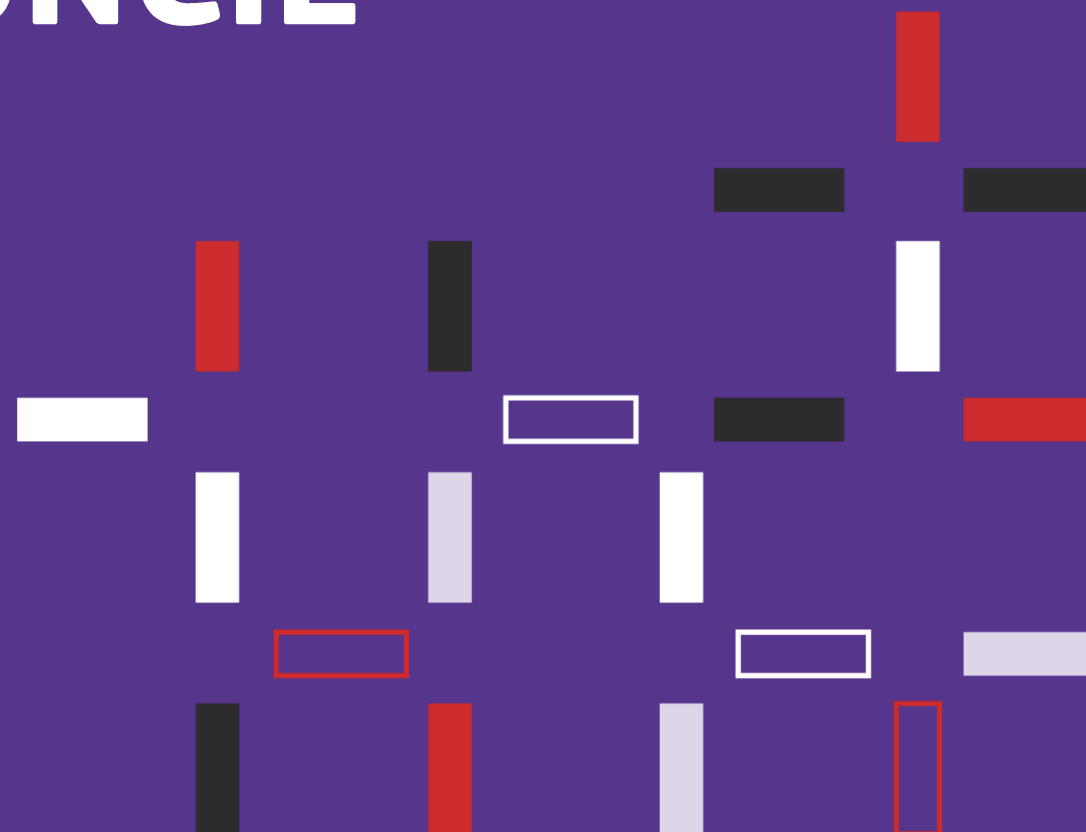




THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL

EIC Pathfinder &
Transition in 2023

Timo Hallantie



European Innovation Council

What is the
EIC Pathfinder?

European
Innovation
Council





What is the EIC Pathfinder?



The **EIC Pathfinder**

- funds **research** to develop the **scientific basis** to underpin breakthrough technologies
- supports the **earliest stages** of scientific, technological or deep-tech R&D
- aims to build on new, **cutting-edge directions in science and technology** to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities
- realises innovative technological solutions to identify, develop and scale up **breakthrough technologies** and **disruptive innovations** in Europe



