

Το Ευρωπαϊκό Συμβούλιο Καινοτομίας: Χρηματοδοτικές ευκαιρίες

Κατερίνα Παπαδούλη, Δίκτυο ΠΡΑΞΗ-ΙΤΕ

**presentation based on EIC presentation during national infoday on 3/3/2022*

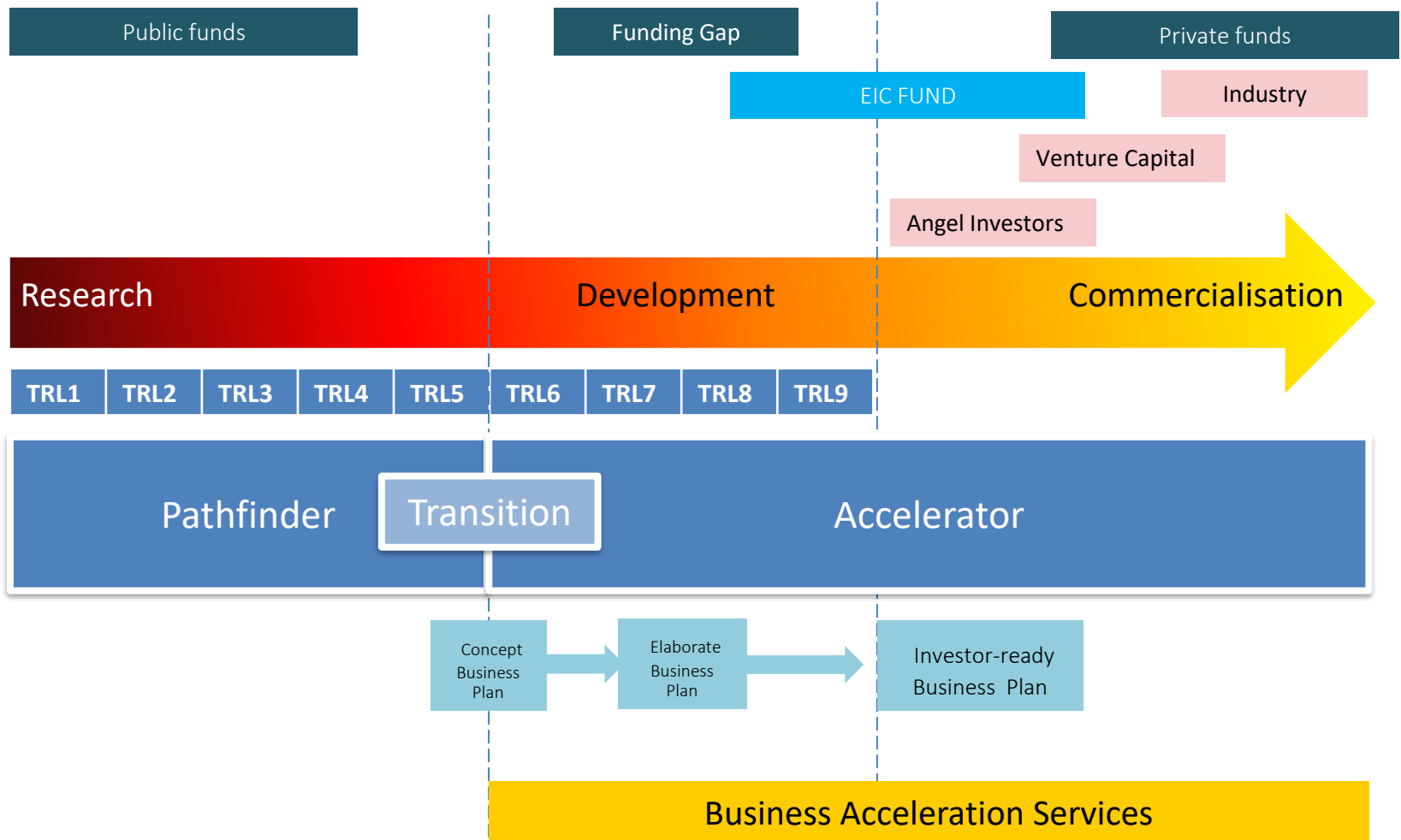


Europe's most ambitious innovation initiative

- **€10 billion** programme to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations in Europe
- **Unique** in the world to combine research on emerging technologies with Accelerator for startups, SMEs and scaleups
- EIC set to become **largest deep-tech investor** in Europe (over €3 billion)
- Enhances the **European innovation ecosystem** (partnerships with EIT, ERC, etc)
- **First work Programme** adopted 18 March 2021, €1.5 billion
- **Second Work Programme** adopted 7 February 2022, **€1.7 billion**



