin
14:10-14:40 – How can IUK Business Growth help businesses, Andy Bates
14:40-15:30 – Opportunities in Eureka and EIT, Ben Morris, Teresa Arumardi
15:30-15:45 – Refreshments and networking
15:45-16:00 – Audience Q&A, Claire Griffin, Ben Morris, Teresa Arumardi, Andy Bates
16:15-16:30 – Closing remarks
16:30-17:00 – Informal networking

17:00 – Close of event

Horizon Europe Opportunities

Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

20 November 2025

Claire.griffin@iuk.ukri.org

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

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Pillar III

INNOVATIVE EUROPE:

European Innovation Council

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

European Innovation Council

Support to innovations with breakthrough and market creating potential

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

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

circa **€3 billion**

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Agenda – today & looking ahead

- **EIC Pathfinder** – Open & Challenges
  - Opportunities in the 2026 European Innovation Council (EIC) Pathfinder Scheme - Innovate UK Business Connect
  - Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy harvesting Systems - 2nd @ 10:00
  - Biotechnology for Healthy Living – 4th @ 10:00
  - DeepRAP: – Deep reasoning, Abstraction and Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems – 9th @ 14:00
- **EIC Transition**
- **EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges (AIC)**
  - Opportunities in the European Innovation Council (EIC) Advanced Innovation Challenges Pilot Scheme - Innovate UK Business Connect
    - 4th December @ 14:00
- **EIC Accelerator** – Open & Challenges

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Six Strategic Goals for the EIC

- To be investor of choice for those with visionary ideas
- To crowd in €30-50 B investment into European **Deep-tech**
- To pull through high-risk technologies in critical areas for society and open strategic autonomy
- To increase the number of **European Unicorns** and Scale-Ups
- To catalyse innovation impacts from European public research and innovation
- To achieve operational excellence

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What is deep-tech?

- Technology that is based on cutting edge scientific advances and discoveries
- Is characterised by the need to stay at the technological forefront by constant interaction with new ideas and results from the lab
- NOT – High-tech which refers to R&D intensity

- Unicorn – private company valued at over 1B€

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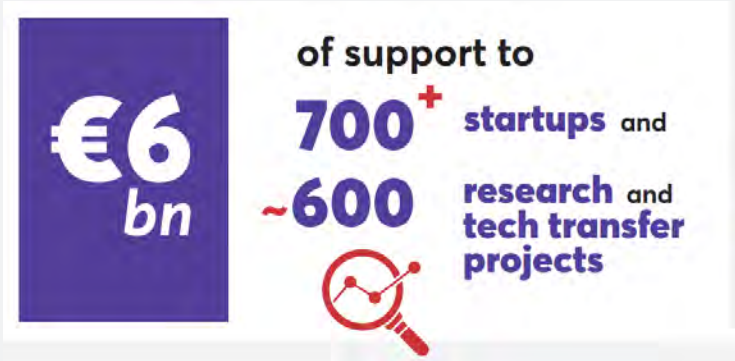
EIC Impact Report 2025

- EIC Impact Report 2025
- Generating new technologies from EU's research base
  - Translating research into market-ready innovations
- EIC Pathfinder & EIC Transition projects have spawned over 1300 innovations and had led to the creation of more than 100 spinout companies
- Includes ~100 projects that are commercialising results from ERC



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Main Novelties in 2026

- Increased grant size for EIC Pathfinder Open
  - From €3M to €4M
  - Pathfinder Open and Challenge now both 4M€
- Broader eligibility of EIC Transition
  - Research infrastructures
- Advanced Innovation Challenges (AIC) pilot
  - Stages funding to test multiple solutions to challenges
- Reform to EIC Accelerator Full Proposal evaluation:
  - Shorter form, more frequent deadlines, faster time to grant

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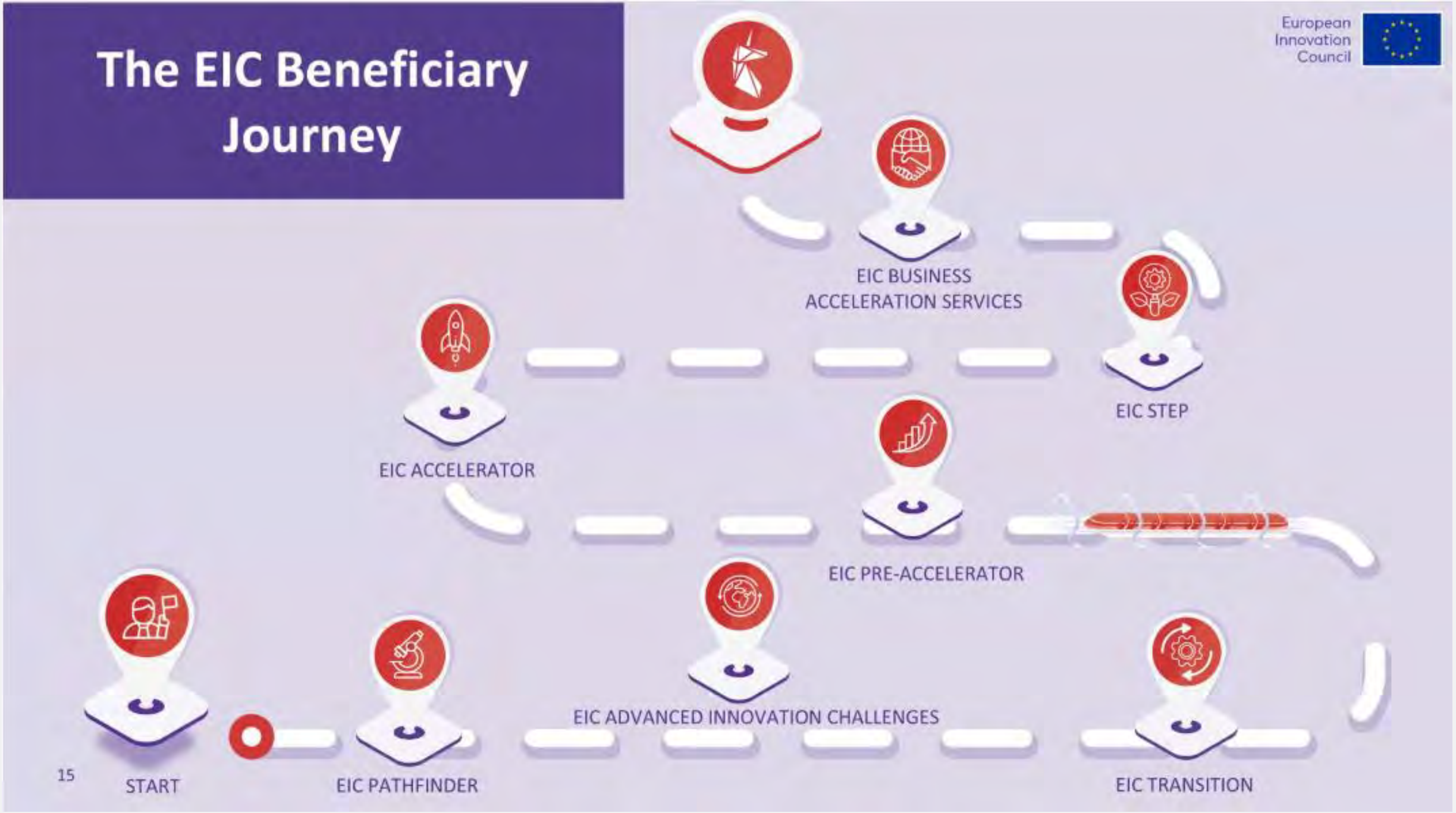
The EIC Beneficiary Journey



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 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 2025 Info day, time stamp 5:32:00)

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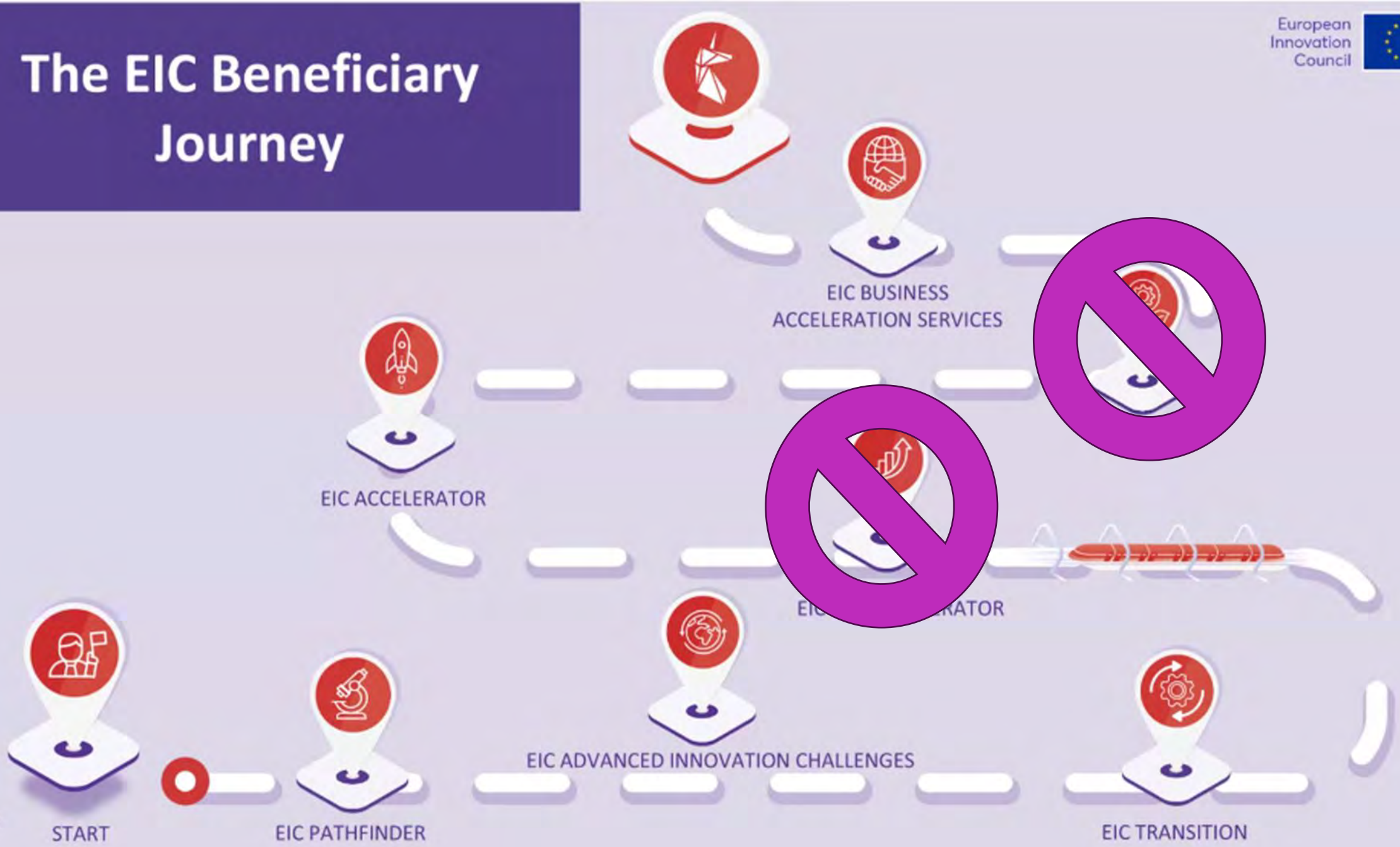
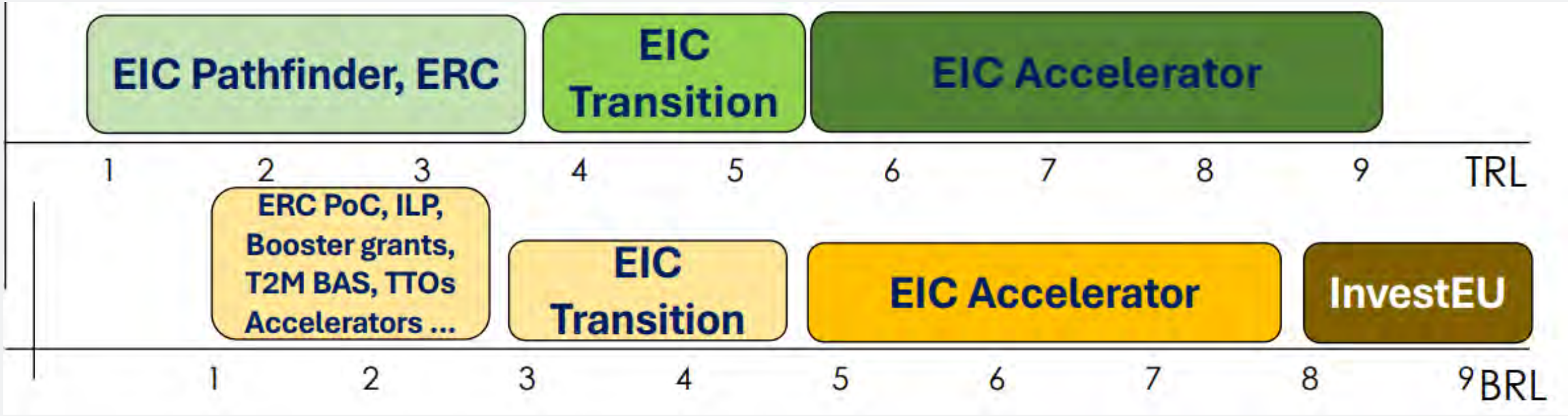
The EIC Beneficiary Journey

European Innovation Council



EIC is a Funding Continuum



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EIC 2026 WP: Budget overview

- **Total budget €1.424 Billion** (~equal to 2025 budget)
- **EIC Pathfinder:** €262 M (=2025)
  - Pathfinder Open: €166 M (+24M€)
  - Pathfinder Closed: €96 M (-24M€)
- **EIC Transition:** €100 million (+2M€ from 2025)
- **EIC Accelerator:** €634 M(=2025)
  - Accelerator Open €414 M (+30M€)
  - Accelerator challenges: €220m (-€30M)
- **EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges**: €6M in 2026 + €25M in'27

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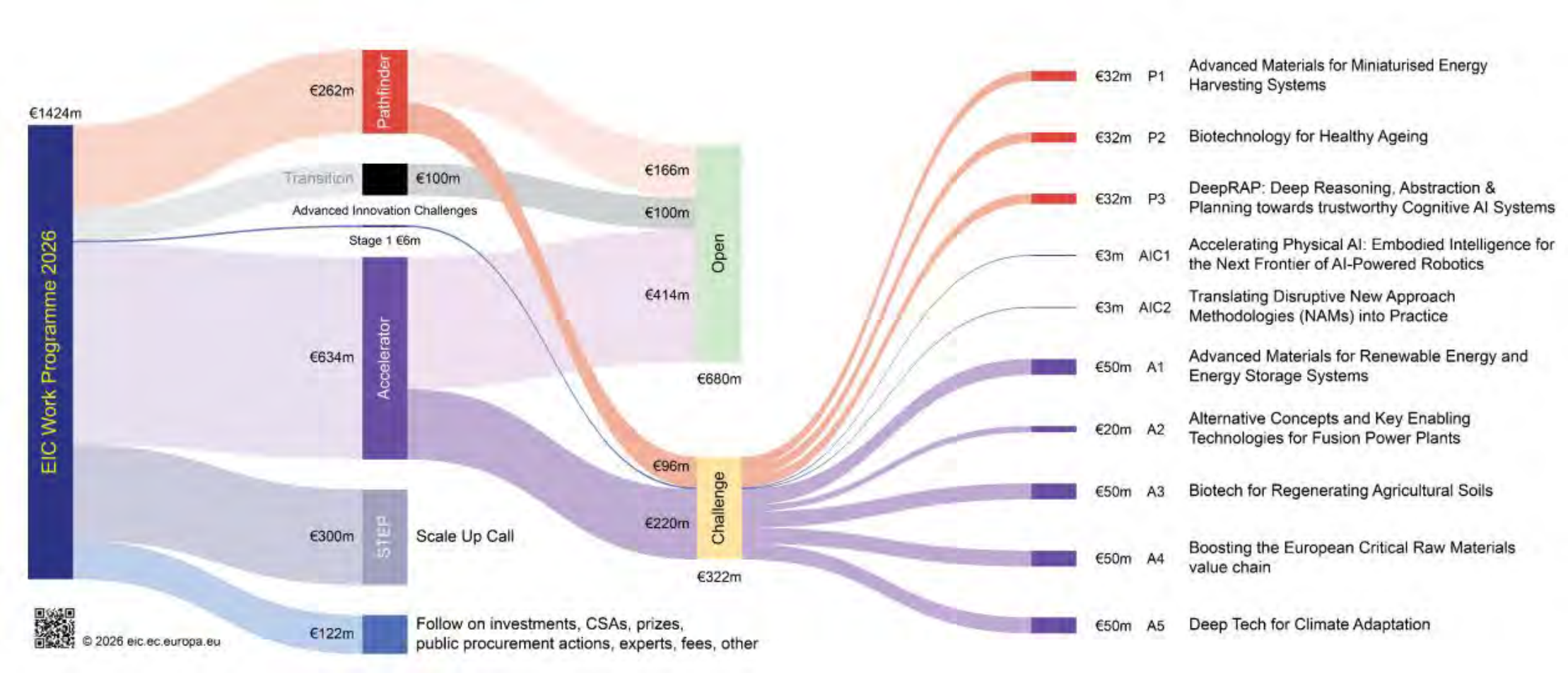
EIC Work Programme Budget 2026



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Backing visionary entrepreneurs

EIC - Lump Sum

[EU Funding & Tenders Portal]

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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)

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EIC Board

- Advise on EIC Strategy
- Entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, innovation ecosystem, innovation experts
- Diverse geography (17 nationalities, various technology sectors

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)]

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EIC Deadlines 2026 – not UK time!

- EIC Pathfinder Open – 12 May
- EIC Pathfinder Challenges – 28 October
- EIC Transition – 16 September
- EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges
  - 26 February 2026
  - **18 June 2027**
- EIC Accelerator
  - Short – anytime / batched first Tuesday of the month @ 17:00
  - Full – Batched first Wednesday of every other month @ 17:00
  - Interviews - TBC

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Overview of EIC funding opportunities 2026

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

What is the EIC Pathfinder?

2026

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What is the EIC Pathfinder

- Advanced research to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies
- Supports earliest stages of scientific, technological or deep-tech R&D
- 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**)

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Why Apply

- Realise an ambitious vision for radically new technology, with potential to create new markets and/or to address global challenges
- Early-stage development of future technologies – Low TRLs
- Based on high-risk/ high-gain science-towards-technology breakthrough research (including deep-tech)
- Research must provide the foundations of the technology you are envisioning

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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

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Call statistics EIC Pathfinder 2021-2025

European Innovation Council

Open	eligible proposals	funded proposals	EU contribution	success rate
2021	868	60	183.1 M€	6,9%
2022	858	66	206.5 M€	7,7%
2023	783	62	186.9 M€	7,9%
2024	1110	45	137.3 M €	4,1%
2025	2069	44	140.7 M €	2,1%
Total	**5688**	**277**	**854,5 M €**	**4,9%**

Challenges	eligible proposals	funded proposals	EU contribution	success rate
2021	403	42	146.9 M€	10,4%
2022	436	49	182.7 M€	11,2%
2023	365	46	168.2M€	12,3%
2024	401	32	119,6 M€	8,0%
2025	in evaluation	~30 @ 4M but 667 submitted	indicative 120 M€	~4.5%
Total	**1605**	**169**	**617.4M€**	**10,5%**

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EIC Pathfinder 2026 – Open & Challenges

- **OPEN**
- Deadline: **21 May 2026**
- **Only Consortia**
- **100% grant up to €4M**
- **Info day 13th November**
- Online Info Day - EIC Work Programme 2026 - European Innovation Council

- **CHALLENGE**
- Deadline: **28 October 2026**
- **Single entities**
- Consortia of two
- Consortia of three or more
- 100% grant up to 4M€
- Info day TBC ~ March 2026

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What is the EIC Pathfinder?

Pathfinder Open – 2026

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EIC Pathfinder Open: Gatekeepers

- Collaborative, interdisciplinary research which meets:
  - Convincing, long-term vision of a radically new technology that has the potential to have a transformative positive effect to our economy & society
  - Concrete, novel and ambition science-towards-technology breakthrough providing advancement towards the envisioned technology
  - High-risk & high-gain research approach & methodology with concrete & plausible objectives

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EIC Pathfinder Open: Expected output

- Proof of principle that the main idea of the envisioned future technology are feasible,
  - validating its scientific and technological basis
- Projects results should include top-level scientific publications in open access PLUS adequate formal protection of generated IP, AND assessment of relevant aspects related to regs, certification & standards
- Key actors encouraged to become future leaders – including in SMEs
- Empower female researchers and achieve gender balance in WP leaders

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Consortium Composition - Open

- Submitted by the Co-Ordinator on behalf of a consortium
  - Lump Sum
  - New Part B – 22 A4 pages max.
- At least three legal entities, independent from each other and established in a different country
  - At least one 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

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Support – R&IA

- Research & Innovation Action to cover eligible costs
- Up to 4M€
- Does not preclude request of larger amounts, if properly justified
- 100% of eligible costs
- Lump Sum
- Budget for call 166M€ = ~41 projects will be funded
- PLUS access to Business Acceleration Services (BAS)

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Additional opportunities for EIC Pathfinder Awardees

Projects

or their beneficiaries funded through

EIC Pathfinder & EIC Transition are eligible to apply for

- **EIC Booster grants** of up to €50,000 to undertake complementary activities
- **EIC Transition** to transform their research results into innovation on the market
- EIC Accelerator support via the **Fast Track** scheme
- a wide range of **Business Acceleration Services**, including coaching and networking

Coaching for Transition projects becomes mandatory!!!