- **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

European Innovation Council

Statistics from 2021
& 2022 Pathfinder
calls

European
Innovation
Council





European Innovation Council Pathfinder Open

Successful proposals | Cut-off 4 May 2022



858

PROPOSALS EVALUATED



57

PROJECTS CHOSEN



183 million

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION



3.2 million

AVERAGE EU GRANT



29

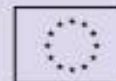
COUNTRIES



352

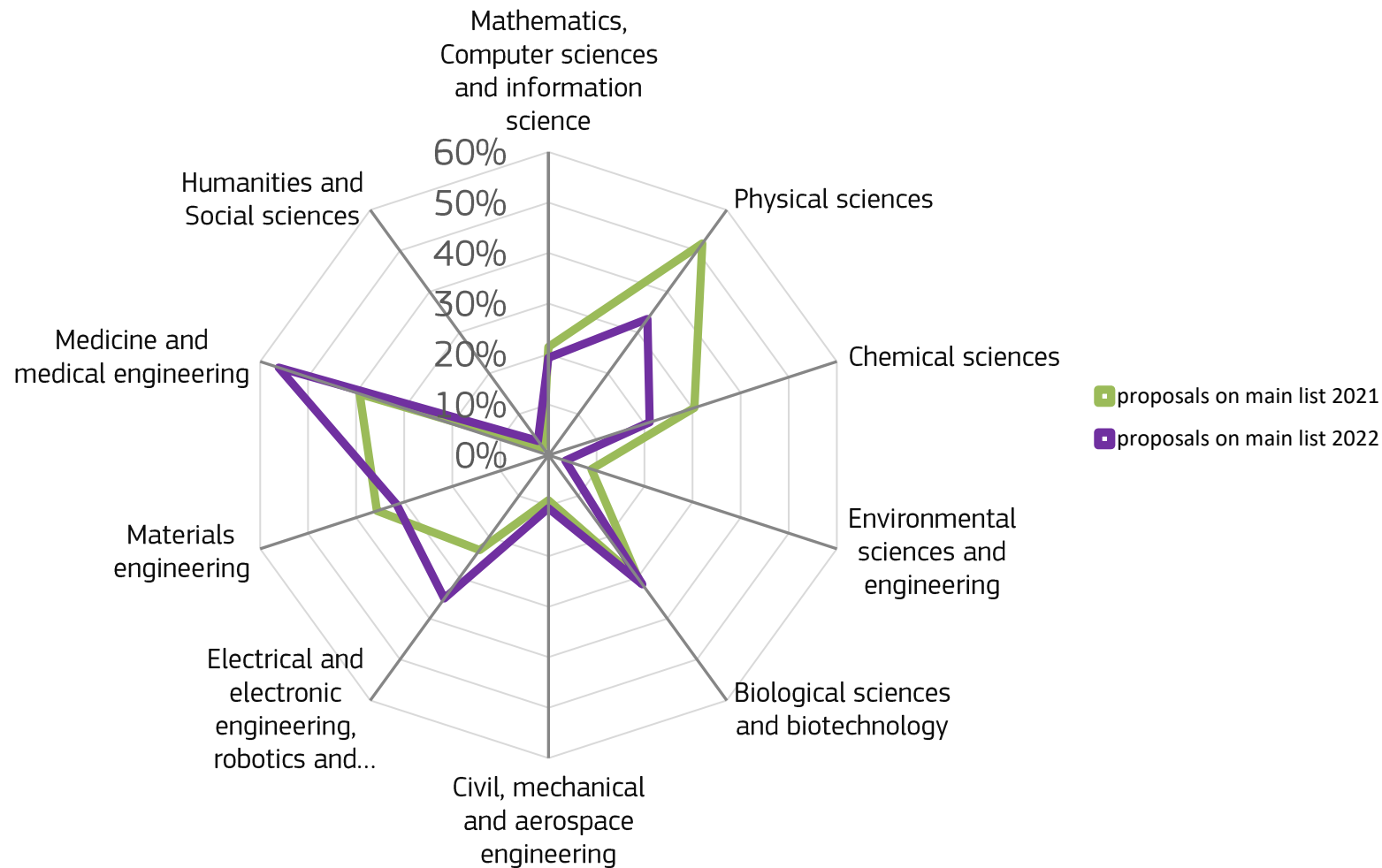
PARTICIPANTS

45% HIGHER EDUCATION,
26% RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS,
22% PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS,
8% OTHER



2022 Pathfinder Open call – discipline coverage in proposals retained for funding

European
Innovation
Council





European Innovation Council Pathfinder Challenges

Successful proposals | Deadline 27 October 2021



403

PROPOSALS EVALUATED



39

PROJECTS CHOSEN



€145 million

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION



€3.7 million

AVERAGE EU GRANT



27

COUNTRIES



214

PARTICIPANTS

50.5% HIGHER EDUCATION,
25.2% PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS,
20.1% RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS,
3.7% OTHER
0.5% PUBLIC BODIES

1. Awareness inside
2. Tools to measure & stimulate activity in brain tissue
3. Emerging Technologies in Cell & Gene Therapy
4. Novel routes to green hydrogen production
5. Engineered living materials