Χρηματοδοτικά εργαλεία : € 10bn





EIC main instruments and characteristics

Pathfinder (TRL1-4)

- **For consortia**
- Early stage research on breakthrough technologies
- **Grants up to €3/4 million**

Transition (TRL 4-6)

- **For consortia and single entities**
- Technology maturation from proof of concept to validation
- Business & market readiness
- **Grants up to €2.5 million**

Accelerator (TRL 6-9)

- **For individual SMEs**
- Development & scale up of deep-tech/ disruptive innovations by startups/ SMEs
- Blended finance (**grants up to €2.5 million; equity investment up to €15 million or above**)

- Focus on **breakthrough, market-creating, deep-tech**
- **Mainly bottom up** complemented by targeted funding on strategic technologies/ challenges
- Steered by **EIC Board** of leading innovators (entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, ecosystem)
- **Business Acceleration Services** (coaches/ mentors, corporates, investors, ecosystem)
- **Pro-active management** (roadmaps, reviews, re-orientations, etc) with EIC Programme Managers
- **Fast track access** to Accelerator for results from EIT, EIC Pathfinder,



EIC Pathfinder 2021

European
Innovation
Council



- Successful completion of the first **Pathfinder Open** evaluation (56 proposals retained for funding)
- Successful launch of five **Pathfinder Challenges** (in total 433 proposals submitted, evaluation ongoing)

European Innovation Council Pathfinder Open

Successful proposals | Cut-off 25 May 2021



868

PROPOSALS EVALUATED



56

PROJECTS CHOSEN



€168M

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION



€3M

AVERAGE EU GRANT



29

COUNTRIES



322

PARTICIPANTS

45% HIGHER EDUCATION,
24% PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS,
28% RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS,
3% OTHER