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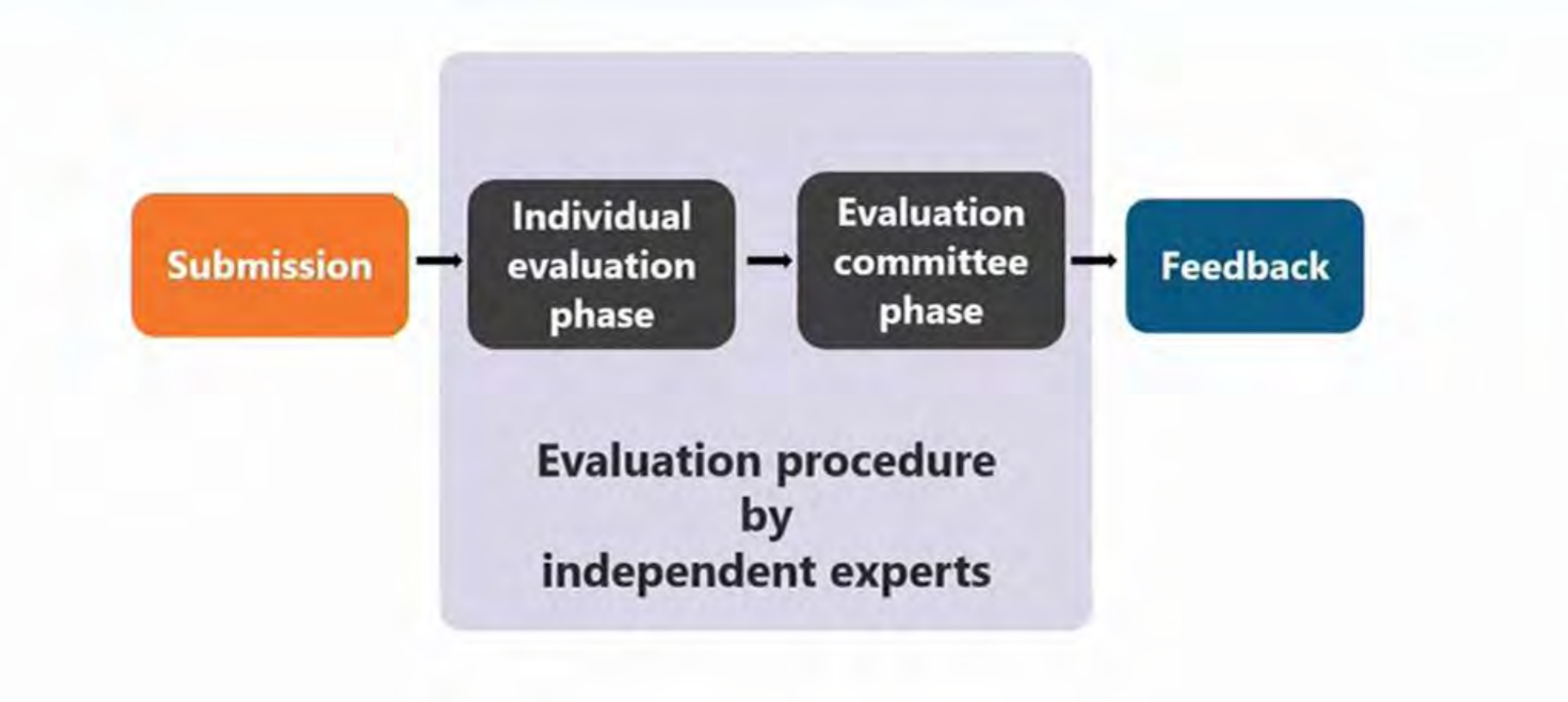
Evaluation Process - 2026



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Evaluation Phase – EIC Pathfinder Open

- At least 3 individual experts, evaluate and score the proposals individually with respect to the award criteria:
  - Excellence
  - Impact
  - Quality & efficiency of the implementation
- The score for each evaluation criterion will be the average of the evaluators' scores (previously median)
- Overall score from individual phase will be the weighted sum of the three median scores from the 3 award criteria

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Pathfinder Open - Excellence

Threshold 4/5

Weight 50%

- Long-term vision
  - Convincing (in long-term) radically new technology
- Science-towards-technology break-through
  - Concrete, novel and ambitious towards breakthrough wrt state-of-art
  - Advancement towards realising envisioned technology
- Objectives
  - Concrete & plausible to reach concrete envisaged proof of principle
  - Approach appropriate – sound methodology – gender dimension
  - Quality of open science practices
- Interdisciplinarity
  - How relevant for achieving proposed breakthrough

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Pathfinder Open - Impact

Threshold 3.5/5

Weight 30%

- Long-term impact
  - Transformative positive effects to our economy, environment & society
- Innovation potential
  - To what extent does the envisioned new technology have potential for generating disruptive innovations in the future & for creating new markets
  - How adequate are proposed measures for protection of results and any other
  - Involving & empowering key actors
- Communication & dissemination
  - Measures to maximise expected outcomes & impact suitable
    - scientific publications, comms activities to establish new market / address global challenges

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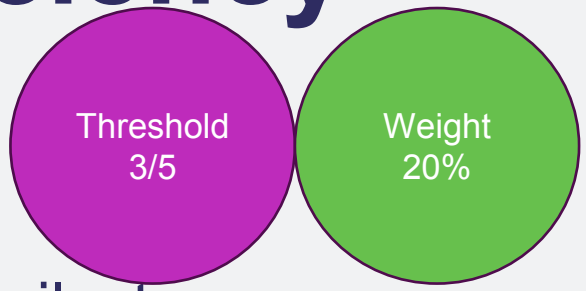
Pathfinder Open – Quality & Efficiency of the implementation



- Work plan
  - Coherent & effective – work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones, timeline etc)
  - Risk mitigation measures in order to achieve project objectives
- Allocation of resources
  - How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources
    - work packages & consortium members
- Quality of the consortium
  - To what extent to all consortium members have the necessary capacity & high quality expertise for performing the project tasks

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Pathfinder Open – Evaluation committee

- Composed of EIC expert evaluators different that those who scored the proposals individually
- The final score will be decided based on the score from the individual evaluation phase & the outcome of the consensus discussions
- EIC experts who evaluated & scored the proposals individually may be invited to the consensus discussions, in particular to clarify diverging evaluators' opinions

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EIC Pathfinder – Ranking criteria

Proposals with the same scoring will be untied in the following order:

- Higher score under criterion Excellence
- Higher score under criterion Impact
- Gender balance among the work package leaders as identified in the proposal
- Number of applicants that are SMEs
- Number of MS & AC in the consortium
- If needed, other factors determined by the evaluation committee

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Can you apply – EIC Pathfinder Open

Collaborative, interdisciplinary research, meeting the following criteria:

- Convincing long-term vision of a radically new technology
  - Potential for transformative positive effect on our economy & society
- Concrete, novel and ambition science-towards-technology breakthrough
  - providing advancement towards the envisioned technology
- High-risk & high-gain approach & methodology
  - Concrete & plausible objectives

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EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2026

New

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EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2026

Info day planned for Spring 2026

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EIC Pathfinder Challenges

- Build on cutting edge directions in science and technology
- Disrupt a market or create a new opportunities by realising innovative technological solutions grounded in high-risk/high-gain research and development
- Establish a portfolio of projects for each Challenge that explore different perspectives, competing approaches or complementary aspects
- Proactively steered by Programme Managers

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EIC Pathfinder - Expected outcomes

- As defined in the respective challenge
- Top-level scientific publications
- Adequate formal protection of the generated IP, as well as an assessment of relevant aspects related to regulations, certification and standardization
- Projects are encouraged to involve and empower key actors that have potential to become future leaders
- Female researchers and achieve gender balance among work package leaders

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EIC Pathfinder 2026 Challenges Guide

Will provide more info about:

- Objectives of the Challenge
- Technical information underpinning the objectives
- Portfolio Considerations used for the final selection of proposals to be funded.
- Read in conjunction with EIC 2026 Work Programme!
- EIC Pathfinder Challenges 2026 - European Innovation Council

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EIC Programme Manager

- Follow on LinkedIn and listen to their 'Tech Talks'
- Read the relevant Challenge Guides!!!!
- 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

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EIC Programme Managers - European Commission (europa.eu)

Advanced Materials for miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems

- **Nr of connected sensors and internet of things is rising and** affecting strongly energy consumption and CO2 emissions
- **Strong impact on sustainability:** if we use batteries, we need to change each day around **80 millions of batteries (10 trillions by 2027)**

We need to find solutions to reduce energy consumption and develop sensors that are energetically autonomous and sustainable

To do that we need a new generation of advanced materials to implement highly efficient miniaturized energy harvesting systems with performances higher than the existing ones

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Advanced Materials for miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems

- **Specific Objectives (all should be addressed)**
  - The development of innovative advanced materials for energy harvesting, harnessing new physical/ chemical phenomena, leading to a radical shift in application range and performance while reducing the reliance on Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)
  - The implementation of the advanced materials in a miniaturised energy harvesting module, e.g., miniaturised solar cells, thermoelectric generators, ...
  - Integration of the miniaturised energy harvesting modules in energetically autonomous systems (e.g. wireless integrated sensors)
  - Benchmarking the harvesting modules in a representative use case in a laboratory environment (TRL 4)
- **Expected Outcomes**
  - A new generation of advanced materials for miniaturised energy harvesting modules, and
  - Energetically autonomous systems at TRL 4.

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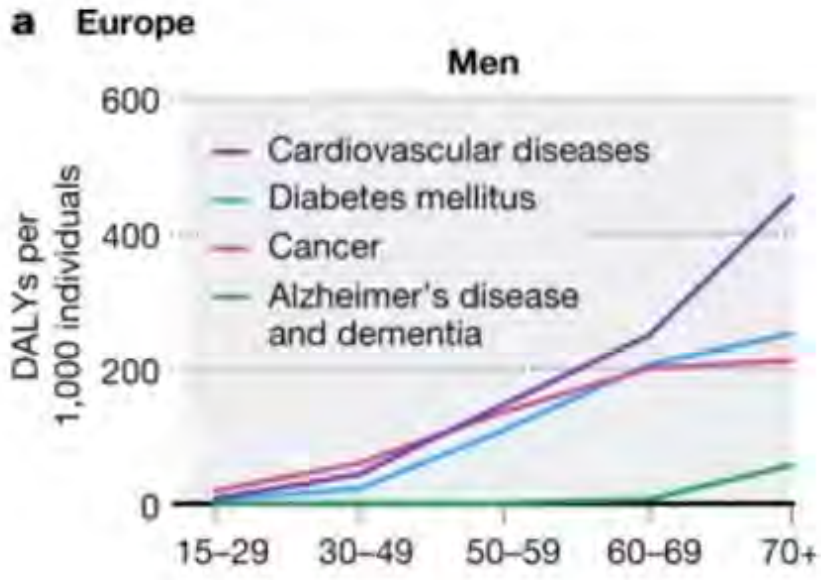
Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing

- By 2050 share of age 85+ in EU expected to more than double
- Extended life expectancy is not matched with longer healthy life
  - EU lifespan: 81.1 yrs
  - EU healthspan: 70.5 yrs
- Many diseases are age-related
- Multimorbidities increase with age



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Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing

Specific Objectives

A proof of concept in one of the following 3 areas

1. **An innovative preventative or therapeutic biotechnology-based or pharmaceutical intervention** that prevents, delays or reverts the onset of a specific age-related disease
2. **A biomarker based tool** to enable the responsible deployment of ageing-related interventions
3. **A New Approach Methodology (NAM)** that goes beyond the current state-of-the art to enable the future development of interventions for healthy ageing.

Expected Outcomes

- Proof-of-concepts (TRL3 completed) of biotechnology-based or pharmaceutical interventions that prevents or delays the onset of, or reverts, an age-related disease in a vertebrate model system, based on the hallmarks of ageing, taking into consideration practical challenges of implementing such an intervention
- Tools to facilitate development or adoption of the interventions above, such as proof-of-concept validation of biomarker signatures or suitable pre-clinical models, and
- Approaches to address the shared regulatory hurdles and societal challenges linked to ageing-related interventions, thereby facilitating their adoption.

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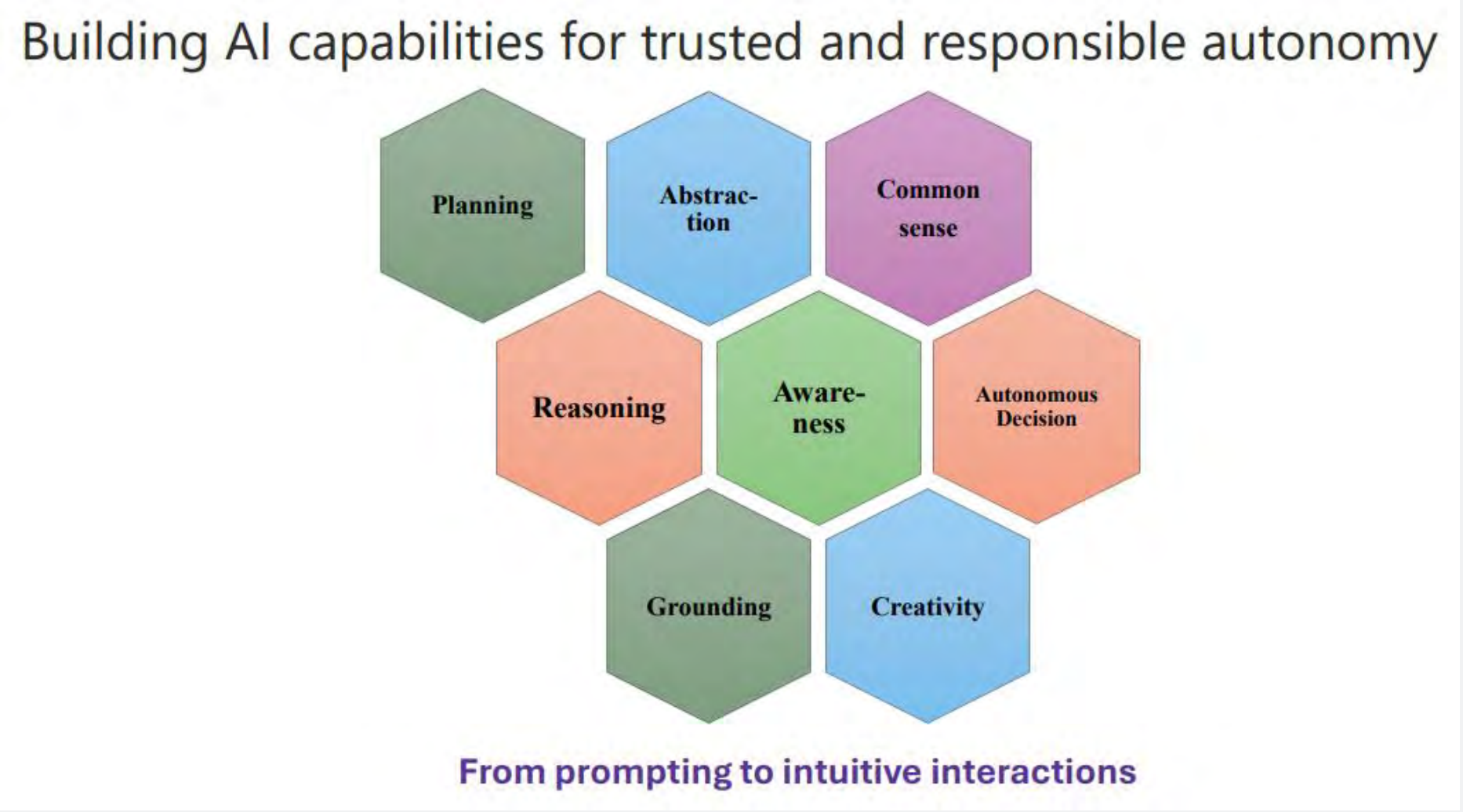
DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI systems



DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI systems

Specific Objectives

Explore novel approaches, including combinations of existing techniques (i.e. neuro-symbolic AI), or the creation of entirely new frameworks that go beyond current, traditional, deep learning and reinforcement learning paradigms for one or more of the following capabilities:

- Deep Reasoning
- Deep Abstraction
- Deep Planning

Expected Outcomes

- Models and/or architectures that handle multimodal data and knowledge, uncertainty, and can be trained and deployed with constrained computational resources
- Provable trustworthiness mechanisms ensuring explainability, transparency, fairness, risk evaluation, security and alignment with ethical and legal standards
- The developed capabilities integrated in a cognitive AI system (reaching TRL4) performing complex real-world tasks (e.g., scientific discovery, decision support, problem solving) as well as simulations at a scale.

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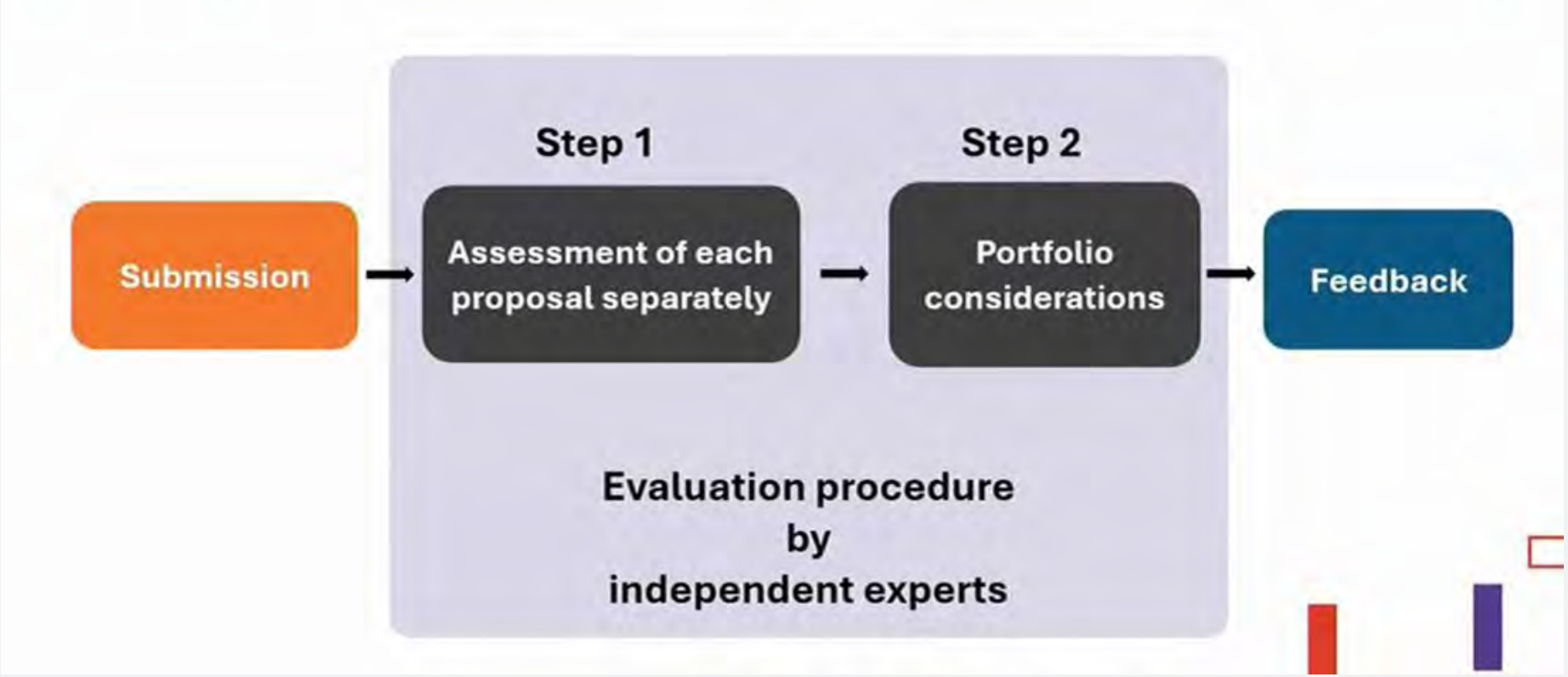
How is proposal funding determined



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Step 1: Assessment of each proposal separately

- At least 3 EIC expert evaluators evaluate and score each proposal individually wrt award criteria
- After individual evaluation – consensus group to agree common position on comments & scores (introduced in 2024)
- Evaluation Committee will check consistency across the evaluation of each individual proposal & finalise the scores and comments for all proposals.
  - EIC expert evaluators and EIC Programme Managers

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Award Criterion - Excellence

Threshold 4/5

Weight 50%

- Objectives and relevance to the challenge
  - Are they clear
  - Contribution to overall goal and specific objectives of the Challenge
- Novelty
  - To what extent is ambitious and goes beyond the state-of-the-art?
- Plausibility of the methodology
  - Sound?
  - Underlying concepts, models, assumptions, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content, and the quality of open science practices

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Award Criterion - Impact

Threshold 3.5/5

Weight 30%

- Potential impact
  - Credible pathways to achieve expected outcomes and impacts of the Challenge
  - Would successful completion of the project contribute to this
- Innovation potential
  - How realistic is proof of principle for demonstrating impact of technology of the Challenge
  - Adequate protection of results & other exploitation measures
  - Societal, economic or environmental impact
  - Empowering key actors with potential to lead translating research into innovations
- Communication and dissemination
  - Suitable proposed measures to maximise expected outcomes and Impacts
  - Addressing global challenges and establishing new markets

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Award Criterion – Quality & efficiency of the implementation

Threshold 3/5

Weight 20%

- Work plan
  - Coherent & effective to achieve project objectives
    - work plan – work packages, deliverables, milestones, timelines etc)
    - Risk mitigation
- Allocation of resources
  - Appropriate & effective (person months & other cost items)
  - To work packages & consortium members
- Quality of the applicant/consortium
  - To what extend does the applicant / do all consortium members have the necessary capacity & high quality expertise for performing the project tasks

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Step 2: Portfolio Considerations

- See Challenge Guide
- All proposals that meet threshold defined in award criteria will be considered in Step 2
- Mapping of proposals in categories based on objectives & goal of the Challenge
  - Building blocks or subsystems, technical areas and/or competing technologies, platforms, applications areas, risk level, size and TRL
- Suitable portfolio of projects – portfolio considerations
  - Selected by evaluation committee
  - Coherent set of projects that will achieve expected outcomes and impacts
- Evaluation committee may also propose minor adjustments to the proposals

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What is the EIC Transition?

2026

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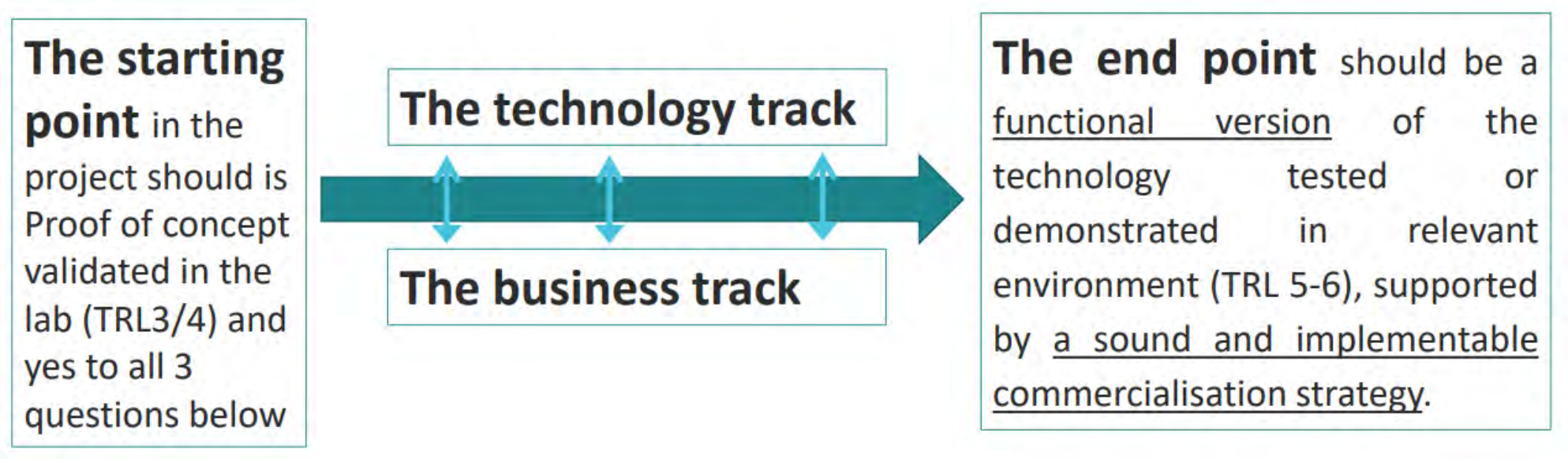
EIC Transition



- Have you identified EU-funded project with promising commercial potential
- Do you have a novel technology, with proof of concept
- Have you conducted early market / competition explorations
- Do you have a motivated and diverse team to take forward to the next steps

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Restricted application – Who can apply

- EIC Pathfinder & H2020 FET
- ERC PoC – 1 proposal only
- Research Infrastructures

- H2020 Societal Challenges & LEIT + Horizon Europe Pillar 2
- JUs except FSTP grants
- EDF (PADR)
- See – Innovation Radar - Innovation Radar > EIC Transition
- NOT Eligible – ERA-nets, Co-funded Partnerships, EIT KICs

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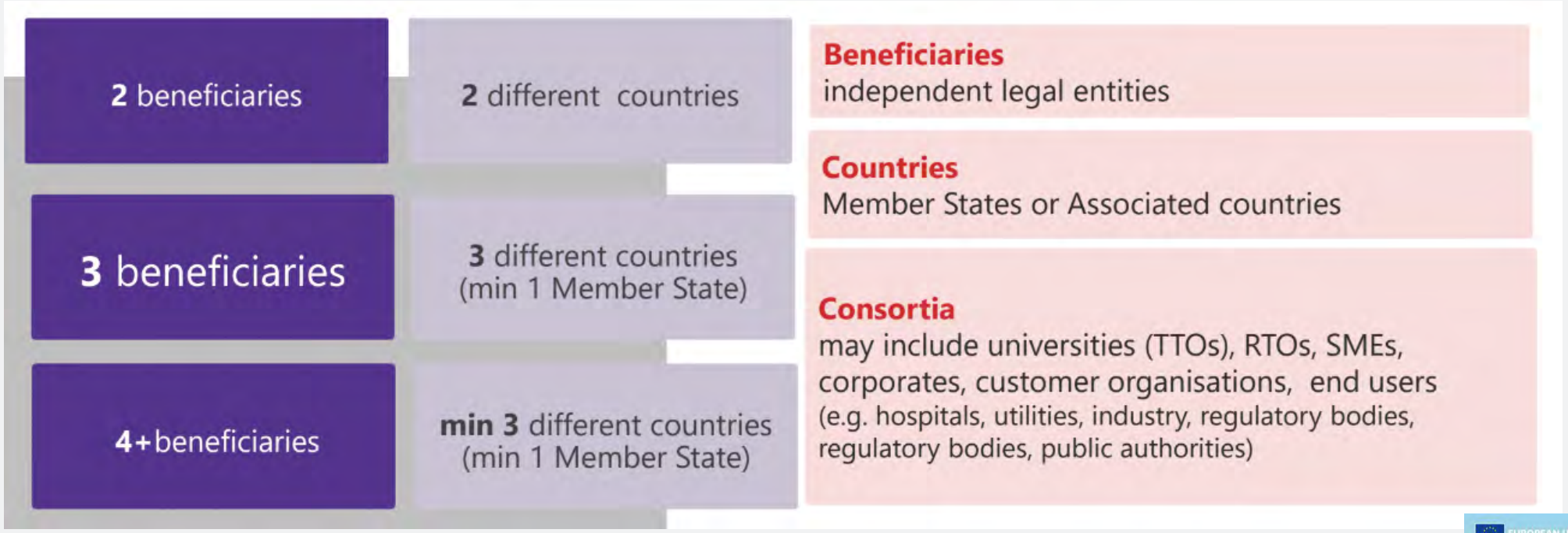
Who can apply

- List of eligible projects - EIC Transition - European Commission (europa.eu)
- **Mono-beneficiaries PLUS**



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EIC Transition – eligibility criteria

- Validated in the ‘lab’ & ready for next steps towards maturation and validation
- Moving the boundaries of technological possibilities
- Min TRL3 – TRL4 preferred
- Grant: max 2.5M€
- Who can apply – previously funded projects .
- Performed early market / competition collaborations
- Team motivated for commercialisation
- Mono-beneficiary or small consortia – very specific rules
- 50K€ booster grant for extra activities

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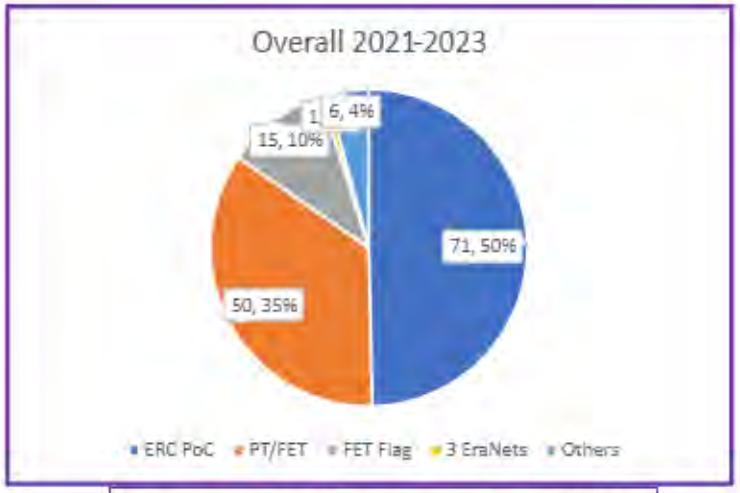
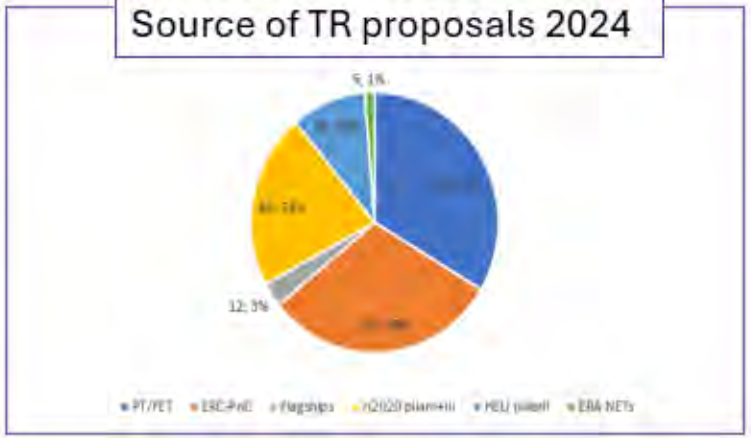
EIC Transition 2021-2025

Cut-off	Submitted	Inelig	Evaluated	Funded	Success rate
Cut off 2021	292 (221+71)	62	230 (173+57)	43 (31+12)	18.% (17.9¦21.1)
1st cut off 2022	165 (143+22)	21	144 (129+15)	19 (14+5)	13.2% (10.9¦33.3)
2nd cut off 2022	287 (236+51)	106	181 (157+24)	32 (25+7)	17.7% (15.9¦29.2)
1st cut off 2023	180 (131+49)	14	166 (122+44)	19 (14+5)	11.4% (11.5¦11.4)
2nd cut off 2023	257 (162+95)	18	239 (153+86)	27 (12+15)	11.3% (7.8¦17.4)
Cut off 2024	413	23	390	40	10.2%
Cut off 2025	611	66	545	(est) 40	7,34%





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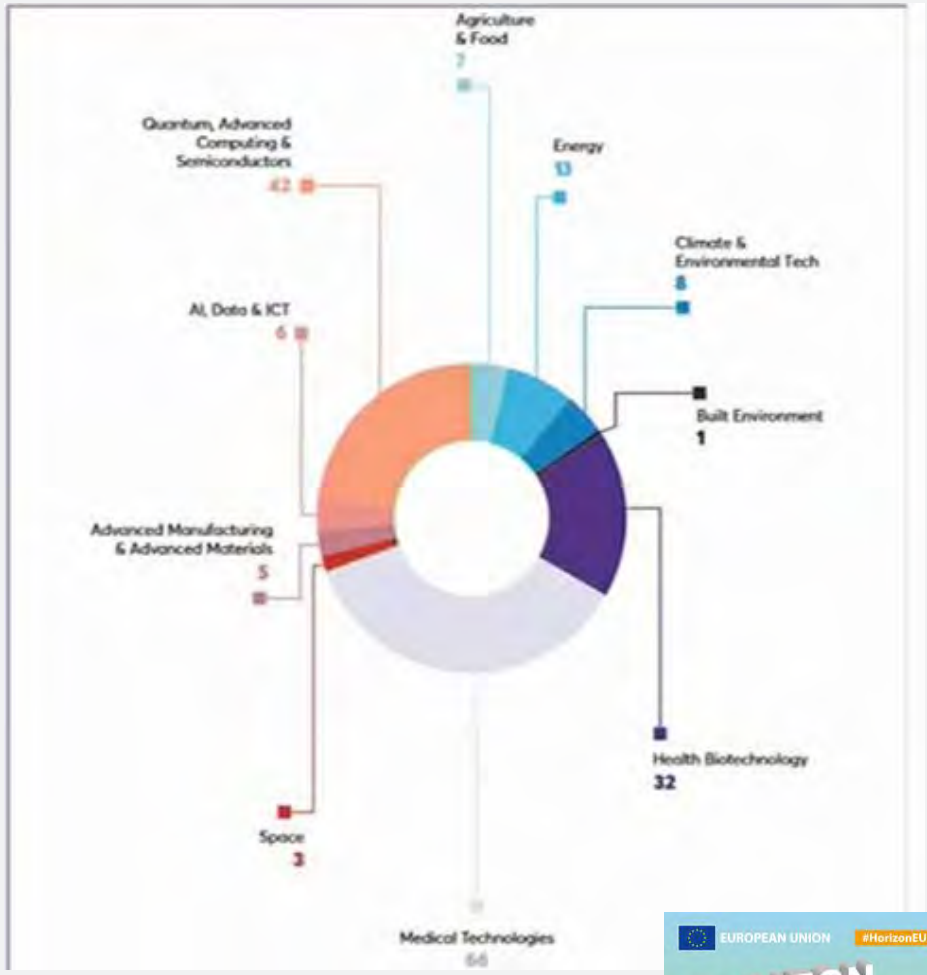
EIC Transition 2021-2024

- 183 projects & 445M€ in grants
- 33% SMEs beneficiaries
- 50% from ERC PoC*
- 35% from Pathfinder / FET
- 53.5% Medical & Health Biotech

*ERC PoC webinar – 11th Dec @10:00



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EIC Transition – new in 2026

- Deadline 16 Sept 2026 @ 17:00 – UK time 16:00
- Hard limit of 2.5M€
- Duration of 1-3 years will be deemed appropriate
- 18 months from start of previous project
- Within 24 months of end of previous project
- Pay attention to consortium composition – 5 max.
  - Is the number of partners well justified?
  - Main partners responsible for bringing technology to market must be involved in the research
- Operational capacity to execute project well
- BAS Coaching is Compulsory – Tech to Market Programme
- ERC PoC cannot submit more than one project

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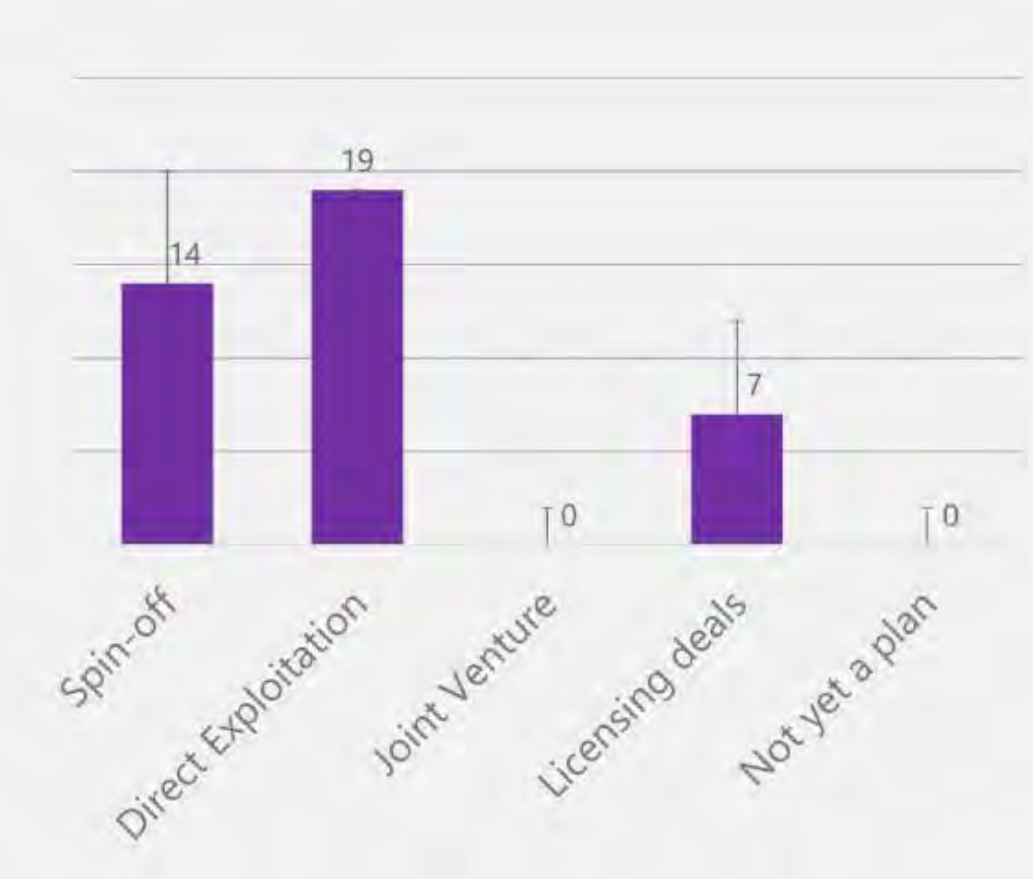
If not part of the initial consortium

- 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.



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Lessons learnt from 2021-2025

- Need for higher impact & Commercial potential
  - Need to identify a promising market
  - Not specific, small market with limited potential
- Business model and Market Analysis
  - Prelim Business Model and Market analysis – included
  - Business model validation & refinement of Market analysis
  - Not only technology maturation
- Technology Readiness Level
  - TRL3 is the min – TRL4 is preferred
  - TRL5 or 6 is too high
- IPR issues – commitment needs to be solid

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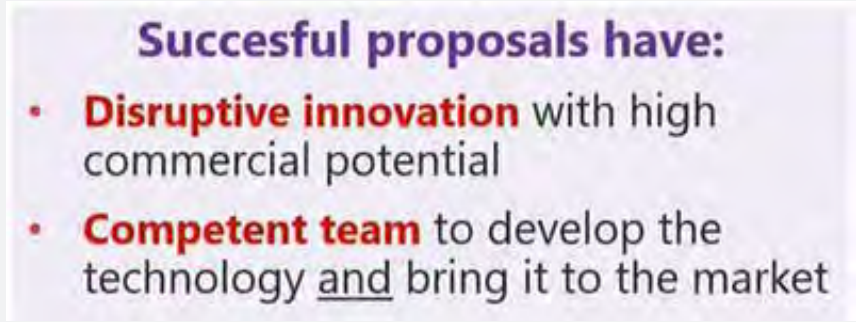
Major strengths of GO proposals

- Great Innovation – 70%
- Competent team to develop technology, investigate market U Business – 70%
- Understanding and knowledge of the market competition – 56%
- Involvement of users and early customers – 26%
- Right timing – 26%
  - TRL
  - Feasibility and USP
- Incipient business model – 22%



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Major weaknesses of the NO GO Proposals

- Lack of understanding of the market / competition – 74%
- The Team in the consortium or the exploitation partner – 58%
- The business model – 45%
- The lack of involvement of early users / customers – 32%
- Wrong timing in terms of TRL / USP / Feasibility – 29%
- Novelty / disruptiveness of proposed innovation – 26%

Lesson learned NoGo proposals:

- **Know the market** you plan to enter
- **Know the competition** you will face
- **Know the problem** you are solving

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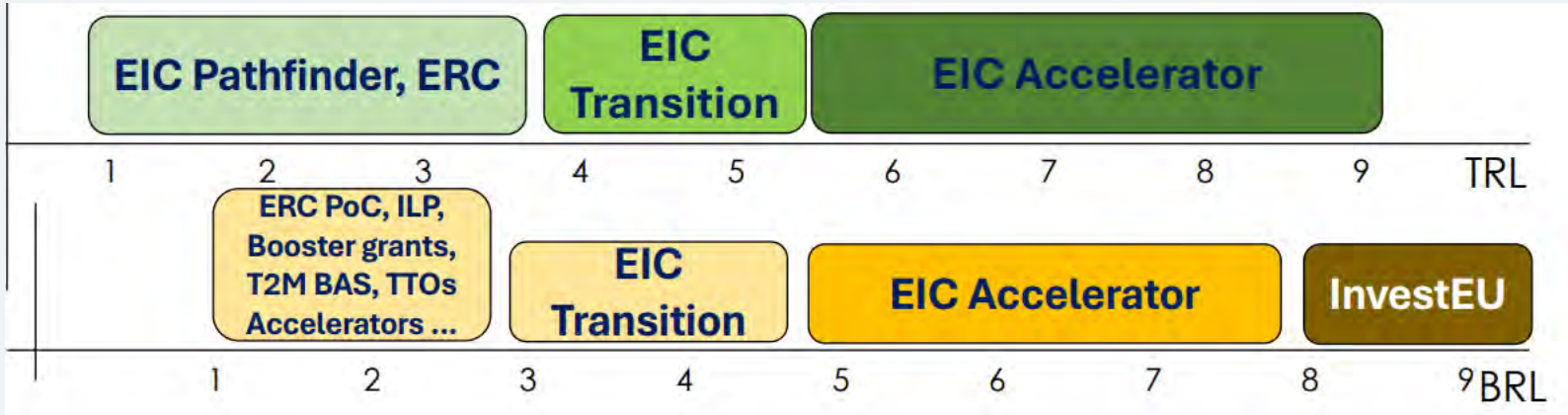
NB – TRL & BRL are linked

- Present initial elements of a business plan & model
  - Value proposition, competition, customer's needs etc
  - VC interest
  - Team with complementary skills
- Should include activities to increase market/business readiness
  - Analysis of the competition
  - Certification, standardisation and regulation
- Applicants are expected to present business assumptions & hypothesis with TRL to be further validated during project



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Business Plan and Model

- Applicants must present initial elements of a business plan and model e.g. :
  - Value proposition
  - Competition
  - Customers' needs
- Include activities to increase market and business readiness
  - Analysis of competition
  - Certification / standardisation / regulation
- Business assumptions and hypothesis equal to the TRL of the proposal AND verified during the project

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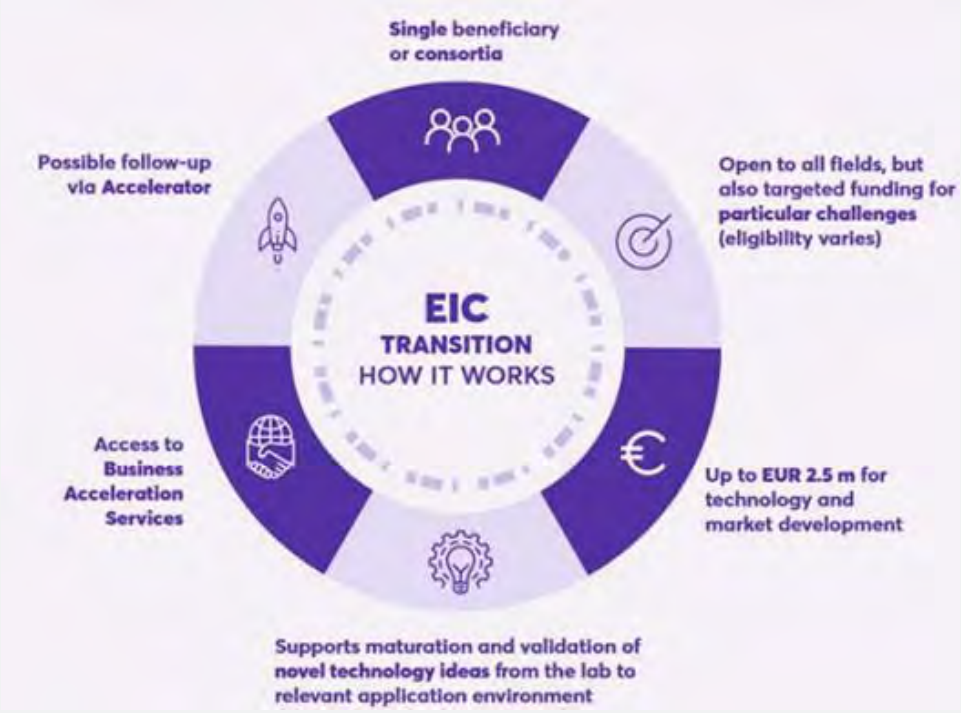
What is expected in EIC Transition

- Impact – quantify the scale of problem
- Value – what is USP / value proposition
- Advantage – why can you win
  - Competitive edge, IP, Sustainability
- Execution – delivery & scale
  - Business Model, resources & partnerships
- People – who will lead commercialisation



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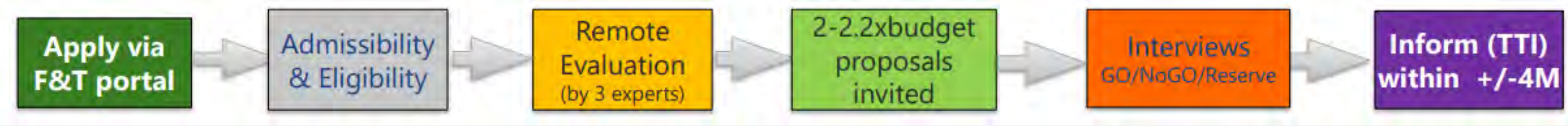
EIC Transition Evaluation Process

- 3 experts in remote evaluation
- Final score is sum of individual scores
- Different evaluation criteria @ remote & Jury Phase



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EIC Transition - Excellence

- **Technological breakthrough:**
  - Does the technology have a high degree of novelty & higher performance compared to other technologies available / in development
  - Does the technology indicate high commercial potential
- **Objectives:**
  - Credible and feasible objectives for the planned technology development & maturation
  - Credible and feasible objectives (and KPIs) for the planned business development process?
- **Methodology:**
  - Is the timing right for this technology/innovation (i.e., feasibility, TRL, USP)

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EIC Transition - Impact

- **Credibility of the impacts:**
  - To what extent the expected impacts described are credible and substantial realistic within the project and beyond
    - One or several sectors, setting new standards etc
- **Economic and/or societal benefits:**
  - Does the proposed innovation have scale up potential including high capacity to gain or create new European or global markets?
  - Is the proposed innovation expected to generate other positive impacts (strategic autonomy, employment, societal, environmental etc.)?
- **Investment readiness and go to market strategy:**
  - Contribute to make the technology and the team investment ready (including through IP protection and market validation)?
  - Well defined & convincing go to market pathway/strategy, including what regulatory approvals may be needed (if relevant), time to market, possible business and revenue model?