European
Innovation
Council



EIC Transition 2021



29

PROJECTS CHOSEN FOR OPEN CALL



13

PROJECTS CHOSEN FOR CHALLENGES CALL

9 Medical Technology and Devices;
4 Energy harvesting and storage
technologies

European
Innovation
Council



292

TOTAL PROPOSALS SUBMITTED



€99M

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION

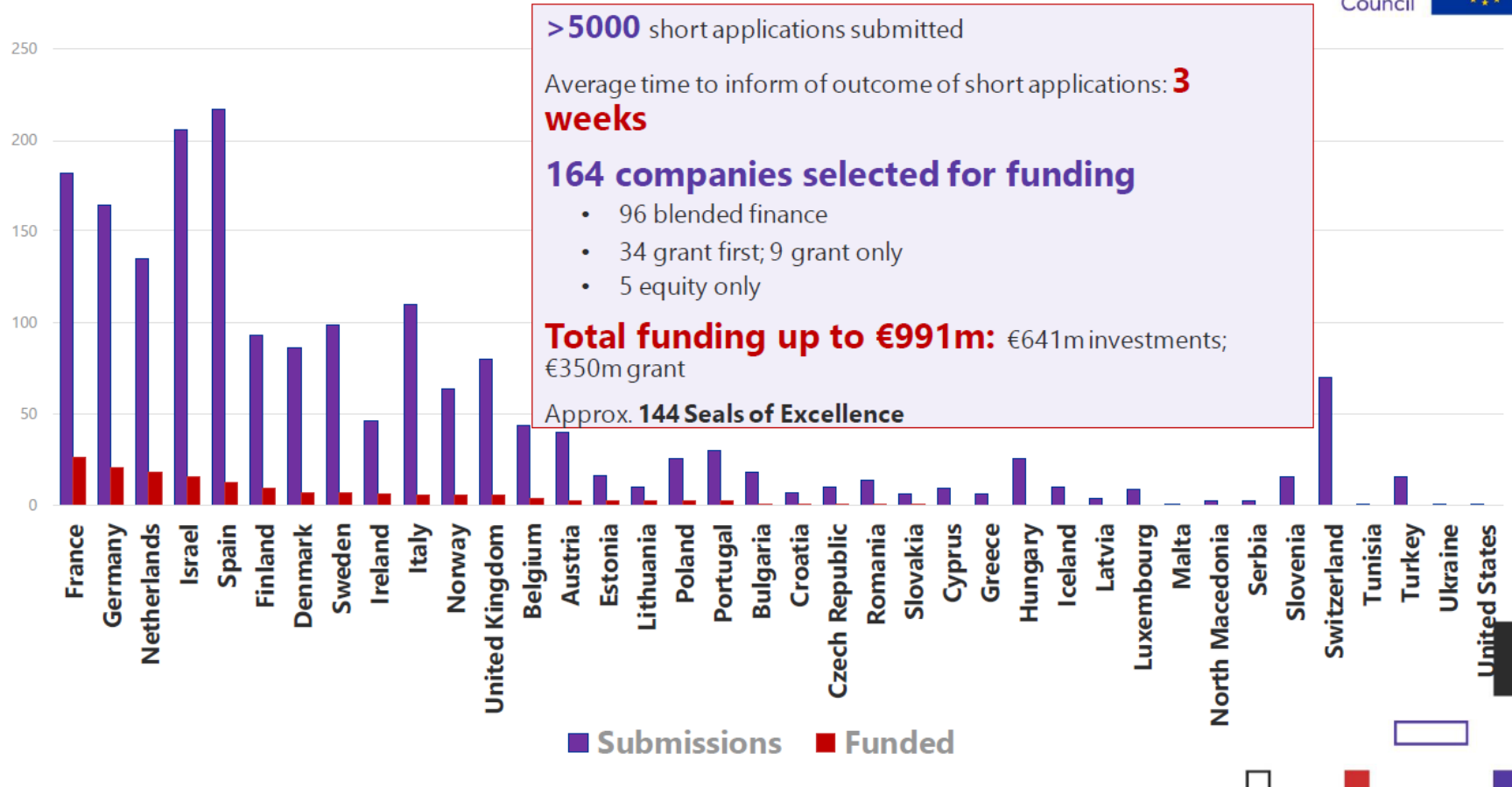


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COUNTRIES

EIC Accelerator 2021

European
Innovation
Council



EIC WP 2022

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/european-innovation-council-online-info-day-22-february-2022_en

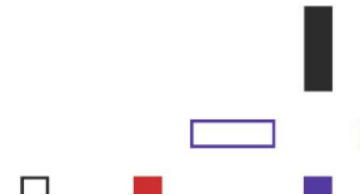
https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-frequently-asked-questions_en





EIC Work Programme 2022 - overview

- **Budget: €1.69 billion**
 - EIC Pathfinder: €350 million (+€50m)
 - EIC Transition: €131 million (+€31m)
 - EIC Accelerator: €1.16 billion (+€70m)
- **Strong continuity** for main calls
- Some **simplifications and improvements** in application process
- Evolution of **EIC challenges**
- Additional support for **scaleup companies** and **women innovators**
- **Enhanced Business Acceleration Services** and support actions
- **Continuity with EIC Prizes**