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EIC Transition - Quality & efficiency of the implementation

- **Quality and motivation of the team:**
  - Does the (project) team have the necessary high quality capabilities and motivation to move decisively towards market.
  - Operational Capacity
  - Necessary expertise to create unique commercial value from the emerging technology and develop an attractive business and investment proposition?
- **KPIs and Milestones:**
  - Both milestones and KPIs present, relevant and clearly defined (measurable, timed, comparable etc.) to track progress along the pathway towards objectives?
  - Have the main risks (e.g., technological, market, financial etc.) been identified, together with measures to mitigate in order to achieve the project objectives?
- **Workplan and allocation of resources:**
  - How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources (person-months and equipment) in the workplan and work packages and project partners?

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Capability is linked to Capacity

- Both relate to team's ability to achieve goal
- Both need to be successful
  - one influences the other
- Capacity limits capability
  - need to process at intensity & scale
- Applicants must have stable and sufficient resources to successfully implement the projects & contribute their share

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EIC Transition Jury Interview

- Due Diligence
- EIC Jury Members - European Commission (europa.eu)
- The evaluation criteria are different from remote and Jury Phase
- Up to five team-members in interview – work as a team
- 10 mins for pitch & 35 mins for questions – no pre-defined questions
- Be prepared!
  - Maybe 18-25 questions and observing who you work as a team

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General Essential considerations - 1

- ‘different’ eligibility conditions – need to comply with all
- Conduct preliminary market research
- Caution TRL
- Milestones and KPIs
- Consider Business Readiness Levels
- Diverse team capable of advancing technology & business
- Address technical and business risks
- Talk to your NCP?

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General Essential considerations - 2

- These are not Research Grants – it's a commercialisation grant
- Base project? – need commitment letter if not involved
- Don't overlook competition
  - Can be on market or
- Previously funded projects - European Innovation Council (EIC) datahub (eismea.eu)

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EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges (AIC) 2026

PILOT

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Why Advanced Innovation Challenges

- **Draghi Report**: Support for breakthrough disruptive innovation remains limited. → Increase support to disruptive innovation, through an 'ARPA-type' agency;
- EIC Board recommendation aimed at strengthening Europe's position as a leader in deep tech innovation. → Embrace support for high risk, high impact deep tech innovations by introducing ARPA style operations and capabilities.
- **Heitor report**: ARPA-like programmes are missing within the Horizon Europe Programme. →EIC Board and agency should immediately consider the expert report of 2020.
- Conclusion is clear for EIC: reinforce the risk taking and user uptake of innovations

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Pilot – main goals

→Assess whether competitive, stage-gated support can accelerate the path to market for high-risk deep tech innovations.

→Assess whether early integration of demand-side actors can enhance the relevance, validation, and ultimately the uptake of breakthrough solutions.

→Provide evidence on whether these mechanisms lead to more efficient innovation cycles and broader market adoption than other instruments within HE in general, and the EIC in particular, in similar TRL levels.

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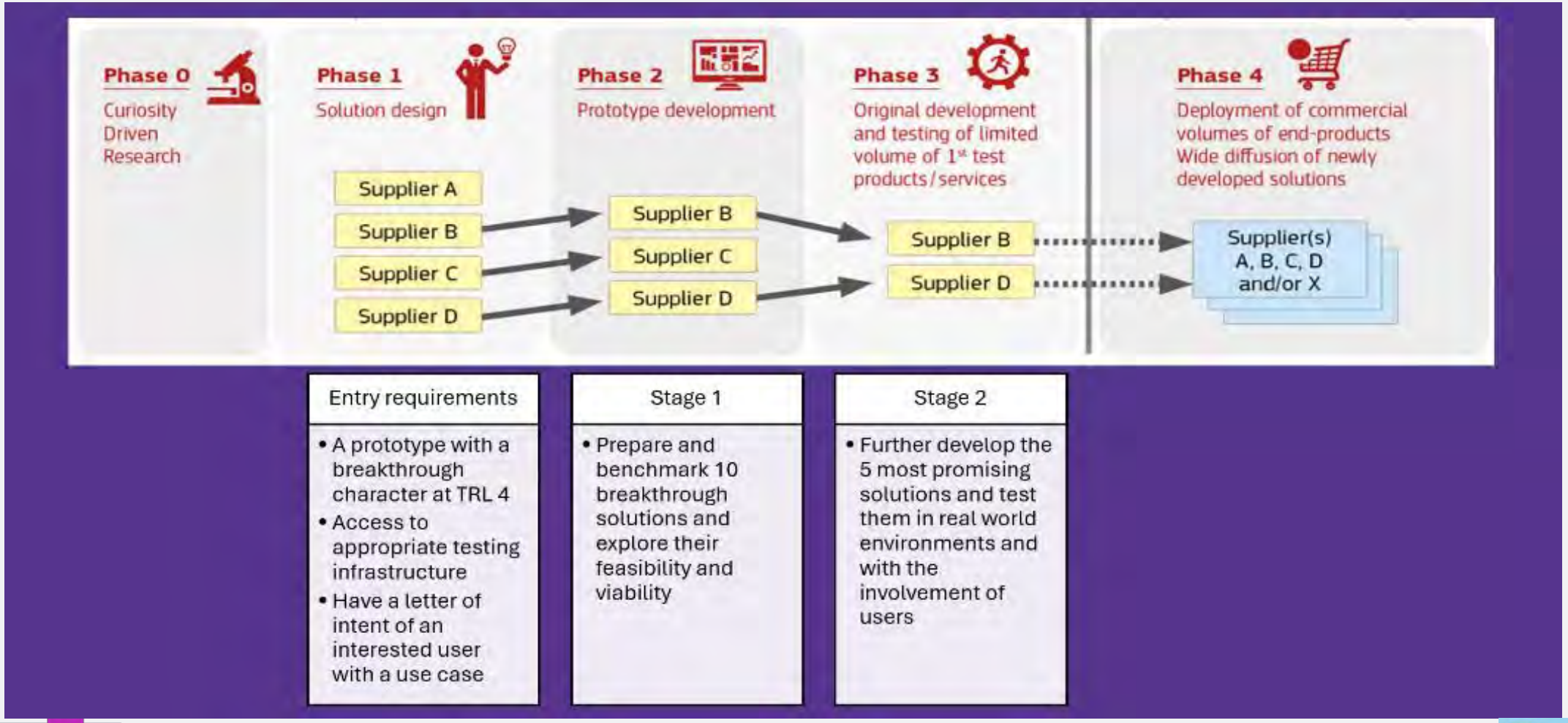
Typical Staged funding vs EIC AIC



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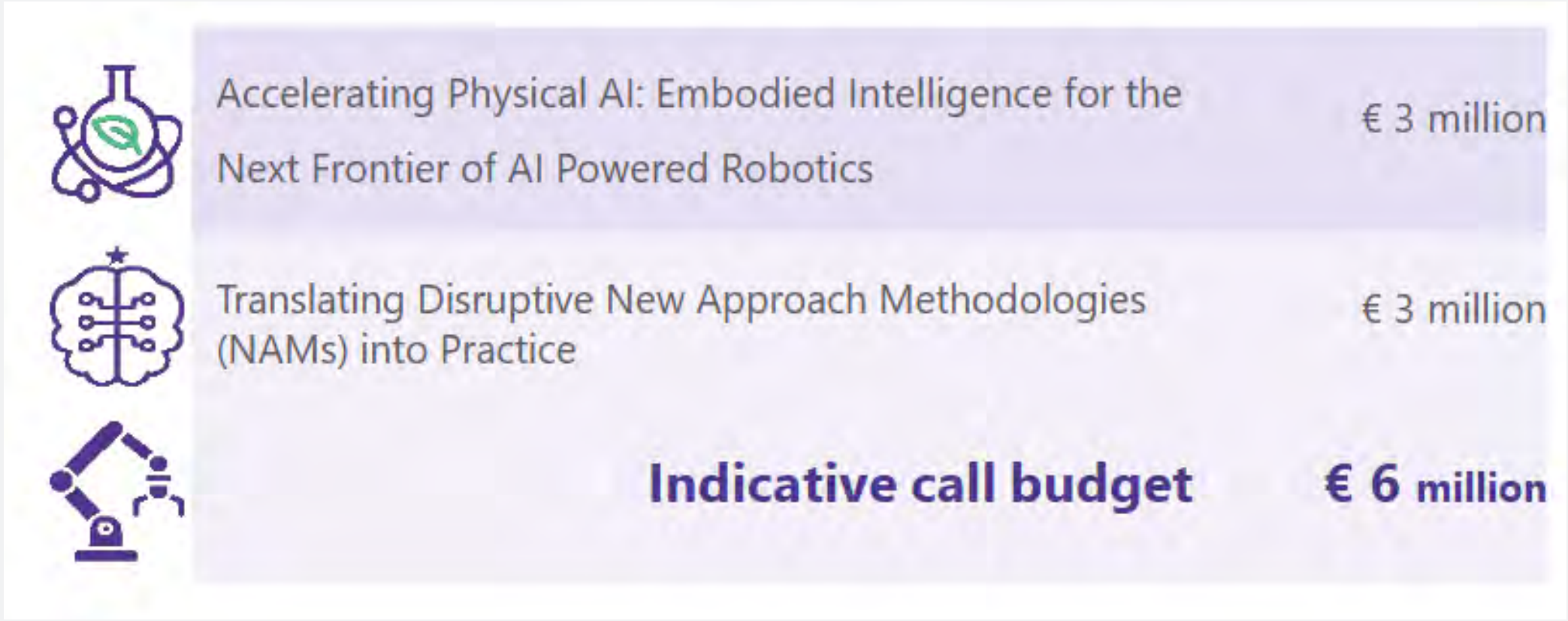
EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges 2026



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Accelerating Physical AI: Embodied Intelligence for the Next frontier of AI-Powered Robotics

Aims to accelerate the development towards integration deployment & commercialisation of breakthrough Physical AI solutions

- Addresses the critical gap AI's digital capabilities & real world requirements
- Why is a deep tech approach needed
  - Current AI systems are primarily designed for controlled digital environments
- This challenges requires fundamental breakthroughs in embodied intelligence, integrating advanced in robotics, materials science, and sensor technology to create autonomous PHYSICAL AI systems

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Accelerating Physical AI: Embodied Intelligence for the Next frontier of AI-Powered Robotics

- Proposals must address at least two of these technical aspects
  - Intelligent Perception and Cognition
  - Adaptive Learning and optimisation
  - Autonomous Decision-Making & collective Intelligence
  - Human-AI Collaboration & Interaction
  - Physical Integration & Innovation
- 3 Application domains
  - Disaster response & Civil Security
  - Autonomous Labs for Scientific Discovery
  - Personal or professional robot assistants

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Translating Disruptive New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) into Practice

- Vision – to move from lab-based proof-of-concept to clinical and industrial adoption
  - To accelerate the uptake of disruptive NAMs in biomedical research, safety, efficacy and quality testing – enabling human-relevant, ethical and faster innovation in health.
- Scope – applicants should propose the further development of innovative and disruptive NAMs addressing one or both areas:
  - Preclinical biomedical research
  - Testing of medicinal products or medical technologies for safety, efficacy or quality.

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Key features of the EIC AIC – 2026 & 2027

- Two-stage, gate funding
  - Stage 1 - €300k lump sum for up to 9 months (Q4 2026 – end Q2 2027) to prepare & benchmark PLUS explore their feasibility & viability
  - Stage 2 – up to €2.5M for 2.5 years to develop most promising solutions & test in real world with users
- Demand side integration
  - Commercial users (e.g. industry or public sector) or end-users
  - Regulatory bodies or other major stakeholders
- Single entity or small consortia
  - Mono-beneficiary for Stage 1
- Proactive portfolio management
  - Overseen by PM ensure coherent portfolio development
- Lump Sum Funding – Type 1

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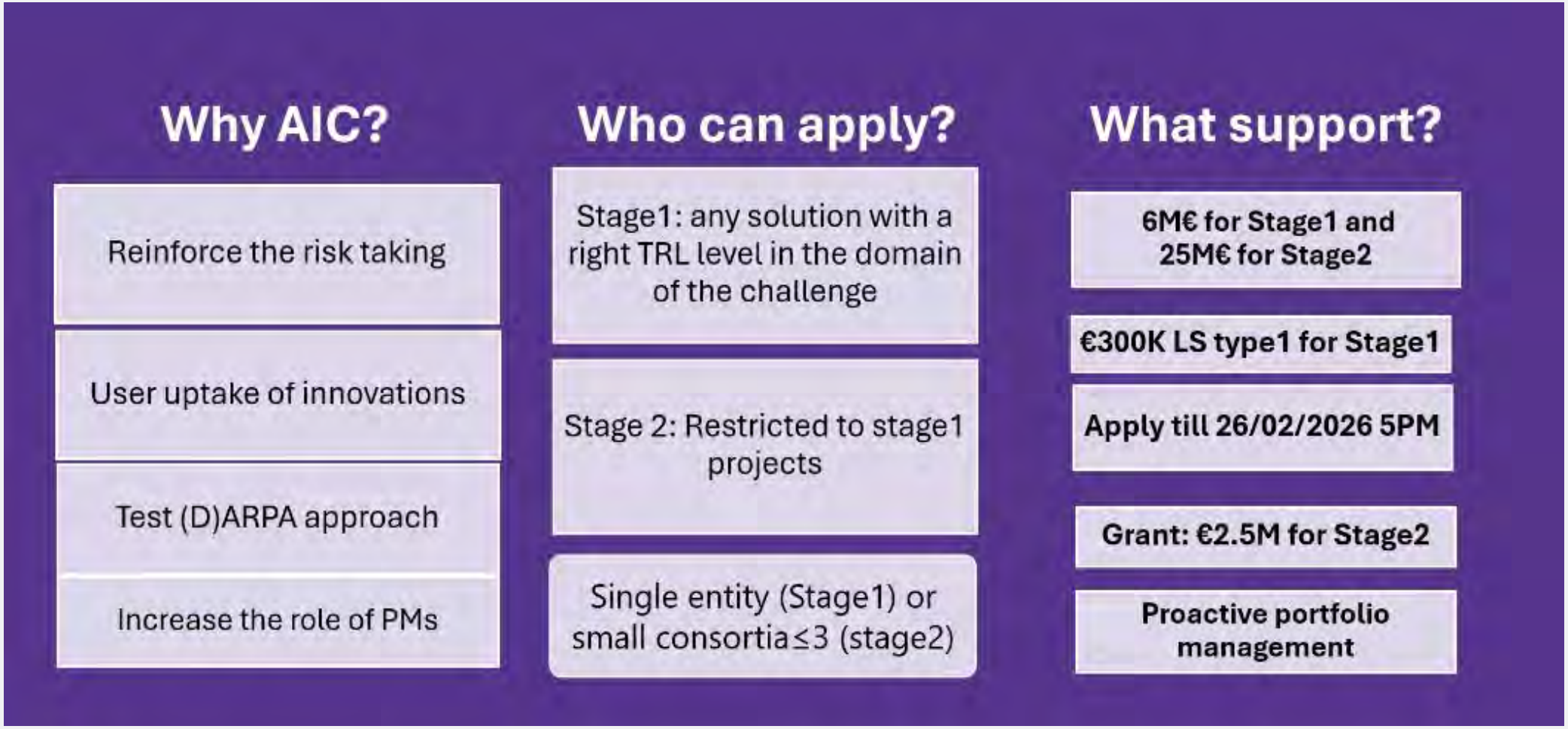
EIC AIC 2026/2027 summary



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EIC AIC – Stage1

- Opening mid Dec 2025 & Closing 26th Feb 2026 @17:00
- Existing prototype or existing results at least TRL4
- Expected to demonstrate feasibility of solution
- Benchmark against state-of-the-art
- Proposal 11 pages for sections 1-3
- Workshop with other Stage 1 projects, experts & users
- EIC PMs will provide strategic guidance & support
- Encourage collaboration & learning across projects & stakeholders
- Allocate at least 1 person month for portfolio activities

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EIC AIC – Stage 2

- Closing 18th June 2027
- Goal – further develop to TRL6/7 – the most promising solutions from Stage 1 and test them in real work & users
- Proposal – 22 pages
- Mono-beneficiary & small consortia <= 3
- Live pitch in front of Jury Chaired by PM
- Results from Stage 1 taken into consideration
- Access to BAS
- Evaluation will access readiness for real world deployment, and the potential for scale-up and market up-take.
- The goal is to inform applicants approx. 6 weeks after 2nd Stage call closure.

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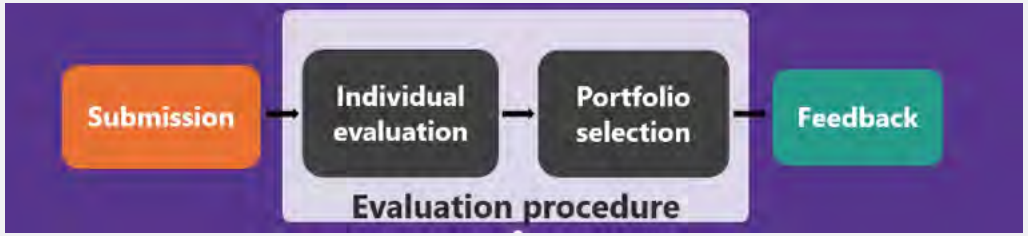
Stage 1 - evaluation & GAP

- Two step evaluation
  - 1 - Each proposal evaluated remotely & scored by 3 independent experts
  - 2 – the PM with evaluation committee will select balanced portfolio
- Accelerated GAP
- All projects should start no later than 1st October 2026



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Step 1- Individual remote phase

- 3 independent expert evaluators to assess each application separately again the 3 award criteria
  - Excellence
  - Impact
  - Quality & Implementation
- Score for each award criterion is average of evaluators scores
- Overall score is sum of the 3 scores of the three award criteria
- All proposals that meet threshold will be considered at Step 2

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Step 2: Portfolio Selection

- The Programme Manager, with portfolio committee to select a suitable portfolio of proposals to be funded
  - From those above threshold
- **Objective** – balance across technologies, use cases and application domains
- Main list of proposals will be established based on
  - Evaluation scores from first step
  - Each proposal's contribution to balanced portfolio of projects for that challenge

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Excellence – Threshold 4/5

- Clarity & relevance of the innovation
  - Problem clearly defined
  - Proposed solution solving the problem in a compelling way
- Breakthrough nature & novelty
- Are expect performance improvement realistic & credible
  - Qualitative
  - Quantitative

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Impact

- Does the innovation have the potential to develop new markets or significantly transform existing ones
- Does the innovation show potential for wider adoption & scale-up
- Is the innovation bringing sufficient added value to demonstrate attractiveness to investors, industry o public sector procurers
- To what extent are the expected commercial impact(s) described in the proposal, credible & substantial within the project and beyond.

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Implementation

- Work plan
  - Realistic
  - Within budget & timeline
- Allocation of resources
  - Appropriate & effective
- Quality of the applicant
  - To what extent has the applicant have the necessary capacity and high-quality expertise for performing all the project tasks and move decisively towards the market

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Please pay attention to instructions!

- Clarity & relevance of the innovation idea
  - Describe what trying to achieve
  - Little or preferably no jargon
  - How done today – limits of current practice
- Breakthrough nature, novelty & suitable of use case
  - What is breakthrough in your approach & compared to state-of-art
  - Why will it be successful
- Potential to develop new markets
  - What difference will it make if successful
- Work plan & resources
  - KPIs – mid and final

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	AIC
Total budget	**€6 million**
Proposals (indicative)	Stage 1: €300.000 Stage 2: up to €2.5 million
Funding rate	100% of eligible costs
Opening	15 November 2025
Deadline	Stage 1: 26 February 2026 at 17.00 CEST Stage 2: 18 June 2027 at 17.00 CEST
Length of proposal	Stage 1: 11-page proposal (part B) Stage 1: 22-page proposal (part B)

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What is the EIC Accelerator?

2026

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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 exisiting one

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

Min TRL6 is required

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

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Who can apply?

- Single Companies – mono-beneficiary
  - NO Universities, NO Research organisations, NO Consortia
  - Subcontracting & affiliated entities are possible
- Natural person(s) or legal entity:
  - From MS or AC intending to est an SME in MS or AC by contract
  - From non-associated third country intending to est SME prior to FULL
- SME according to EU Definition
  - <250 employees, <50M€ turnover or <43 M€ total balance
    - Linked or partner enterprises will be taken into consideration
- Small mid-caps (up to 499 employees) for equity only

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SME Self-assessment tool

EIC Accelerator – funding options

European Innovation Council

Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Grant & Investment

If you need support for development (TRL 6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Investment Only

If you are looking to fill the funding gap for rapid scale-up of your high-risk innovation and you don't need a grant

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EIC Accelerator – funding options

European Innovation Council

Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Grant & Investment

If you ne for develo (TRL → 8), deplo ent sc -up (TRL 9)

Investment Only

If you are fill the fundin for ra scale-up of ir risk innova n and n't need a g

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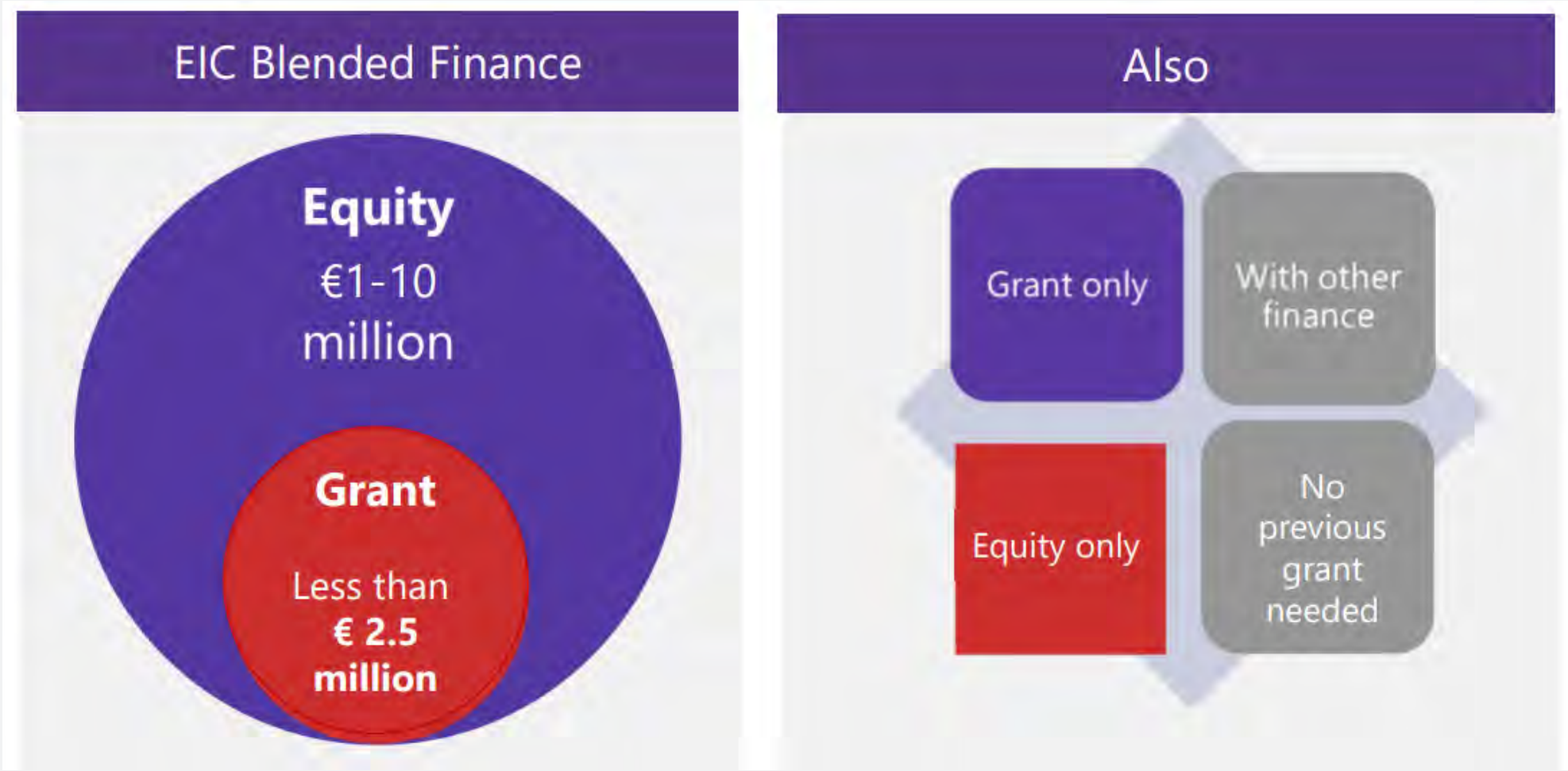
What can SMEs apply for?



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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)

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EIC Accelerator novelties in 2026

- Major simplification and shortening of the evaluation process
- More frequent batching of proposals for evaluation
- Due diligence at the application stage to enable fast investment decisions
- Increase in budget for Open call from 384 to 414M€
- New Challenges
- New Part A submission forms AND simplified Part B submission template

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EIC Accelerator Challenges 2026

ACCELERATOR CHALLENGES	
Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems	€ 50 million
Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants	€ 20 million
Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils	€ 50 million
Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain	€ 50 million
Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation	€ 50 million
Indicative call budget	**€ 220 million**

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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

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[EIC Programme Managers - European Commission (europa.eu)]

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Main Changes to evaluation process

- **Short proposal** – updated submission template with simplified set of questions and improved evaluation criteria
- **Full Proposal**
  - 6 batches annually – first Wednesday / odd numbered months
  - 3 interview sessions – dates TBC
  - Simplified set of questions – 20 pages max
  - Technology expert in-depth assessment PLUS remote interview
    - Inputs to evaluation panel of three experts who decide final score / interview invite
- **Jury Interviews**
  - Fewer proposals going to interview = higher success rate

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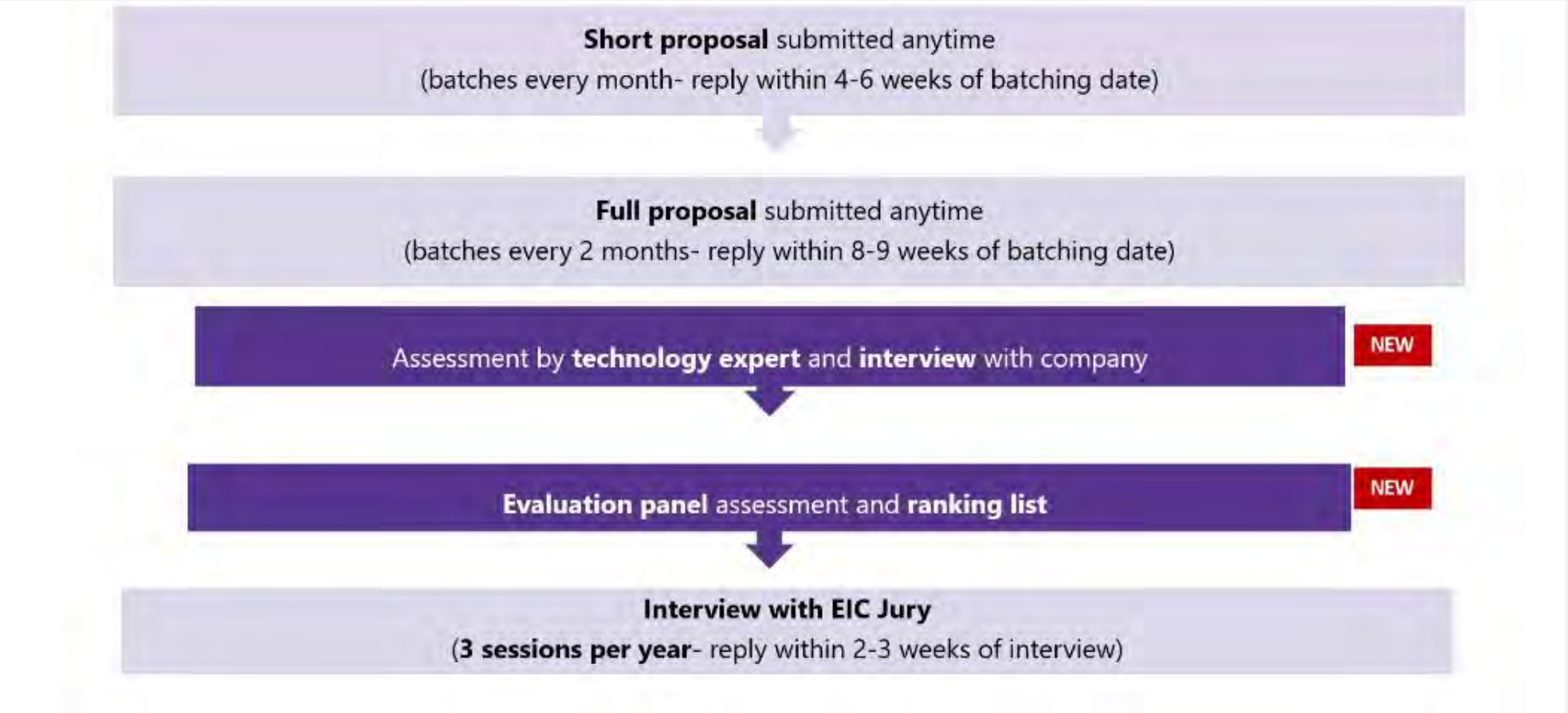
Indicative timing EIC Accelerator



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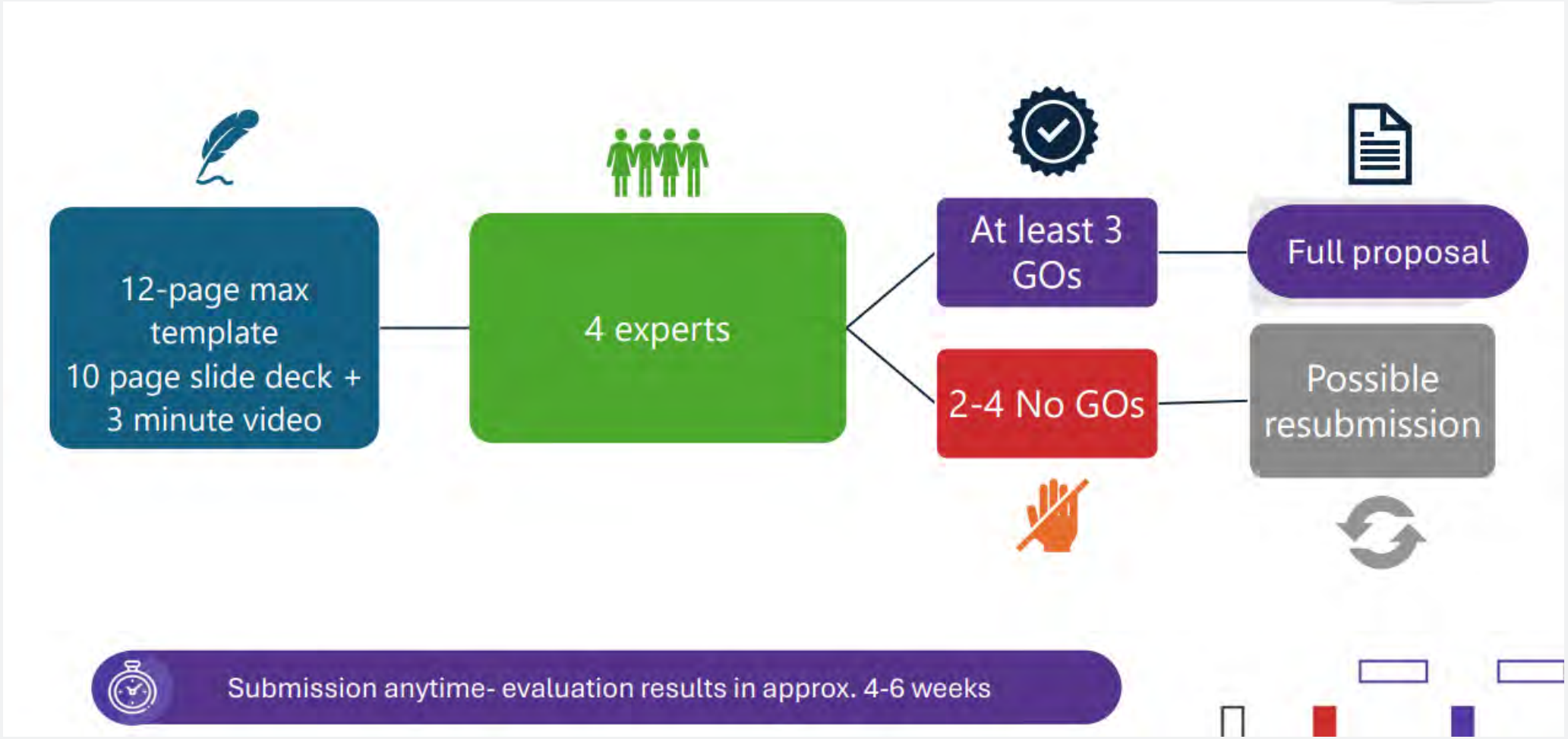
EIC Accelerator - Short



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Short Proposal submission template

- New Part A administration form
- Simplified Part B submission template
  - Focused questions (from 11 to 6)
  - Present applications in factual and evidence-based manner
  - No more questions on company mission/vision, problem & opportunity and broader Impact – now asked at Full Proposal
- IP strategy to be presented in short proposal (but not FTO)
- One-to-one alignment between part B and evaluation questions
- Pitch-deck
- 3 minute video – how do you work as a team, evidence of TRL

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EIC Accelerator – Technology Excellence

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Innovation Assessment – Novelty and breakthrough nature	Is your proposed innovation deep tech in nature stemming from cutting-edge scientific or technological advances? Does it represent a significant improvement in cost or performance compared to existing or alternative solutions? *Please describe how your innovation is deep-tech. Please describe the novelty and disruptive potential of your technology vs existing solutions.*	Is the proposed innovation deep tech in nature stemming from cutting-edge scientific or technological advances; does it represent a significant improvement in cost or performance compared to existing or alternative solutions?
Technology Maturity – TRL	Is there sufficient demonstration that your innovation has completed all aspects of TRL 5 (validation in a relevant environment for the application of the technology)? *Please provide evidence which proves that the elements of TRL 5 have been achieved*	Is there sufficient demonstration that the innovation has completed all aspects of TRL 5 (validation in a relevant environment for the application of the technology)?
IP	Does your innovation have adequate IP protection? What is your intellectual property strategy to enter the market to be addressed? *Please describe it in terms of specific patents (granted or pending) and state of preparation of the FTO*	Does the innovation have adequate IP protection and a sound IP strategy to enter the market to be addressed?

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EIC Accelerator – Market - Impact

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Market Opportunity	What and how big is the total market addressed? What is the realistic expectation of the share of the total market? *Please describe your go-to-market and commercialisation strategy, customer value proposition, your partnerships, who your customers are and why they will adopt your solution.*	What and how big is the total market addressed? What is the realistic expectation of the share of the total market?

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EIC Accelerator - Implementation & Need for Union Support

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Team Capability	Does your company have the necessary team in terms of skills and competences to develop the innovation and scale the company? Which are your company's current skills/competence gaps, including adequate gender balance? Which is your plan to fill the gaps? *Please describe your main staff members and their roles.* *Please include any critical gaps (including gender balance) and how they will be filled.*	Does the company have the necessary team in terms of skills and competences to develop the innovation and scale the company? Have any skills/ competence gaps been identified, including adequate gender balance, with a credible plan to fill the gaps?
Risk level of the investment and leverage effect	Has your company demonstrated early traction with investors? Is the financing requirement to be internationally competitive significantly higher than the amount that market actors can finance alone? *Please describe your traction with investors and detail the timing and size of your future financing round.* *Please explain why you need EIC funding. And why market actors will not commit to fund the full amount of the funding you need.*	Has the company demonstrated early traction with investors? Is the financing requirement significantly higher than the amount that market actors can finance alone?

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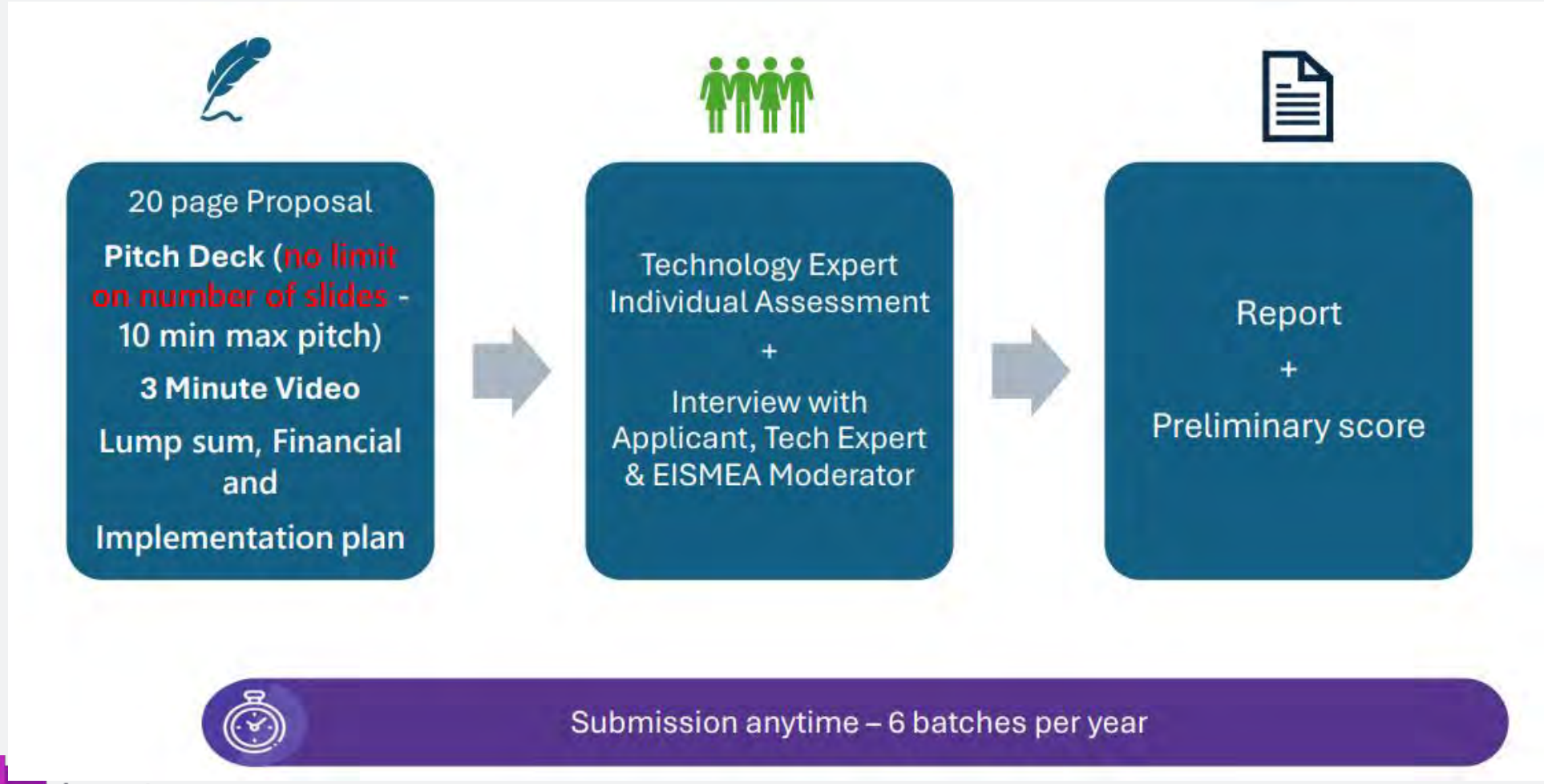
EIC Accelerator
Full Proposal – technology assessment



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EIC Accelerator
Full proposal – simplified template documents

TO BE INCLUDED

- ✓ Narrative of the proposal organised around a questionnaire of maximum 20 pages
- ✓ Implementation plan (for grant only+ blended)
- ✓ Lump sum budget table (for grant only+ blended)
- ✓ Financial plan
- ✓ FTO analysis
- ✓ LOIs (specific template)
- ✓ Pitch Deck (no page limit but 10-minute max duration at interview)
- ✓ 3-minute video

NO LONGER NEEDED

- x Data Management Plan
- x 10 pages of optional extra information,
- x CVs annexed (only links within the proposal)
- x Ownership and control declaration (only for grant only in CRM challenge)

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EIC Accelerator
Full Proposal Criteria

- Alignment between submission questions & evaluation sub-criteria in three main areas:
  - The Technology – excellence
  - The Market – Impact
  - The Implementation plan & need for Union Support
- Same evaluation criteria as short proposals with additional questions
  - Business Model, Broader Impact, EIC Challenges, Team Incentivisation & Risk Management

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EIC Accelerator Technology – Excellence

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Innovation Assessment – Novelty and breakthrough nature	Is your innovation deep tech in nature stemming from cutting-edge scientific or technological advances? Does it represent a significant improvement in cost or performance compared to existing or alternative solutions? *Please describe how your innovation is deep-tech. Please describe the novelty and disruptive potential of your technology vs existing solutions.*	Is the proposed innovation deep tech in nature stemming from cutting-edge scientific or technological advances; does it represent a significant improvement in cost or performance compared to existing or alternative solutions?
Technology Maturity – TRL	Is there sufficient demonstration that your innovation has completed all aspects of TRL 5 (validation in a relevant environment for the application of the technology)? *Please provide evidence of TRL 5 (or higher) validation.*	Is there sufficient demonstration that the innovation has completed all aspects of TRL 5 (validation in a relevant environment for the application of the technology)?
IP	Does your innovation have adequate IP protection? What is your intellectual property strategy to enter the market to be addressed? *Please describe it in terms of patents (granted or pending) and FTO status*	Does the innovation have adequate IP protection and a sound IP strategy to enter the market to be addressed?

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Questions in red are for full proposal only

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EIC Accelerator
Market - Impact 1/2

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Market Opportunity	What and how big is the total market to be addressed by your innovation? What is the realistic expectation of the share of the total market you plan to achieve? *Please describe your go-to-market and commercialisation strategy to scale-up your innovation.*	What and how big is the total market addressed? What is the realistic expectation of the share of the total market?
Business and Revenue model and growth strategy	Which are your detailed business model and revenue strategy? Which are your financial projections? *Please describe the assumptions behind your business model and how you will achieve your planned revenues*	Are the detailed business model and revenue strategy sound? Are the financial projections realistic?
Broader impact	Will your innovation contribute to European technological leadership and/or reduce dependencies on other regions? Will your innovation have broader environmental or social impacts? *Clarify how it reduces dependency on non-EU sources for critical technologies or raw materials*	Will the proposed innovation contribute to European technological leadership and/or reduce dependencies on other regions? Will the innovation have broader environmental or social impacts?

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EIC Accelerator Market – Impact 2/2

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Challenge Alignment (ONLY FOR CHALLENGES)	How will your innovation contribute to achieve the objectives of the Challenge to which you are applying?	Does the innovation contribute to the expected Challenge outcomes?
STEP Impact (ONLY FOR CHALLENGES WITHIN SCOPE OF STEP)	Will your innovation have a clear and measurable impact on the technology areas identified by the STEP Communication, either by: - Bringing to the Union's internal market an innovative, emerging and current-edge innovation with significant economic potential; or - Reducing or preventing strategic dependencies of the Union. (Note: applicants from Associated Countries will need to demonstrate contributions to the EU internal market or strategic dependencies). *Which metrics will you use to measure such impact?*	Does the innovation have a clear and measurable positive impact either by: Bringing to the Union's internal market an innovative, emerging and current-edge innovation with significant economic potential; or Reducing or preventing strategic dependencies of the Union

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EIC Accelerator
Implementation & need for Union Support 1/2

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Team Capability	Does your company have the necessary team in terms of skills and competences to develop the innovation and scale the company? How is the governance of you company and how is your team incentivised? Which are your company's current skills/competence gaps, including adequate gender balance? Which is your plan to fill the gaps? *Please describe who are the key team members, what are their relevant competencies and how are they incentivised (e.g.: ESOP plan).* *Please describe how the company is governed and how you take decisions.* *Please include any critical gaps (including gender balance) and how they will be filled.*	Does the company have the necessary team in terms of skills and competences to develop the innovation and scale the company? Does the company have adequate governance and is the team sufficiently incentivised? Have any skills/ competence gaps been identified, including adequate gender balance, with a credible plan to fill the gaps?"
Risk level of the investment and leverage effect	Has your company demonstrated early traction with investors? Is the financing requirement to be internationally competitive significantly higher than the amount that market actors can finance alone? FOR BLENDED FINANCE AND EQUITY ONLY: will the EIC Fund investment be able to catalyse other public and private investments with a period of 6 months to 2 years? FOR GRANT-ONLY: Can you demonstrate access to the resources needed to commercialise and scale-up the innovation? Can you company demonstrate the need for EIC grant support? *Please describe your traction with investors and detail the timing and size of your future financing round.* *Please explain why you need EIC funding. And why market actors will not commit to fund the full amount of the funding you need.* FOR GRANT ONLY: please describe how you will commercialise and scale-up the innovation	Has the company demonstrated early traction with investors? Is the financing requirement significantly higher than the amount that market actors can finance alone? FOR BLENDED FINANCE AND EQUITY ONLY: will the EIC Fund investment be able to catalyse other public and private investments with a period of 6 months to 2 years? FOR GRANT ONLY: Can the applicant demonstrate access to the resources needed to commercialise and scale-up the innovation? Can the company demonstrate the need for EIC grant support?