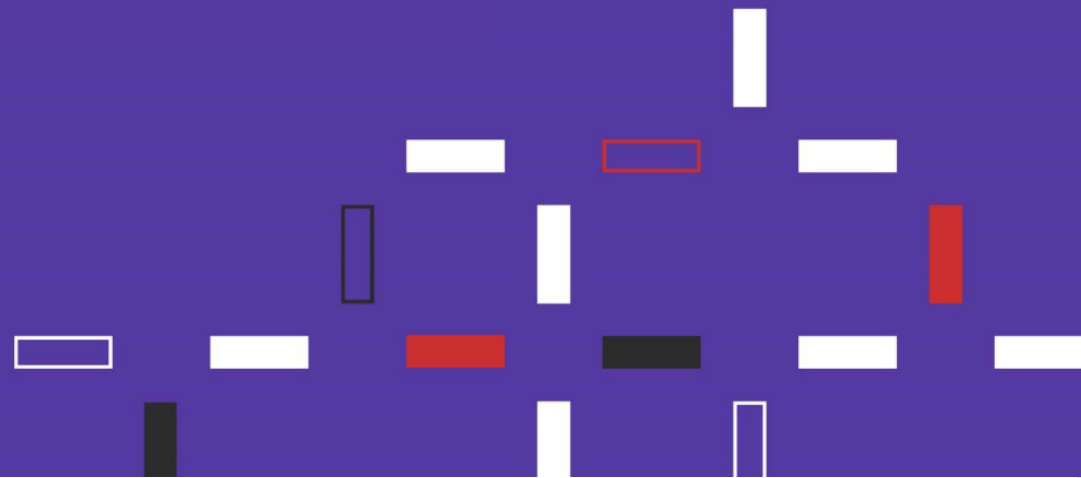


EIC main calls in 2022 - overview

Accelerator - Open	Short applications - Apply any time all year round	~ €623m (grant & equity)
Accelerator – Challenges	Full applications – 3 cutoffs in 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 23 March • 15 June • 5 October 	~ €537m (grant & equity)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technologies for Open Strategic Autonomy (<i>healthcare, critical raw materials, quantum, space, security etc</i>) • Technologies for 'Fit for 55' (<i>energy, buildings, mobility, land use, green digital, etc</i>) 		
Pathfinder - Open	Deadline: 4 May	~ €183m
Pathfinder - Challenges	Deadline: 19 October	~ €167m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carbon dioxide & nitrogen management and valorisation; • Mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage; • Cardiogenomics; • Healthcare continuum technologies; • DNA-based digital data storage; • Alternative quantum information processing, communication, and sensing 		
Transition – Open	Apply any time all year round	~ €70.5m
Transition – Challenges	Full applications – 2 cutoffs in 2022: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 May • 28 September 	~ €60.5m
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Green digital devices for the future; • Process and system integration of clean energy technologies; • RNA-based therapies and diagnostics for complex or rare genetic diseases 		



EIC Pathfinder





Το πρόγραμμα **Pathfinder**

Στοιχεία του προγράμματος

- Η στήριξη τεχνολογιών και η ανάπτυξη καινοτομιών με στόχο την αγορά (market-creating innovations) σε χαμηλα TRL (1 to 5/6)
- Επιβλέπονται από Programme Managers
- Συνεχείς ανοικτές προσκλήσεις (bottom up) και εστιασμένες θεματικές (challenges)
- Drivers: Τεχνολογικές τάσεις (supply), αλλά και ρηξικέλευθες ιδέες (demand)
- Υποστήριξη για την αποτιμήςη της εμπορικής αξιοποίησης και τη δημιουργία business plan μέσω του “Pathfinder transition activities”.



Το πρόγραμμα **Pathfinder**

Σκοπός

Το πρόγραμμα EIC Pathfinder χρηματοδοτεί ερευνητικές δραστηριότητες προκειμένου να αναπτυχθεί η επιστημονική βάση για την υποστήριξη πρωτοποριακών τεχνολογιών

EIC Pathfinder Open

Ανοιχτές προσκλήσεις χωρίς θεματικές προτεραιότητες

EIC Pathfinder Challenges

Top down προσκλήσεις σε συγκεκριμένες θεματικές/Προκλήσεις για πρωτοποριακές τεχνολογίες μέσα από πορτφόλιο έργων



Pathfinder calls 2022 – Summary table

	Pathfinder Open	Pathfinder Challenges
Total budget	€183 million	€167 million
Proposals (indicative)	Up to €3 million	Up to €4 million
Funding rate	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs
Opening	1 March 2022	16 June 2022
Deadline	4 May 2022 at 17.00 CET	19 October 2022 at 17.00 CET
Length of proposal	17-page proposal (part B)	25-page proposal (part B)
Applicants	Consortia: min. 3 partners from 3 different MS/AC (of which at least 1 partner in a MS)	1. Single legal entities in a MS/AC (conditions apply) 2. Consortia: - If 2 partners: from different MS/AC, otherwise - Min. 3 partners from 3 different MS/AC (of which at least 1 partner in a MS)