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UK – Describe how you will commercialise & scale-up the innovation

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EIC Accelerator
Implementation & need for Union Support 2/2

Topic	Submission question	Evaluation sub-criteria
Risk Management	What are the main risks (technological, market, financial, regulatory) which may impact the success of your project? Which are your planned measures to mitigate them? *Please indicate any technological, market, financial and regulatory risks and how you plan to mitigate them.* *Please describe how your innovation is compliant with industry standards and how you are taking into account future regulations.*	Have the main risks (technological, market, financial, regulatory) been comprehensively identified, together with specific measures to mitigate them?
Implementation Plan	FOR GRANT ONLY AND BLENDED FINANCE PROPOSALS ONLY *Please fill in:* *- Template with description of work packages and deliverables, including milestones, resources and timings.*	FOR GRANT ONLY AND BLENDED FINANCE PROPOSALS ONLY Is there a clear implementation plan with defined milestones, work packages and deliverables, together with realistic resources and timings? Are the milestones measurable and appropriate for tracking progress? LUMP-SUM: Are the estimated costs in the work packages reasonable and non-excessive?

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Due Diligence / Technology Expert Interviews

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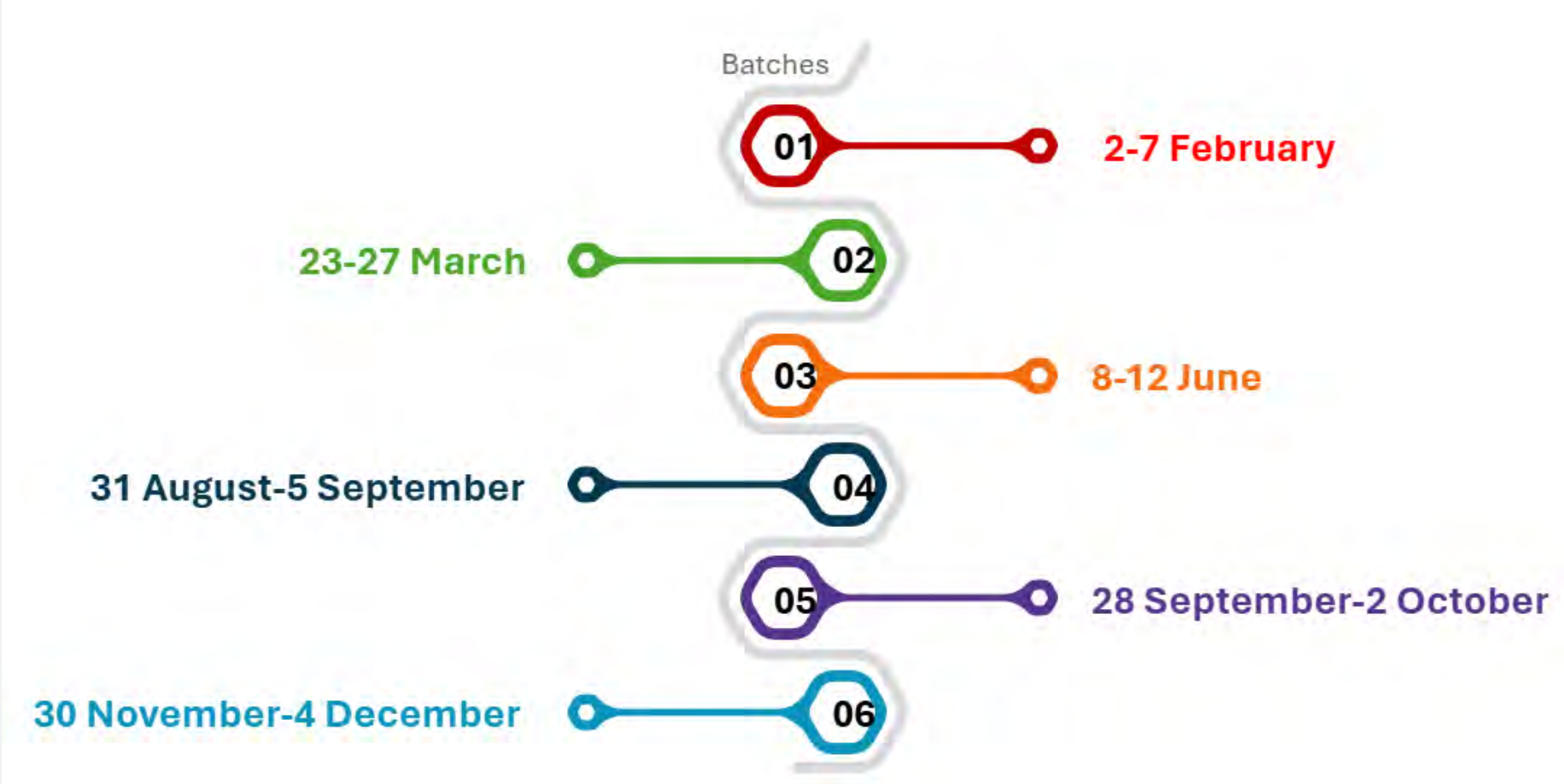
Technology Expert Interview Weeks



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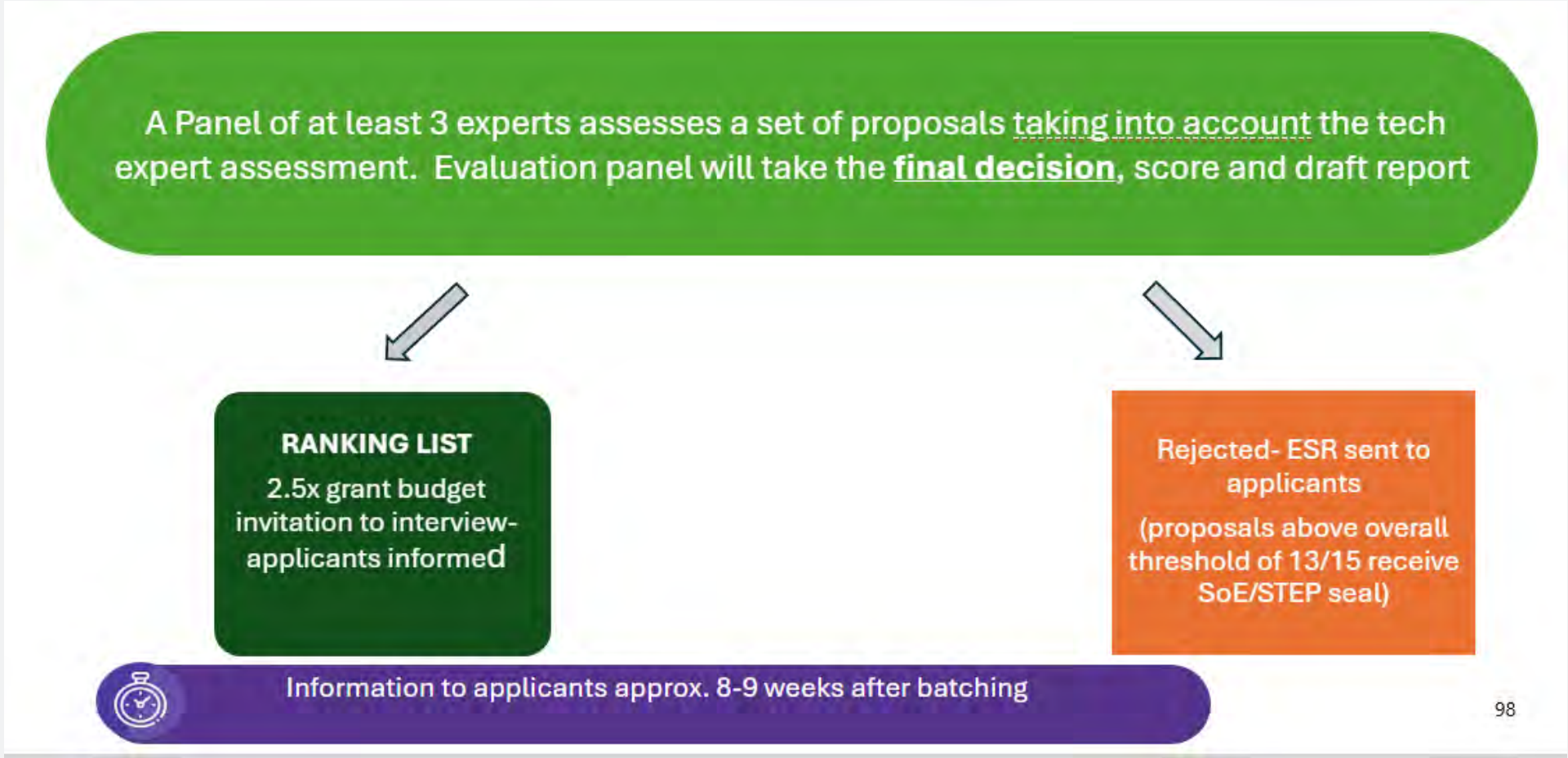
EIC Accelerator Full - Evaluation panel



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EIC Accelerator
Ranking + invitation to interview

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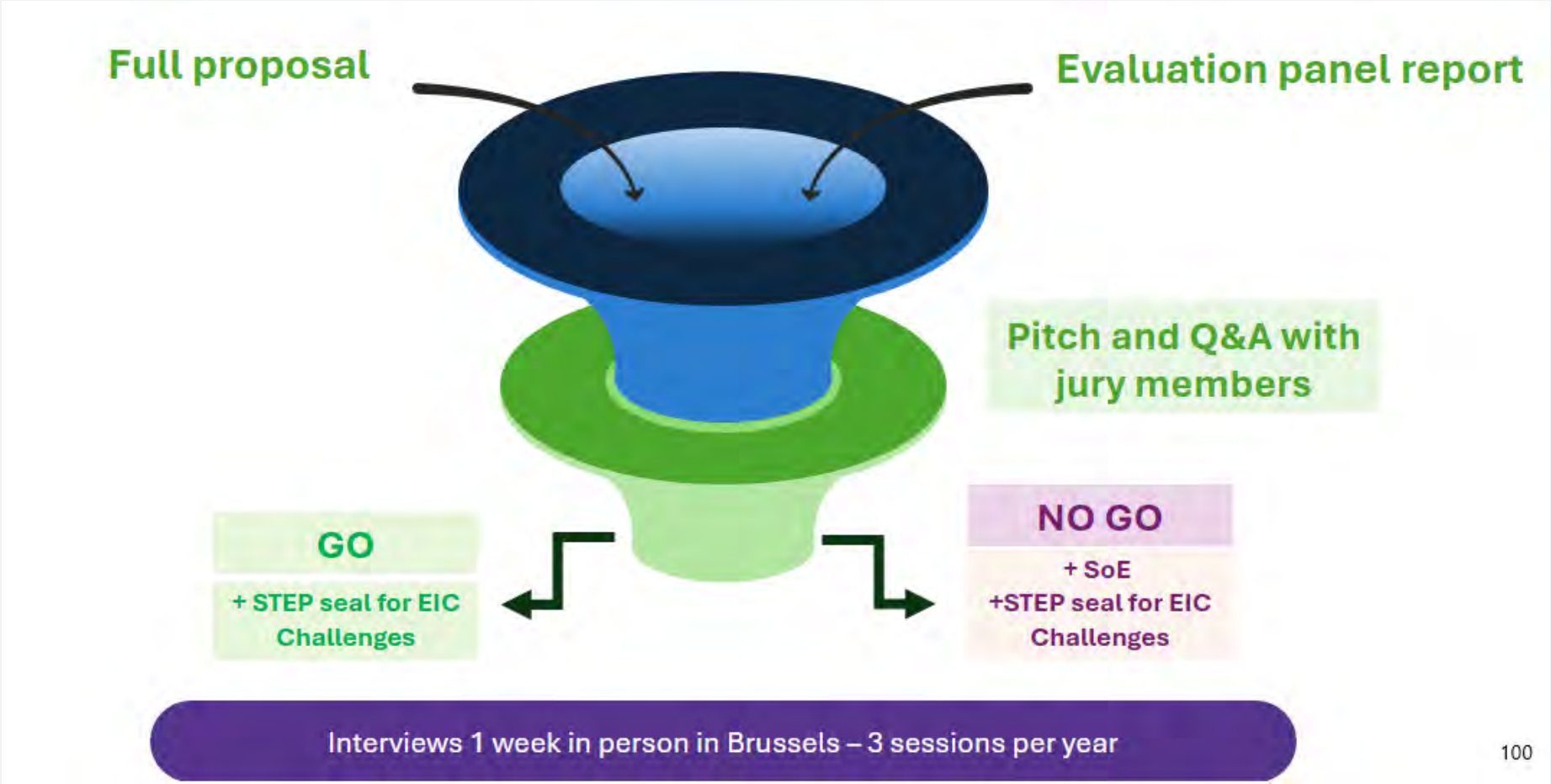
EIC Accelerator - Interview with EIC Jury



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EIC Interview: pitch your innovation

- **Pitch your innovation** to the EIC Jury Members composed of serial entrepreneurs, innovation specialists and senior investors

- **Answer the questions** from the EIC Jury Members

- If selected, you will **sign** the contract

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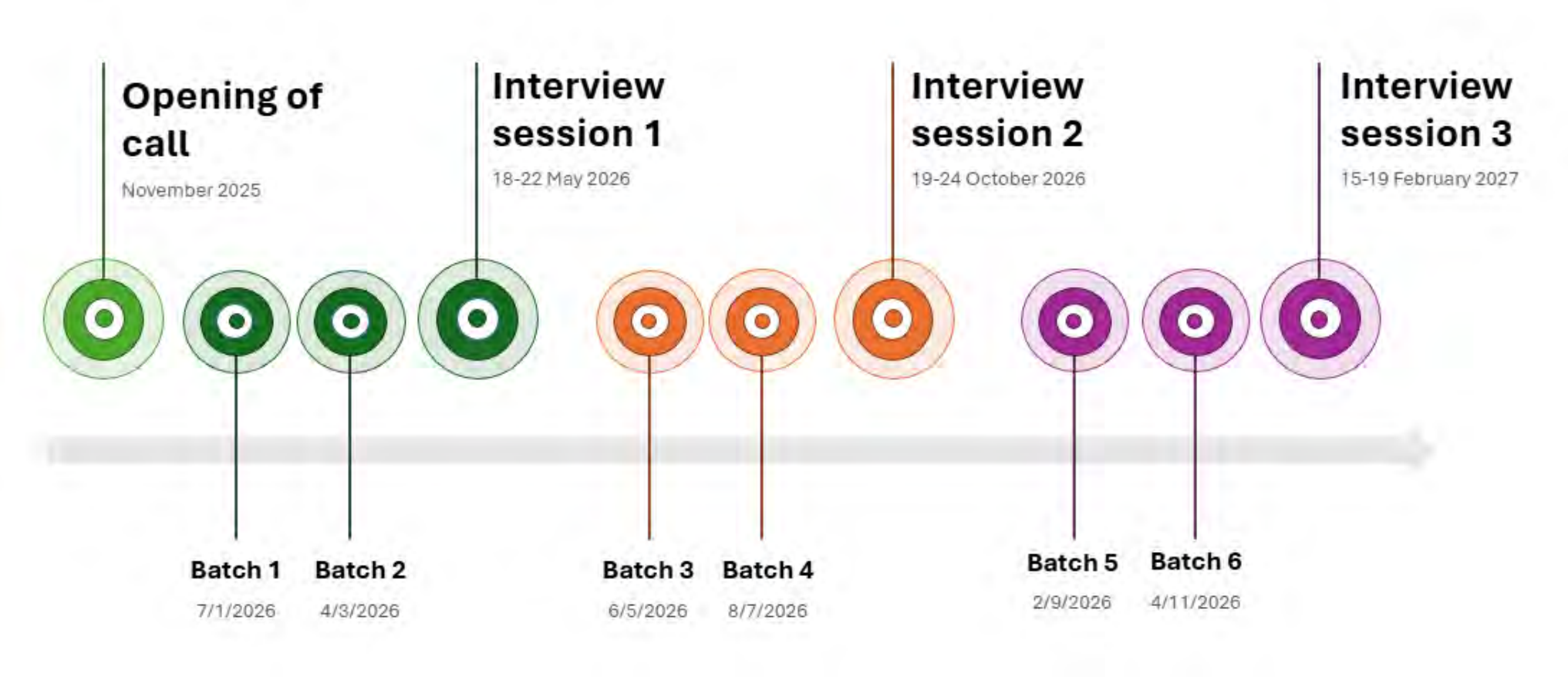
EIC Accelerator - Timings in 2026



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EIC Accelerator – Conflict of Interest

- Names of experts will be published on the EIC Website
- Applicants will be able to name 3 experts that they do not want to access their proposal
- Experts are required to signal and COI when proposals are allocated
- EISMEA will carry our usual COI checks.

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EIC Accelerator
Limits on submission to Full Proposal

- If you succeed with your short proposal under the 2025 or 2026 Work Programme you can submit full proposal in 2026 or 2027 (dates not yet established)
- Proposals which submitted and received a GO in 2024 and have already submitted a full proposal, will be eligible to re-submit in 2026
  - As long as remain within resubmission limits.
  - May apply three times for the duration of Horizon Europe

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EIC Accelerator Stats

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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 80 centaurs (combined valuation of 47€ Billion) , 6 have a valuation above €500 m including 8 over 1Bn€ (Unicorns)
- 24% of female founders in the EIC Fund Portfolio

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EIC Accelerator Challenges

2026

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EIC Accelerator Challenges 2026

ACCELERATOR CHALLENGES	
Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems	€ 50 million
Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants	€ 20 million
Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils	€ 50 million
Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain	€ 50 million
Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation	€ 50 million
Indicative call budget	**€ 220 million**

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Advanced Materials for renewable Energy & energy Storage Systems

- **Context**
  - We need to develop a new generation of advanced materials with added functions that act as alternatives to Critical Raw Materials (CRMs)
- **Objective**
  - Start-ups & SMEs with added functionalities & improved performance for energy storage or energy generation / harvesting systems
  - Targeted systems address Renewable Energy Systems, mid/long term energy storage or energy generation/harvesting systems

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Advanced Materials for renewable Energy & energy Storage Systems

- **Scope**
  - Development of advanced materials for renewable energy or energy storage systems, encompassing the design, synthesis, characterisation, up-scaling & production
- **Expected outcomes & impacts**
  - Develop along value chain
  - More diversified and digitally driven value chain
  - Accelerate market uptake
  - Strengthening the EU Value chain of advanced materials for the energy sector

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Alternative Concepts & Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants

- Context
  - Fusion Energy holds the potential to revolutionise energy production but faces many technological, materials and economic barriers
- Objective
  - Applicants must focus on one or more elements of the fusion value chain including:
    - Alternative concepts
    - Advanced materials
    - Sustainable & stable fuel production
    - New laser technologies
    - New components / systems for Plasma
    - Magnets
    - Advanced digital technologies; targets for inertial confinement fusion
    - Others Key enabling technologies will also be considered

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Alternative Concepts & Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants

- N.B. – EIC Accelerator but applicants can be at TRL4-6 at point of application
- Regardless of area addressed demonstrate how TRL is advanced in one or more critical bottlenecks. Including cost-effectiveness, design, construction and operation of commercially viable fusion power plants.
- **Scope**
  - Advancing new fusion reactor concepts and key enabling technologies for fusion power plants.
- **Outcomes**
  - By developing and scaling up breakthrough innovations for fusion energy; expected to:
    - Keep technology leadership & build value chain
    - Enhance competitiveness attract new deep tech start-ups etc etc etc

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Biotech for regenerating Agricultural Soils

- Context
  - EU Soils are under increasing pressure from various sources, including contamination by microplastics, heavy metals, persistent organic pollutants as well as the inappropriate use of fertilisers,
- Objective - Reinforcing soil-based agricultural production, encompassing food, feed and biomass through biotech deep tech driven solutions that will:
  - Improve soil health and enhance quality of agricultural products
  - Address soil pollution to restore, enhance and protect soil
  - Reduce dependency on hazardous chemicals, enhance soil fertility and health while minimising environmental impacts

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Biotech for regenerating Agricultural Soils

- Scope – one or more of the following areas
  - Bioremediation technologies
  - Soil and Soil microbiome management technologies
  - Renewable fertilisers and bio stimulants
- Outcomes
  - Scale deep-tech solutions that will improve soil health and the sustainability, efficiency and resilience of the European Agricultural Sector, which spans food, feed and biomas.
  - Will also support challenges linked to climat echange and environment stresses

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Boosting the European Critical Raw materials value chain

- Context
  - Secure access to CRMs will reduce Europe's dependence on unreliable suppliers, introducing circularity and make the most of EU's limited resources
- Objective – in one or more of the following areas:
  - Exploration of critical and strategic raw materials
  - Extraction, processing and metallurgy refining for the supply of primary critical and strategic raw materials
  - Recycling from end-of-life products for the supply of secondary critical and strategic raw materials
- N.B. life cycle analysis (LCA) required

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Boosting the European Critical Raw materials value chain

- Scope
  - Deep-sea mining does not fall within the scope of this call
  - Strengthening the supply of primary critical and strategic raw materials in the EU
  - Increasing the recovery rate of critical and strategic raw materials as set out in the CRMA
- Outcomes
  - Expected to contribute to the secure supply of sustainability produce primary and secondary critical and strategic raw materials for EU industrial Chains
  - Help strengthen the EU mining value chain

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Deep tech for Climate Adaptation

- Context
  - Europe is warming faster than any other continent
  - 4 key risks for Europe
    - Mortality and morbidity of people and changes in the Ecosystem due to heat
    - Heat and drought stress on crops
    - Water scarcity, and
    - Flooding and sea level rise
- Objectives
  - To improve Europe's Climate resilience by scaling up companies and solutions and connect them to the Mission's regions and local authorities

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Deep tech for Climate Adaptation

- Scope
  - One of the following priorities
  - Combating extreme heat in urban environments
  - Climate Smart agriculture
  - Combatting water scarcity
  - Flood & coastal protection
- Outcomes
  - Develop and commercially scale timely solutions needed across Europe to adapt to key climate risks.

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Grant Applications

How do I complete them – what are the evaluators looking for.

Criteria of an application

Quality:

Quality of the Consortium
Added value through collaboration
Realistic and clearly defined project management & planning
Reasonable cost structure

Impact:

Market size
Market access & risks
Competitive advantage
Clear and realistic commercialisation plans
Economic, Environmental, and Societal Impact

Excellence:

Degree of innovation
New applied knowledge
Level of Technical Challenge
Technical achievability & risk

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What should the content look like

- Ensure the synergies between the consortium members is demonstrated 1+1 can equal 3
- Show how risks and benefits are distributed
- Ensure you have the appropriate resources
- If there is a level of subcontracting outside does this show lack of the skills/expertise
- What are the market demands, environments and any barriers to entry
- Who are your competition both direct and indirect
- State of the Art in that you are aware of the current trends
- Address the Social Development Goals - THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development
- Generation of applicable knowledge and IP strategy
- The technical challenge – be ambitious but be realistic
- Technical risks – the likelihood and mitigation
- Factor in EDI
- Present the proposal properly in that it flows, it's concise and not overstated and that it shows confidence not arrogance
- Allow time to complete
- Study feedback to refine the next time, scope change and if required start fresh.