Tips from the EIC for proposals under Pathfinder

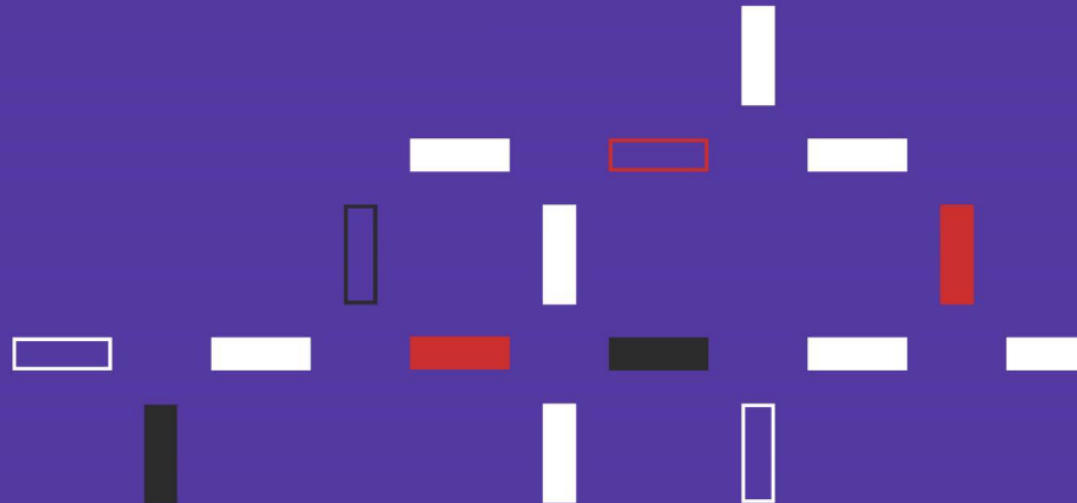
Is the EIC Pathfinder really for you?

- Do you have a vision for a future technology that could make a real difference to our lives?
- Do you see a plausible way of achieving the scientific breakthrough that will make this technology possible?
- Can you imagine collaborating with an interdisciplinary team of researchers and innovators to realise the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of the future technology?

- ✓ **Be ambitious, follow your 'dream'**
- ✓ **Consortium as embryonic ecosystem (for multi-beneficiary applications)**
- ✓ **Collaborate, collaborate, collaborate...**
- ✓ **Communicate and engage**
- ✓ **Bring value to the scientific community and the market**



EIC Transition





Το πρόγραμμα **Transition**

Σκοπός

Το EIC Transition χρηματοδοτεί δραστηριότητες καινοτομίας για την **επικύρωση νέων τεχνολογιών** στο εργαστήριο και σε σχετικά περιβάλλοντα εφαρμογών και την **ανάπτυξη μιας επιχειρηματικής υπόθεσης** / μοντέλου για τη μελλοντική αξιοποίηση της καινοτομίας.

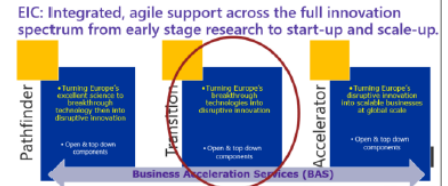
EIC Transition Open

Ανοιχτές προσκλήσεις χωρίς θεματικές προτεραιότητες

EIC Transition Challenges

Top down προσκλήσεις σε συγκεκριμένες θεματικές:

EIC Transition Open and Challenges 2022



Why EIC transition?

Supports the maturation and validation of novel technologies beyond proof of principle (TRL 5-6) and business activities towards commercialisation

The Open funding supports all technologies and innovations

Challenges: predefined thematic priorities aiming to establish portfolios of projects

Who can apply ?

H2020 FET schemes and EIC pilot

ERA NET call - FET (CHISTERA, QUANTERA, FLAGERA)

ERC PoC projects

Financial contribution

Max EUR 2.5 m €

Booster grants up to EUR 50k to undertake portfolio activities

Mono-beneficiary or apply as small Consortia!



- 2 Beneficiaries
- 2 **different** countries

- 2 independent legal entities from two different Member States or Associated Countries

- 3 Beneficiaries
- 3 **different** countries

- 3 independent legal entities from three different Member States or Associated Countries (of which at least 1 Member state)

- 4 or 5 Beneficiaries
- Min 3 **different** countries

- minimum 3 independent legal entities from minimum 3 different Member States or Associated Countries (of which at least 1 Member State)