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EIC Board Observations on the use of Consultants

- EIC Board observations on the use of consultants for the EIC applications - European Innovation Council
- Applicants are free to seek consultancy services
- BUT success is possible without them
- Highlights the main support options, such as National Contact Points (NCPs), University TTOs, insights from previous applicants, BAS and Enterprise Europe Network (EEN)
- Code of Conduct - ethical standards – verify adherence
- Read the small print

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Working with Consultants/ bid writers

- Read the small print
- Contract considerations – be cautious of exclusivity clauses, IP rights and the nature of consultancy contracts
- Assess their capabilities, compare multiple offers, consider sector specific expertise & ensure compliance with Code of Conduct.
- Be aware of success rates
- Applicants must remain engaged and responsible for applications

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Evaluators & Jury

Melina Zempila, and Christina Nesheva

Science and Technology Facilities Council

RAL Space

EIC Accelerator

The Villain’s perspective

Melina Zempila
Atmospheric/Environmental Physicist
EO Scientist

RAL Space

Supporting Breakthrough Innovation in Europe: Insights from the European Innovation Council (EIC) Accelerator Landscape

Important note to audience:

The guidance I will share today is based solely on my personal point of view and experience in the innovation ecosystem. It does not represent official EIC policy, nor does it reflect internal evaluation procedures or confidential information

Objective: Provide a high-level understanding of how the EIC supports deep-tech innovation, and share general, publicly available best practices for preparing strong proposals — without revealing any internal evaluation procedures.

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The EIC in Brief

Part of **Horizon Europe**, supporting high-impact, high-risk innovation.

Designed to help companies bring **first-of-a-kind technologies** to global markets.

Funds deep-tech with strong commercial and societal potential.

Main instruments:

- Pathfinder
- Transition
- Accelerator

https://landing.winnovart.com/eic-accelerator-overview-of-challenges-2023

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The Role of Evaluators

Evaluators typically:

- Review proposals **against published criteria**:

  excellence, impact, implementation.
- Assess the novelty, potential, feasibility, and team strengths.
- Provide **independent, impartial** assessments.

Evaluators **do not** disclose:

- Internal discussions
- Scoring methodologies beyond what is published
- Proposal outcomes or specific applicant feedback

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Core Guidance for Applicants [1/6]

1. Write Clearly and Use Plain English

This is extremely important and often underestimated:

- Not all evaluators are native English speakers.
- Proposals must be easy to understand **on the first read**.
- Avoid overly technical or academic language unless necessary.
- When technical terms must be used, **explain them**.
- Highlight key points: underline, bold.

Good practice:

If a sentence can be written more simply, write it more simply.

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Core Guidance for Applicants [2/6]

2. Avoid vague or Ambiguous Statements

- Be precise and concrete.
- Don’t use generic claims like “revolutionary”, “unprecedented”, or “market-changing” without proof.
- Every statement that affects the evaluation should be supported or clearly explained

Good practice:

If a statement could be interpreted in more than one way, clarify your intent.

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Core Guidance for Applicants [3/6]

3. Support All Claims With Evidence

Evaluators expect verifiable, tangible information:

- Provide data, figures, benchmarks, pilot results, or customer feedback
- Reference credible sources when possible
- **EXPLAIN** how each piece of evidence supports your argument

Good practice:

Instead of writing: "Our solution saves significant energy"

Write:

"Lab tests indicate a 27% energy reductions compared to the current industry standard (reference x)."

Core Guidance for Applicants [4/6]

4. Explain All Figures Clearly

Numbers are powerful – but only if their meaning is clear:

- Explain what each number represents and why it matters
- Avoid presenting figures without context or methodology
- Always specify units, sample sizes, assumptions, and sources
- If projections are used, explain the basis behind them.

Remember:

A figure without explanation can cause confusion and weaken your credibility

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Core Guidance for Applicants [5/6]

5. Do Not Make the Evaluator Guess

One of the most important principles:

•Do not leave gaps that force evaluators to interpret or infer your intention

•Do not assume that evaluators know your industry's specifics

•Avoid presenting info without explaining why it is relevant

•If there is a strategic choice or design decision, justify it

Good practice:

Clarity eliminates doubt – doubt always lowers a score

Science and Technology Facilities Council

Core Guidance for Applicants [5/6]

6. Build Strong Risk Registry

Use clear, structured categories:

- Tech risks (performance, integration, durability)
- Market risks (adoption barriers, competition, timing)
- Regulatory risks (certifications, compliance requirements)
- Financial risks (cost overruns, funding gaps)
- Operational risks (supply chain, scaling, manufacturing)
- Team risks (skills, recruitment, key personnel dependency)

Good practice:

Be pragmatic and honest, do not underestimate the risk

UKRI Science and Technology Facilities Council

Using AI Responsibly When Preparing a Proposal

These uses are constructive if applicants are comfortable doing (personal pov):

- **Improving clarity and grammar**
  AI can help refine English, restructure long sentences, or ensure readability.
- **Brainstorming structure**
  It can help applicants understand what elements typically belong in sections such as impact, market analysis, or implementation.
- **Checking logic and coherence**
  AI can identify inconsistencies or help ensure the narrative flows clearly.
- **Summarising background information**
  For example: extracting key points from literature, reports, or standards (without copying text into the proposal).
- **Helping non-native speakers improve communication**
  AI can make proposals more accessible by simplifying language while preserving content.

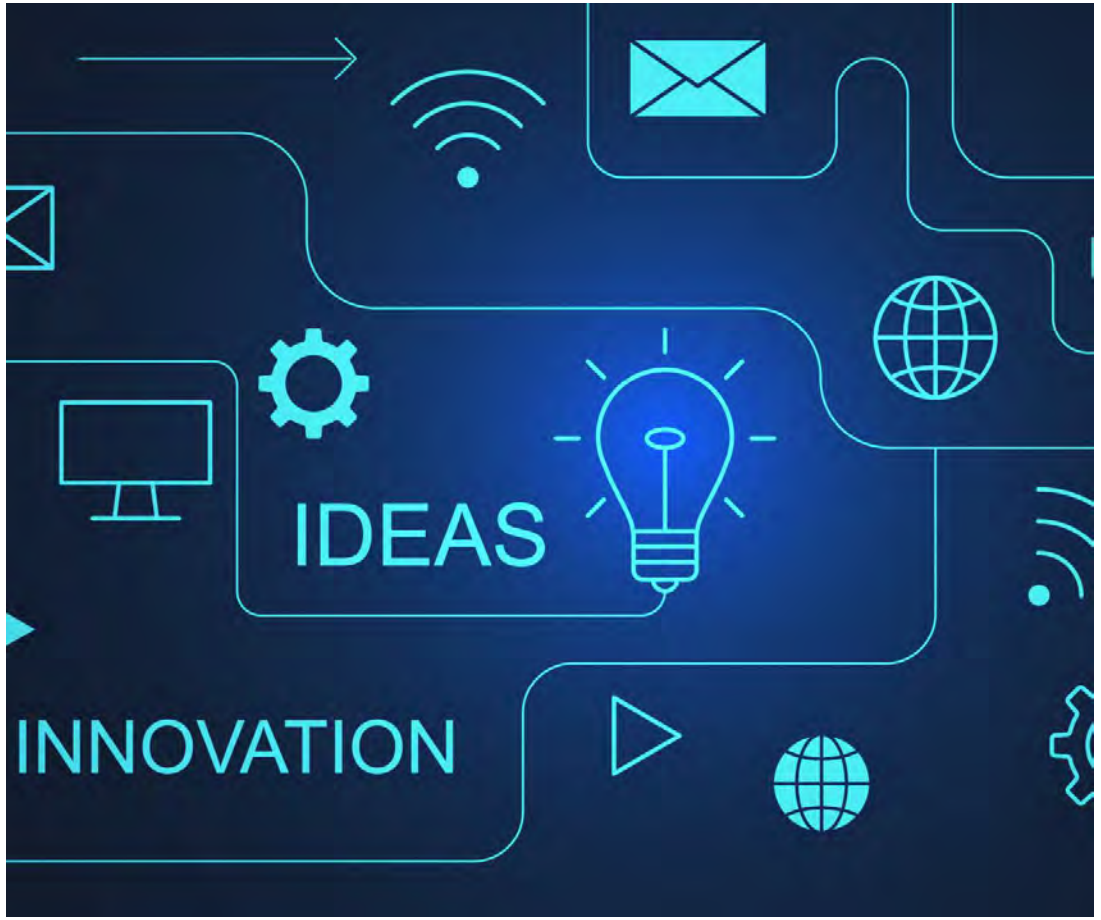
Remember …

...You are the best advocate for your innovation.

But it's your responsibility to present it in a way that is

digestible, credible, and bullet-proof.

- **Keep it simple -** Clarity always beats complexity.
- **Keep it to the point -** Every sentence should have a purpose.
- **Keep it realistic -** Ambition is important, but credibility is essential.



https://ar.inspiredpencil.com/pictures-2023/innovation-and-creativity-wallpaper

https://www.dreamstime.com/success-inspirational-message-go-get-white-chalk-blackboard-public-domain-image-free-82948674

Science and Technology Facilities Council

How to prepare for an EIC interview

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

20 November 2025

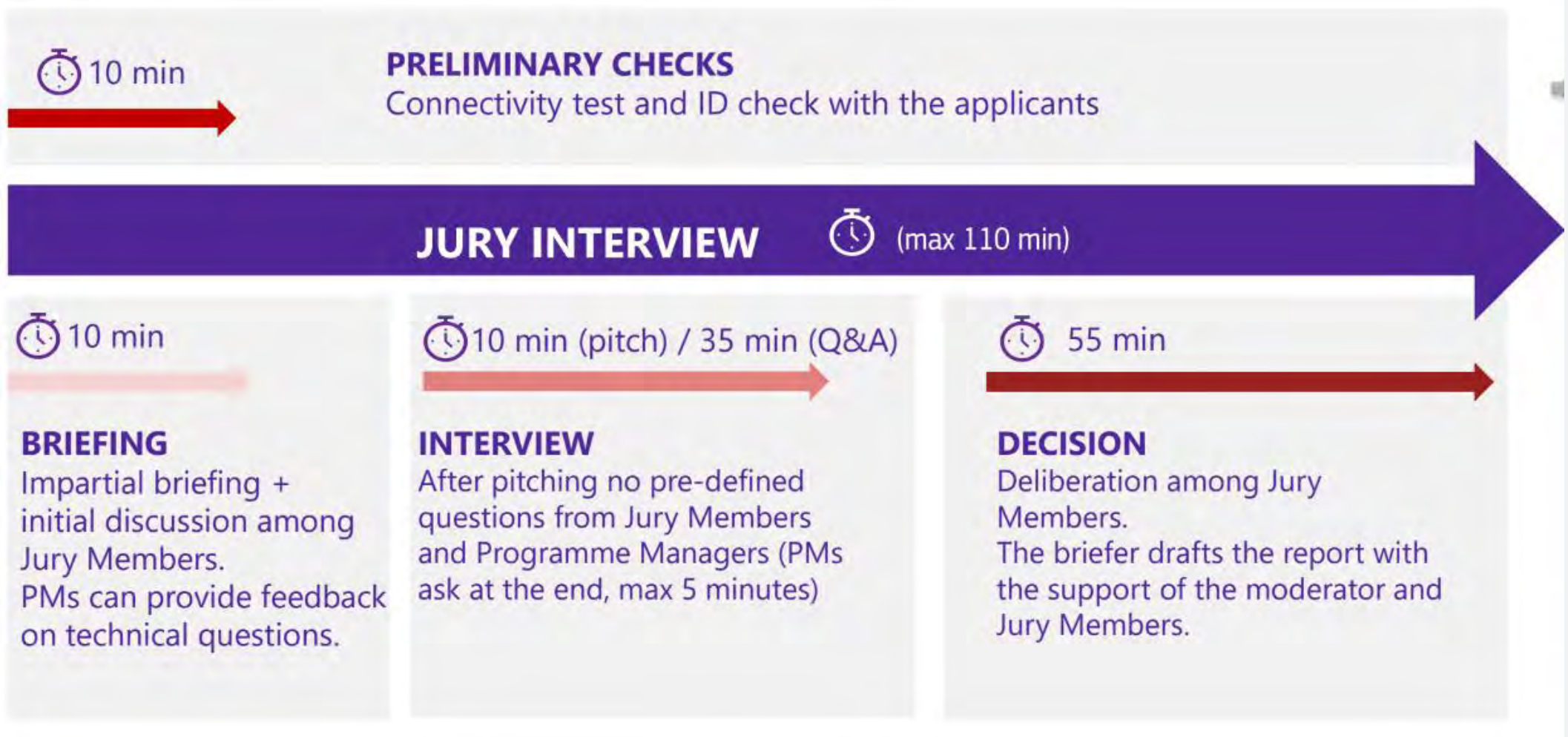
Interview practice & tips

- Relevant to
  - EIC Transition,
  - EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges
  - EIC Accelerator
- Be prepared
- Jury Members - EIC Jury Members - European Innovation Council - European Commission

Innovate UK

EUROPEAN UNION #HorizonEU HORIZON EUROPE

Interview Structure – 2 hours



Innovate UK

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Feedback from Jury Members

Provide clarity on

- Technical milestones
- IPR ownership
- Budget and allocation of resources
- Technical and business risks
- Current and expected end TRL
- Interdependence of WPs and tasks
- The future exploiting team
- Credibility of the business objectives

UKRI Innovate UK

Be well prepared for interview

- Provide clarity on:
  - Technical & business objectives, milestones, KPIs & Risks
    - Credibility, values etc
  - IPR ownership – how will money be made
  - Budget & resource allocation
  - Current & expected TRL
  - Interdependence of WPs and tasks
  - The future exploiting team

UKRI Innovate UK

Interview Questions

- No pre-defined questions
- Be prepared for 18-25 questions
- All Jury Members will ask questions
  - Innovation, Product, Solution – TRL
  - Scientific findings & State of the Art
  - Business Model, business plan, competitors, payment models, revenues
  - Team and role of (Consortium) members
  - Previously funded projects and motivation to apply
  - Certification or regulatory aspects – IPR & how you will make money
  - Risks associated with your project

UKRI Innovate UK

Business Acceleration Services (BAS)

Innovate UK

EUROPEAN UNION #HorizonEU HORIZON EUROPE

BAS Aims for EIC

- View is - Financial Support is beginning of journey
- Mechanisms to help bring innovations to the market & grow your business

- Some are compulsory
- All are worth considering

- BAS - European Innovation Council - European Commission

UKRI Innovate UK

EUROPEAN UNION #HorizonEU HORIZON EUROPE

Introduction to

Innovate UK Business Growth

Presenter Introduction

Name: Andy Bates

Job Title: Innovation Lead: International Ecosystems

My role is to understand how international ecosystems can support IUK Business Growth clients to grow and scale

andy.bates@iukbg.ukri.org

www.linkedin.com/in/andybates13

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Growth

Innovate UK Business Growth

The indispensable partner for ambitious innovators

97% of clients would recommend us

94% report that our service has had a positive impact on their growth

We equip innovation-focused businesses to **make the best strategic choices** and **harness the right resources** to accelerate their growth.

Over 6,000 innovators benefit from our **intensive and tailored advisory support** to achieve their ambitious goals every year.

We are in their corner – do you want us in yours? Visit iukbg.ukri.org to learn more.

"Innovate UK Business Growth gave us the tools to grow with confidence"
Natali Georgieva, Co-founder at ALIANAz

Who do we support?

- Ambitious, innovation-focused businesses that are growing strongly, or that have high growth potential
- Registered at Companies House with up to 250 employees
- Management teams motivated to engage fully with us to help achieve growth milestones
- Businesses with or without Innovate UK grants

A service designed around your needs

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Growth

Innovate UK Business Growth

Innovate UK provides high-quality strategic advisory support as a partner to its clients. The Innovate UK Business Growth service uniquely combines:

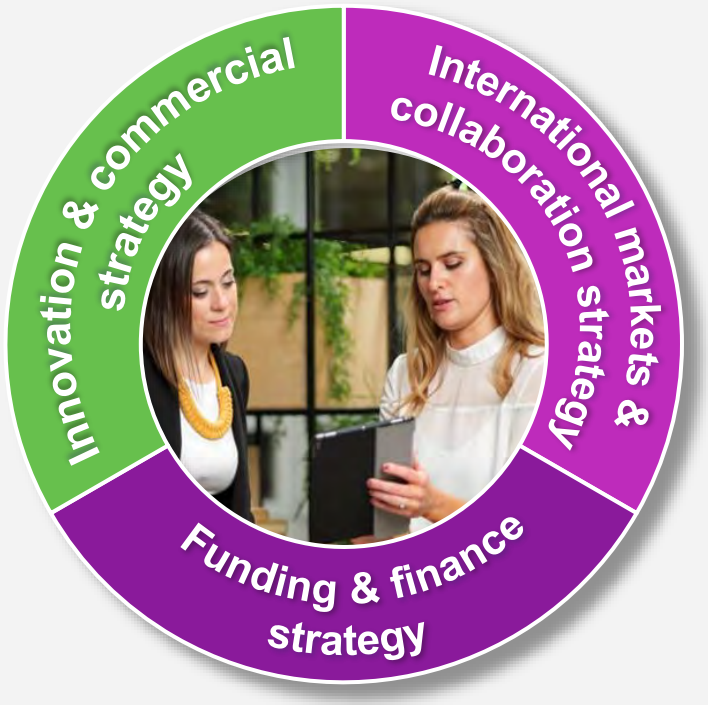
A comprehensive spectrum of innovation and commercial expertise

A single access point to the most significant regional, national and international innovation resources

1:1 support that is flexible and tailored in focus and timescale to the individual needs of innovative businesses

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Growth

Specialists with comprehensive expertise to help you hone your strategy



Over 450 innovation and growth specialists nationwide, including 43 scaleup directors, who are also plugged into technical experts across Innovate UK and beyond.

With the commercial acumen and innovation experience to help clients hone their growth strategies and accelerate their progress in three broad areas.

"Our specialist's knowledge and experience…has been incredibly helpful and comforting. The…ups and downs can be tough but having that consistent sounding board has made a huge difference."

Jason Mashinchi, Managing Director at Cambridge Kinetics

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Growth

Meet Innovation & Growth Specialist Steph Aldridge

- Science degree from Cambridge University
- Ten years in management consultancy – support for FTSE 250, startups and due diligence for VCs and PE
- Operations director for market research business
- Commercial director of biotech business – started, secured finance & scaled

Now a Senior Innovation & Growth Specialist, supporting the likes of ImmuONE: see video

Steph believes the following qualities are important for her work: A passion for coaching, lived experience and business expertise

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Growth

Meet Scaleup Director Mark Harrison

- **Space Tech Pioneer** – 10 years in European space programmes; NASA award for ROSAT mission.
- **Global Telecom Leader** – Exec VP Sales & Marketing; roles in Brussels, New York, and beyond.
- **Entrepreneur & Innovator** – Founded software ventures; scaled revenues to €15m across 35 countries.
- **Commercial Strategist** – Led SaaS and hardware businesses; fluent in German, sharp communicator.

Mark has been a Scaleup Director since January 2022. A technologist, specialising in Commercialisation and Productization of Innovation with a focus on SaaS based businesses.

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Growth

Innovate UK Business Growth support initiatives

Our advisory support is complemented by a range of impactful initiatives available to specialist-supported Innovate UK Business Growth clients nationally, depending on business need.

- Intellectual Property Audit (IPO)
- Design for Growth
- Standards & Compliance (BSI)
- RTO/Catapult grant
- Peer Networks (SUI)
- Secure Innovation Security Review (NPSA)

- Enterprise Europe Network
- Global Partnerships & Brokerage
- Global Business Innovation Programme (GBIP)
- Global Incubator Programme (GIP)
- Global Explorers
- Horizon Europe Pump Priming

- Invest-Ability investment readiness support

Support initiatives for Scaleup Programme clients

- NED scheme
- Scaleup Peer Networks
- Scaleup Alumni
- Scaleup Growth Fund

Innovate UK | Business Growth

Video case example: ImmuONE

Innovate UK | Business Growth

Contact Us

Client enquiries: call our National Enquiry Gateway on:
0300 123 3066

or visit our website:
www.iukbg.ukri.org

UKRI Innovate UK | Business Growth

Innovate UK

International Opportunities in Eureka

The world's largest network for international co-operation in R&D and Innovation, present in 47 countries

Ben Morris Eureka National Project Coordinator

Benefiting everyone through knowledge, talent and ideas

UK Research and Innovation brings together the 7 Research Councils, Innovate UK and Research England.

As part of UK Research and Innovation, Innovate UK drives productivity and economic growth by supporting businesses to develop and realise the potential of new ideas including those from the UK's world-class research base.

UK Research and Innovation

Innovate UK

Department for Science, Innovation, & Technology

Innovate UK

- We are the UK's innovation agency
- We support business-led innovation in all sectors, technologies and UK regions
- A key delivery body of the Government's Innovation Strategy

Our Mission

To help UK businesses grow through the development and commercialisation of new products, processes, and services, supported by an outstanding innovation ecosystem that is agile, inclusive, and easy to navigate.

UKRI Innovate UK

Eureka in Numbers

Eureka programmes

- Eurostars – Bottom-up with 2 calls per year. UK commitment £2.5 per call with grants of up to €360k. All types of entity can participate, but only SMEs funded. 37 countries participate in this stream.
- Clusters – Bottom-up thematic stream of which there are five. Previous UK commitment has been up to £5m per Cluster for a total investment of up to £75m, with grants from £500k-£750k depending on Cluster. All types of entity can participate and are funded. Not all Eureka countries declare commitment in supporting the Clusters.
- Network Projects – Bottom-up bilateral and multilateral calls between countries within the network. Each call is designed amongst those supporting countries, defining scope and criteria. Note that the Open Network Project, the UK has no budget, but entities can participate and self-fund.
- Globalstars – As above, but for calls that involve countries who sit outside the network.
- Innowwide – Six-month market feasibility projects with a €60k grant from Eureka aimed at SMEs
- Investment Readiness Programme (IRP) – Networking and mission focused activity whereby Eureka will arrange missions to potential target countries or industries including mentoring type activities. Eureka funded but only for Start-ups and SMEs.
- Fast Track to EIC Accelerator - The Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator is designed to help startups and small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have completed, or are about to complete, a Eurostars-3-funded project to continue growing and developing. The scheme enables you to skip the first step (short proposal) and move directly to the second step (full proposal) of the EIC Accelerator.