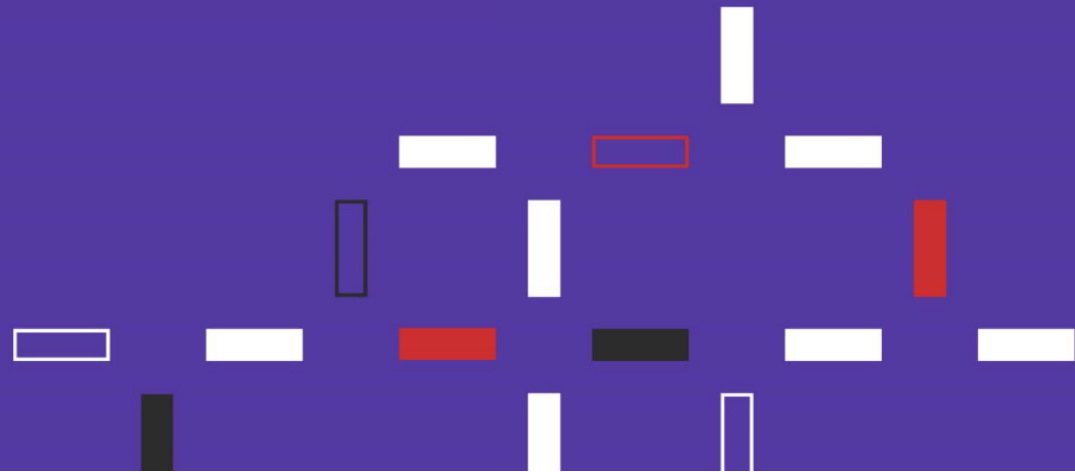
Tips from the EIC for proposals under Transition

Is the EIC Transition really for you?

- Have you identified Pathfinder, FET or ERC Proof of Concept project results that could be the basis for ground-breaking innovations and new businesses?
- Is this novel technology ready for the next steps towards its maturation and validation in some specific applications?
- Do you envisage building a motivated and diverse entrepreneur-lead team to develop the idea and increase its market readiness?



EIC Accelerator





Το πρόγραμμα **Accelerator**

Στοιχεία του προγράμματος

- Το πρόγραμμα Accelerator αποτελεί συνέχεια του εργαλείου SME Instrument Phase II
- Ενισχύεται για να εστιάσει σε πρωτοβουλίες της ΕΕ με εμφανή προστιθέμενη αξία
- Χρηματοδότηση υψηλού ρίσκου καινοτομία που δημιουργεί νέες αγορές στα τελικά στάδια ανάπτυξης (TRL 6 - TRL9).
- Προτεραιότητα σε καινοτομίες deep-tech και μεγάλους κύκλους καινοτομίας



What are we looking for?

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

Innovations building on **scientific discovery** or technological breakthroughs ('**deep tech**')

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





Είδη Χρηματοδότησης

Investment component:

- **Minimum EUR 0.5 million and maximum EUR 15 million;**
- Usually in the form of direct equity or quasi equity;
- Maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company;
- “Patient capital” principle (7-10 years perspective on average).

Grant component:

- **Maximum EUR 2.5 million;**
- Eligible costs are reimbursed up to a maximum of 70%;
- Innovation activities supported should be completed within 24 months;
- Small mid-caps are not eligible for grant (but can apply for investment only).

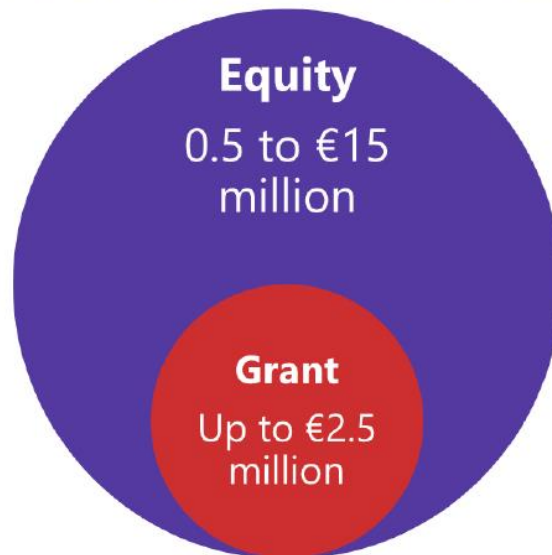
- **Ανάγκη για άμεσο scale – up**
- **Mid-cap εταιρεία**

- **Ανάγκη για R&D**
 - **Grant only**
 - **Grant first**

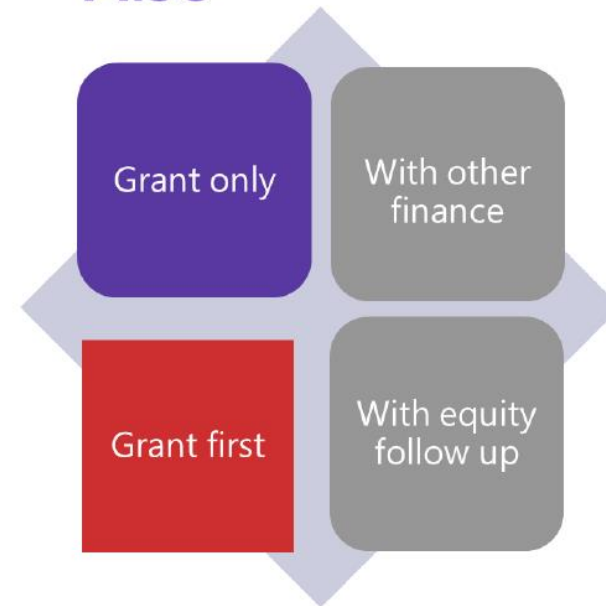


What can you apply for?

EIC Blended Finance



Also





Grant and investment

If you need support for development (TRL 5/6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9).

Grant first

If your innovation still requires significant work to validate and demonstrate in relevant environments to assess its commercial potential.

Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for 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.





New elements introduced in 2022

• EIC Accelerator

- Companies can apply for **investments above €15m** subject to conditions and budget limits
- More **frequent cut-off dates** for full applications (March, June, Oct).
- **Improved resubmissions** policy: applicants can "rebut" evaluators comments; evaluators must take account of improvements (and rebuttals)
- **Priority to interview women-led companies**: expanded to include companies with female CTO, CSO (as well as CEO)
- **Seal of Excellence simplified**: non-funded applicants from jury interviews awarded a Seal (no need for jury decisions), as long as they give consent (sharing information with alternative funding bodies in MSs/ACs)
- **Fast track implemented for EIT**: to submit companies directly to full application stage





The evaluation step by step

- 1**
 - You have a disruptive / deep tech idea with a potential to scale up
 - **Tell us your story** and submit your short application to be assessed by remote evaluators
- 2**
 - We help you to prepare your **business plan** and draft a proposal with AI tool and coaching
 - **You submit your full proposal**
- 3**
 - **Your full proposal** is assessed by remote evaluators
- 4**
 - **You pitch your innovation** in front of EIC Jury Members
 - If selected, you sign the Grant Agreement
- 5**
 - **In case of investment component**, you enter a due diligence process + compliance checks
 - At the end of the process, you sign the Investment Agreement





EIC programmes – Cut-off dates

- Accelerator – Open and Challenges
 - Cut-off 1: March 23 [Interview weeks: 10/05 to 20/05]
 - Cut-off 2: June 15 [Interview weeks: 12/09 to 23/09]
 - Cut-off 3: October 5 [Interview weeks: 21/11 to 2/12]





Tips from the EIC for proposals under Accelerator

Is the EIC Accelerator really for you?

- Do you have a high-impact innovative product, service or business model that could create new markets or disrupt existing ones in Europe and even worldwide?
 - Are you a start-up or a small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) with the ambition and commitment to scale up?
 - Are you looking for substantial funding, but the risks involved are too high for private investors alone to invest?
-
- ✓ Write to convince evaluators to invest in your business: Evaluators will look at different aspects of your proposal; the technology, market knowledge, commercialisation plan, and the financial angle.
 - ✓ Prepare your request for blended finance
 - ✓ Get ready to shine at the jury interviews
 - ✓ Form also matters



Χρήσιμοι Σύνδεσμοι

- ✓ Νέα διαδικτυακή πύλη για τον Ορίζοντα Ευρώπη: <http://horizoneurope.gr/>
- ✓ Horizon Europe: https://ec.europa.eu/info/horizon-europe_en
- ✓ European Innovation Council: <https://ec.europa.eu/research/eic/index.cfm>
- ✓ EIC Work Programme 2022: <https://eic.ec.europa.eu/system/files/2022-02/EIC%20Work%20Programme%202022.pdf>

Σας ευχαριστώ για την
προσοχή σας!

Katerina Papadouli

National Contact Point | Horizon Europe Cluster 6 “Food, Bioeconomy, Natural Resources, Agriculture and Environment”, European Innovation Council, European Innovation Ecosystems

papadouli@praxinetwork.gr