Eurostars

Co-funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

- Innovative SMEs as main project partners
- **37** countries & the European Commission
- Centralised process, decentralised funding
- Non-sector specific
- **2** deadlines per year

eureka

Innovate UK

Eurostars Projects must meet 7 eligibility criteria

Led by **innovative SME** from Eurostars country

At least **two Eurostars countries**, with at least one organisation from EU or Horizon Europe Associated Country

At least **two independent entities**

≥50%

Budget of **SMEs** from Eurostars countries (excluding subcontracting) must be at least **50%** of total project budget

≤70%

No single **participant** or **country** is responsible for more than **70%** of total project budget

Maximum duration: **36 months**

Civilian purpose

UKRI Innovate UK

UK Eligibility

- Innovate UK will only fund SMEs, other types of organisation can participate but must self-fund.
- Innovate UK contribution is £2.5m per call.
- Grant is €360k or 60% of costs, whichever is less.
- UK subcontracting is capped at 20% of the UK partner eligible costs.
- The UK entity must have at least 12 months of trading history at point of submission deadline.
- Overheads are capped at 20% of Labour.
- Micro SMEs must have 3 FTE
- Cost Guidance – Eligible costs for UK partners

- The project must be led by Innovative SME, one that:
- invests 10% or more of its turnover into research, or
- has 10% of its full-time equivalent staff working on research activities, or
- has 5 or more full-time staff working on research activities, if the SME has 100 or fewer employees, or
- has 10 or more full-time staff working on research activities, if the SME has more than 100 employees

- You must follow:
- Eurostars eligibility criteria link takes you to the UK page, you can change country on the Funding Information tab.
- Innovate UK Criteria at the competition application deadline and throughout your project.
- Eureka Home Page

Innovate UK

Globalstars

- Cooperation with countries outside of Eureka network
- Past: Argentina, Brazil, Chile, India, Japan, Kenya, Nigeria, Morocco, Singapore, Taiwan.

eureka

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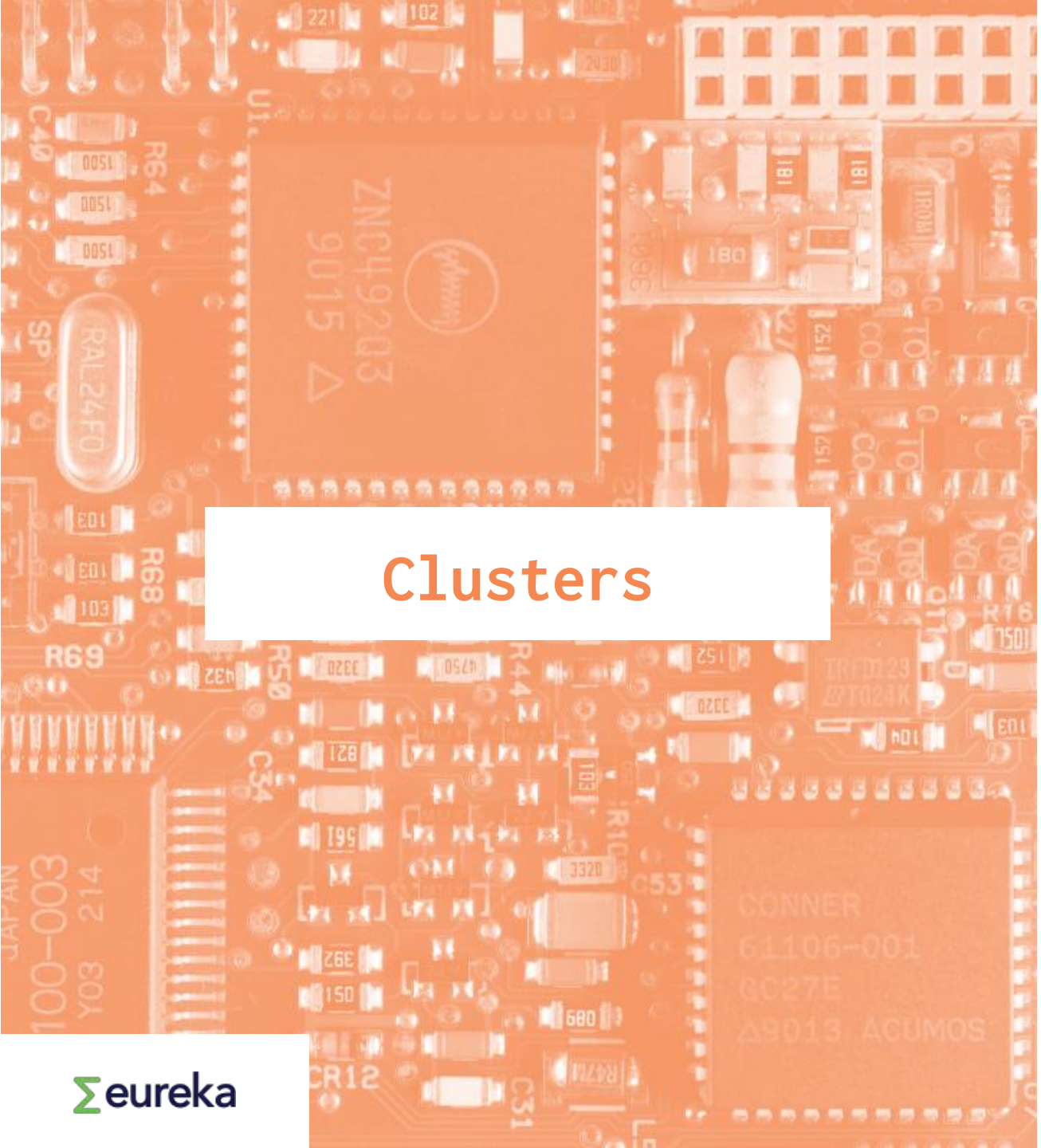
Network projects

- Flexible
- Bilateral or multilateral calls for projects with two or more Eureka countries
- Thematic scope possible

Eureka

UKRI Innovate UK



Clusters

- Industry-led communities consisting of leading companies, knowledge institutes and end-user organisations
- Strategic technology areas
- Market-oriented, aiming to solve economic, technological and societal challenges

eureka

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Clusters

CELTIC-NEXT

Next-generation secure communications for a trusted and sustainable digital society

EUROGIA 2030

Low-carbon energy technologies

ITEA 4

Software innovation and digital transition

SMART

Advanced manufacturing and production technologies

Xecs

Sustainable digital transformation in electronic components and systems

eureka

UKRI Innovate UK

UK Scope & Eligibility

Your project

- UK applicants can apply for total grant of up to £750,000 (depending on Cluster).
- All types of UK registered organisations can apply for funding.
- Expected duration 12 – 36 months
- Your project must be collaborative.
- Further guidance

Funding

We have allocated up to £5,000,000 (depending on cluster) to fund innovation projects.

For industrial research projects, you could get funding for your eligible project costs of:

- up to 70% if you are a small enterprise
- up to 60% if you are a medium enterprise
- up to 50% if you are a large enterprise
- UK registered research organisations in your consortium can share up to 30% of the UK total eligible UK Industry project costs. If your consortium contains more than one UK research organisation, this maximum will be shared between them.

Of that 30% you could get funding for your eligible project costs of up to:

80% of full economic costs (FEC) if you are a Je-s registered institution such as an academic

UKRI Innovate UK

EUREKA Clusters

CELTIC-NEXT – Next Gen Comms

Eurogia 2030

Xecs

SMART

ITEA 4

Innovate UK

Innowwide

European INNOvative business solutions in WorldWIDE markets

- 60,000 euro per project
- 400 market feasibility projects
- 6 calls for projects

eureka innowwide

Innowwide is funded by the European Union as part of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs.

eureka

Co-funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

UKRI Innovate UK

Investment Readiness Programme

The investment readiness programme is part of the European Partnership on Innovative SMEs. The partnership is co-funded by the European Union through Horizon Europe.

Develop and enhance business relationships by participating in our international missions and corporate activities in 2024.
Eureka will be organising:

•International missions with opportunities for SMEs to connect with non-EU investors and key strategic partners.

•Corporate activities helping SMEs approach multinational corporate investors for business partnerships. Learn about best practices and collaborating to develop solutions to industry challenges.

You can apply if your startup or SME is based in a Eureka country.

eureka

Co-funded by the European Union

EUROPEAN PARTNERSHIP

eureka investment readiness

UKRI Innovate UK

HORIZON EUROPE

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

UK engagement in EUREKA

Innovate UK

Department for Science, Innovation & Technology

EUREKA
innovation across borders

Contact Details:

Ben Morris

Innovate UK

United Kingdom

eurekanpc@iuk.ukri.org

Innovate UK – UKRI

UK Participation in the European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)

Teresa Arumardi, UK National Contact Point (NCP) for EIT

20/11/2025

OBJECTIVES

- National Contact Point (NCP)
- EIT in Horizon Europe
- EIT Activities & Opportunities
- Innovate UK Travel Support
- Synergies between EIT & EIC

HORIZON EUROPE NATIONAL CONTACT POINTS (NCPs)

Team of national advisors, appointed by the Government, to support organisations to successfully participate in Horizon Europe by:

- Raising awareness of the programme
- Helping you find the right topic
- Identifying the best ways to find partners
- Navigating the EU funding & tender opportunities portal
- Answering any other Horizon Europe related questions

Top Tip – get to know your NCP

List of UK NCPs

UK NCP Newsletter

Why international collaboration is important

- Solve global grand challenges through collaborative R&I
- Collaborate with world leading organisations to learn from the best
- Access cutting edge technologies, infrastructure, talent & markets
- Contribute to the dialogue on standards, regulations and research policies
- Ensure that technology development aligns with global marketplace
- Collaborative relationships frequently become commercial ones – developing system solutions in supply chain partnerships
- **Creating jobs, growth and stronger supply chains**

EIT IN HORIZON EUROPE

€95.5bn funding agreed for **2021-2027**

Pillar I — Excellent Science

- European Research Council
- Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions
- Research Infrastructures

€24.9bn

Pillar II — Global Challenges

Clusters

- Health
- Culture, Creativity and Inclusive Society
- Civil Security for Society
- Digital, Industry and Space
- Climate, Energy and Mobility
- Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment

Joint Research Centre

€53.8bn

Pillar III — Innovative Europe

- European Innovation Council (EIC)
- European Innovation Ecosystems (EIE)
- European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT)

€13.4bn

Widening Participation and Strengthening the European Research Area

- Widening participation and spreading excellence
- Reforming and enhancing the European R&I system

N.B. Budgets shown are for 2021-2027. Budgets will be higher than above once the UK and other Associated Country contributions are included.

Key

- Open to all research and innovation fields
- Challenge driven – must solve the problem posed – not bottom-up idea driven

Pillar III – 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
- EIT and EIC share a mission but operate in complementarity

EIT – Europe's Largest Innovation Network

What is the EIT?

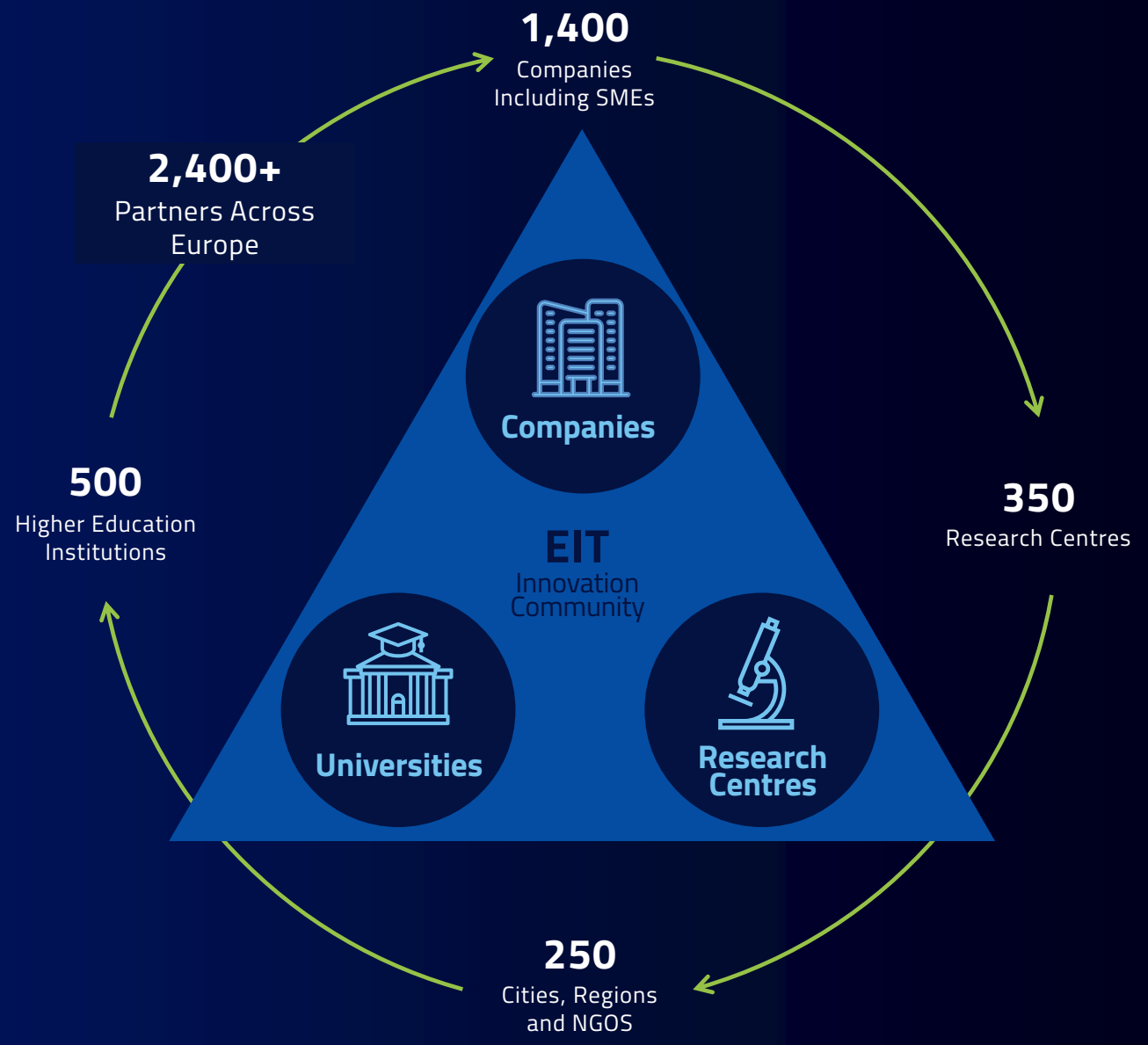
The European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT) drives innovation in Europe by supporting entrepreneurs, innovators and students across Europe to turn their best ideas into reality.

How does the EIT work?

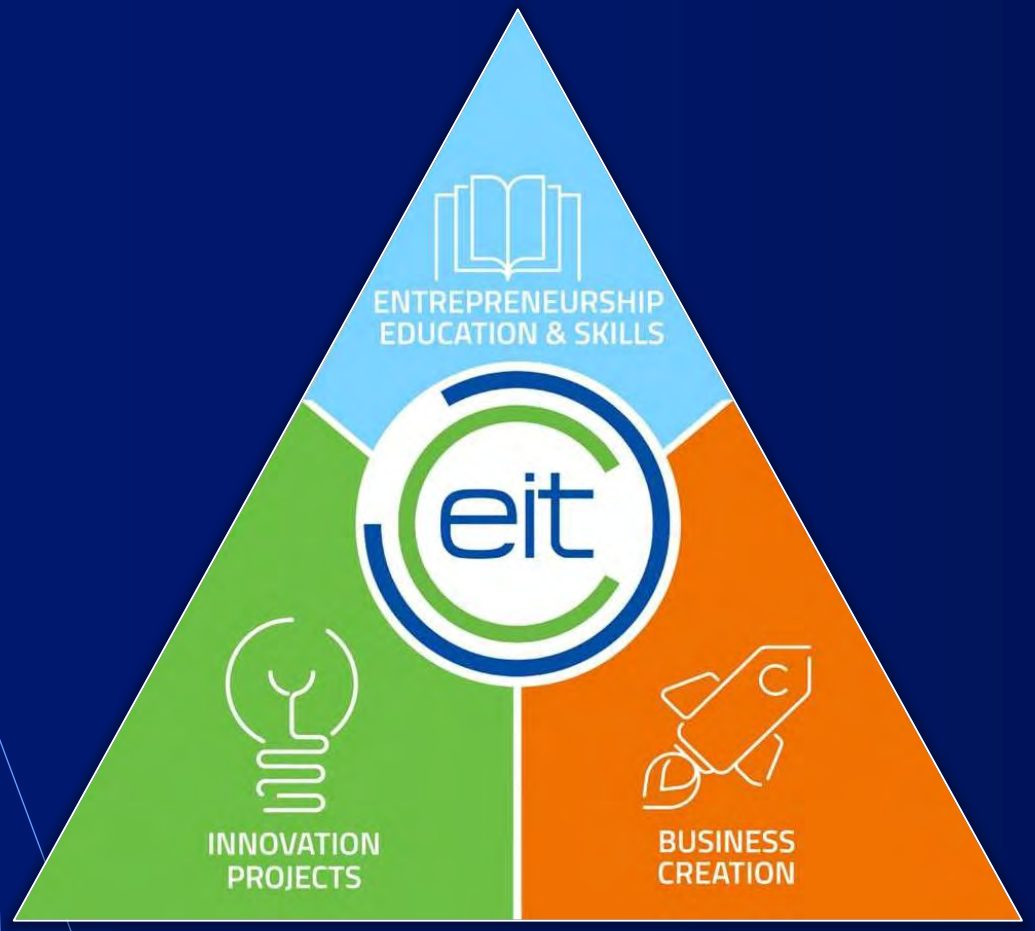
Trains a new generation of entrepreneurs

Develops innovative products & services

Powers start-ups & scale-ups



EIT ACTIVITIES



WATCH VIDEO

EDUCATION & SKILLS

Creating future innovators:
Deliver entrepreneurs and provide business and industry with a skilled workforce

WATCH VIDEO

INNOVATION

Breaking down the barriers for collaboration:
Innovation projects between universities, research organisations and business that helps to turn research into commercial products and services

WATCH VIDEO

BUSINESS CREATION

Turning ideas into businesses.
Help start-ups and ventures to start and accelerate the growth of their business.

EIT KNOWLEDGE & INNOVATION COMMUNITIES (KICs)

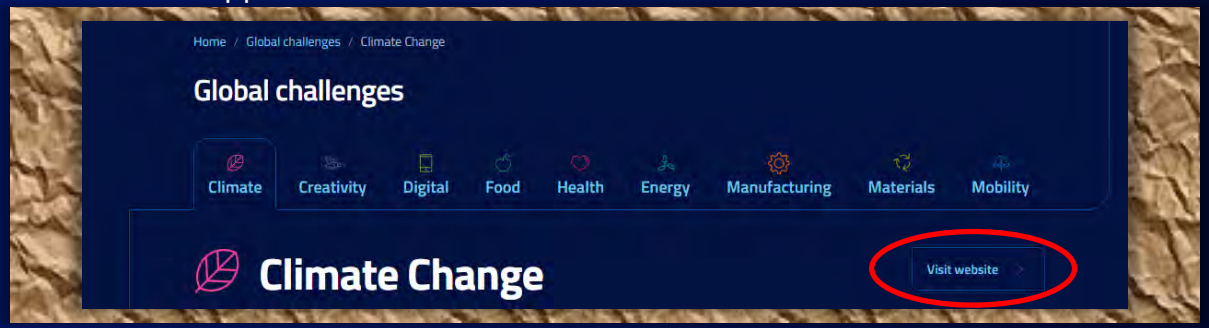
The EIT KICs and their partners make up the ***EIT Community***

Innovate UK | European Institute of Innovation & Technology | European Commission HORIZON EUROPE 2021-2027

EIT OPPORTUNITIES

EIT Opportunities

EIT KIC websites



Innovate UK Travel Support

Travel support for UK businesses to attend European events in 2025 & 2026

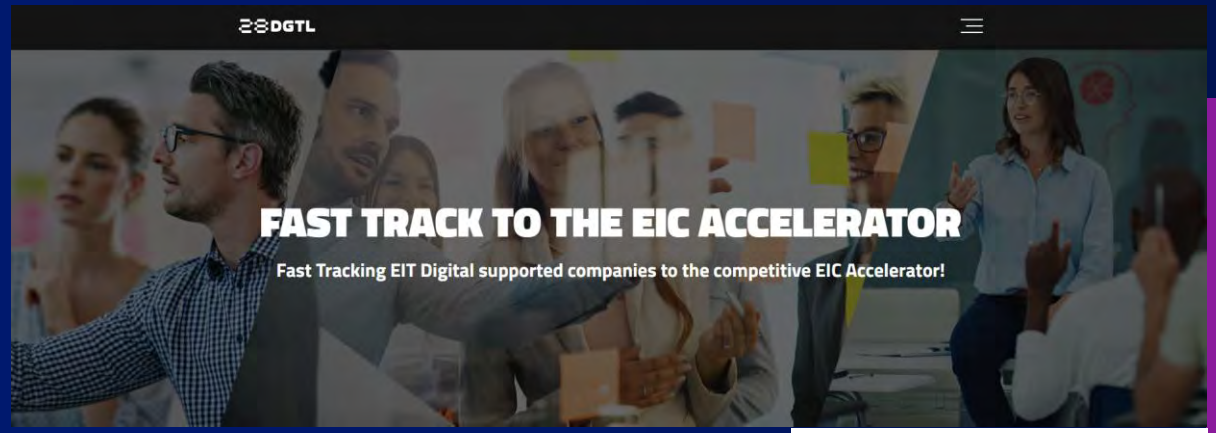
Travel support for UK businesses to attend European events in 2025 & 2026 - Innovate UK Business Connect

Contact: finance.global@iukbc.org.uk

Please also cc ncp-eit@iuk.ukri.org

- Innovate UK is offering Travel Support of up to £750 for companies to attend Horizon Europe consortia-building events in Europe
- To encourage UK participation, engagement and visibility at international events, to accelerate UK involvement in European research programmes
- To be eligible for support, you need to be a for-profit UK-based R&D performing SME according to the EU definition

FAST TRACK TO EIC ACCELERATOR: EIT DIGITAL



Fast Track to the EIC Accelerator // 28DIGITAL

Contact: eic_fast_track@eitdigital.eu

Please also cc ncp-eit@iuk.ukri.org

- The EIC - EIT Digital Fast Track programme welcomes EIT Digital companies that:
- Have participated in any EIT Digital programme before
- Have not previously applied to the EIC Accelerator programme in the past 365 days
- Have not previously applied to the EIC - EIT Digital Fast Track programme
- Are an SME according to the EU definition
- Own or have rights to the IP (if applicable) that form the basis of the project or product
- Are already incorporated and operating in a Horizon Europe country

EIT & EIC

- EIT is a powerful ecosystem builder within Horizon Europe
- EIT offers innovators networks, markets, talent, and scaling opportunities that reinforce EIC-funded innovation
- EIT complements EIC instruments across Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs)

Get in Touch

Teresa Arumardi | NCP for EIT
Innovate UK
ncp-eit@iuk.ukri.org

UK NCP Newsletter

Thank you!

Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

20 November 2025

Claire.griffin@iuk.ukri.org

Closing remarks

Horizon Europe Opportunities

Pillar 3 – Innovative Europe

Claire Griffin
UK's NCP for EIC and EIE

November 2025

Claire.griffin@iuk.ukri.org