European Innovation Council

2023 EIC Pathfinder
Challenges call & its
main novelties

European
Innovation
Council



Pathfinder Challenges for 2023



1. Clean and efficient cooling
2. Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalisation for a novel triad of design, fabrication, and materials
3. Precision nutrition
4. Responsible electronics
5. In-space solar energy harvesting for innovative space applications



- Build on **new, cutting-edge directions in science and technology**
- Disrupt a market or to create 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 **EIC Programme Managers**



Expected project outcomes

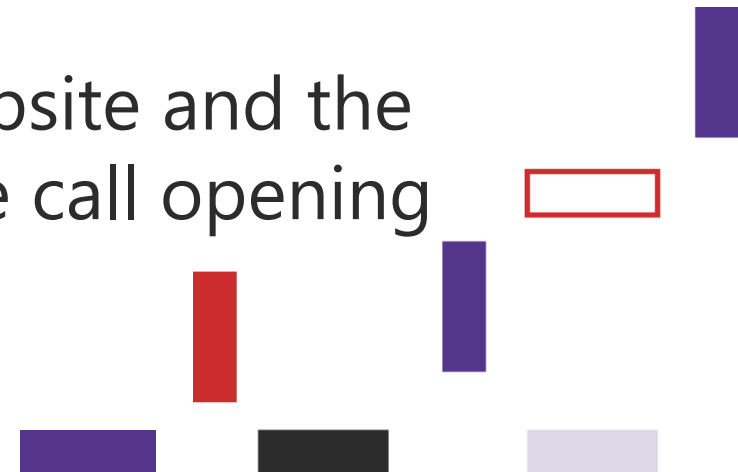


- Expected outcomes defined in the respective Challenge
- Project results should include **top-level scientific publications** as well as an **adequate formal protection of the generated Intellectual Property**
- Projects are encouraged to involve and empower in their teams **key actors** that have the potential to **become future leaders** in their fields such as excellent early-career researchers or promising high-tech SMEs, including start-ups
- Project particularly encouraged to **empower female researchers** and to achieve gender balance among the work package leaders





- Challenge guides will provide more information about:
 - **Objectives** of the Challenges
 - **Technical information** underpinning the objectives
 - **Portfolio considerations** used for the final selection of proposals to be funded
- Challenge Guides will be published on the EIC website and the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal after the call opening (20 June 2023)



Can you apply? (1)



- **Single legal entities** established in a Member State or an Associated Country (mid-caps and larger companies will not be permitted)
- **Consortia of two entities** must be two independent legal entities from two different Member States or Associated Countries
- **Consortia of three or more entities** must include as beneficiaries at least three legal entities, independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:
 - at least one legal entity established in a Member State; and
 - at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.
- The legal entities may for example be universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons.

Can you apply? (2)



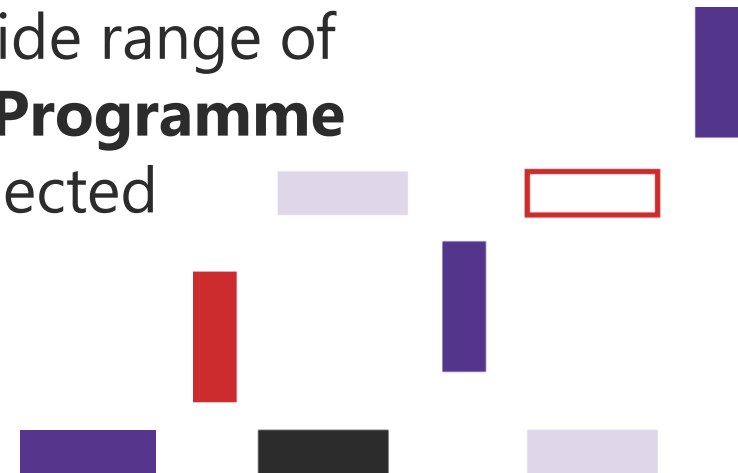
- Important: **associated partners** are not taken into account for eligibility rules!
- Examples of **ineligible** consortia:
 - 2 organisations from FR & 1 organisation from DE
 - 2 organisations from PL & 2 organisations from IT
 - 2 organisations from FR, 1 organisation from DE & 1 organisation from CA
- Examples of **eligible** consortia:
 - 1 organisation from MT & 1 organisation from CZ
 - 1 organisation from ES & 1 organisation from CH
 - 1 organisation from GR, 1 organisation from SE & 1 organization from US



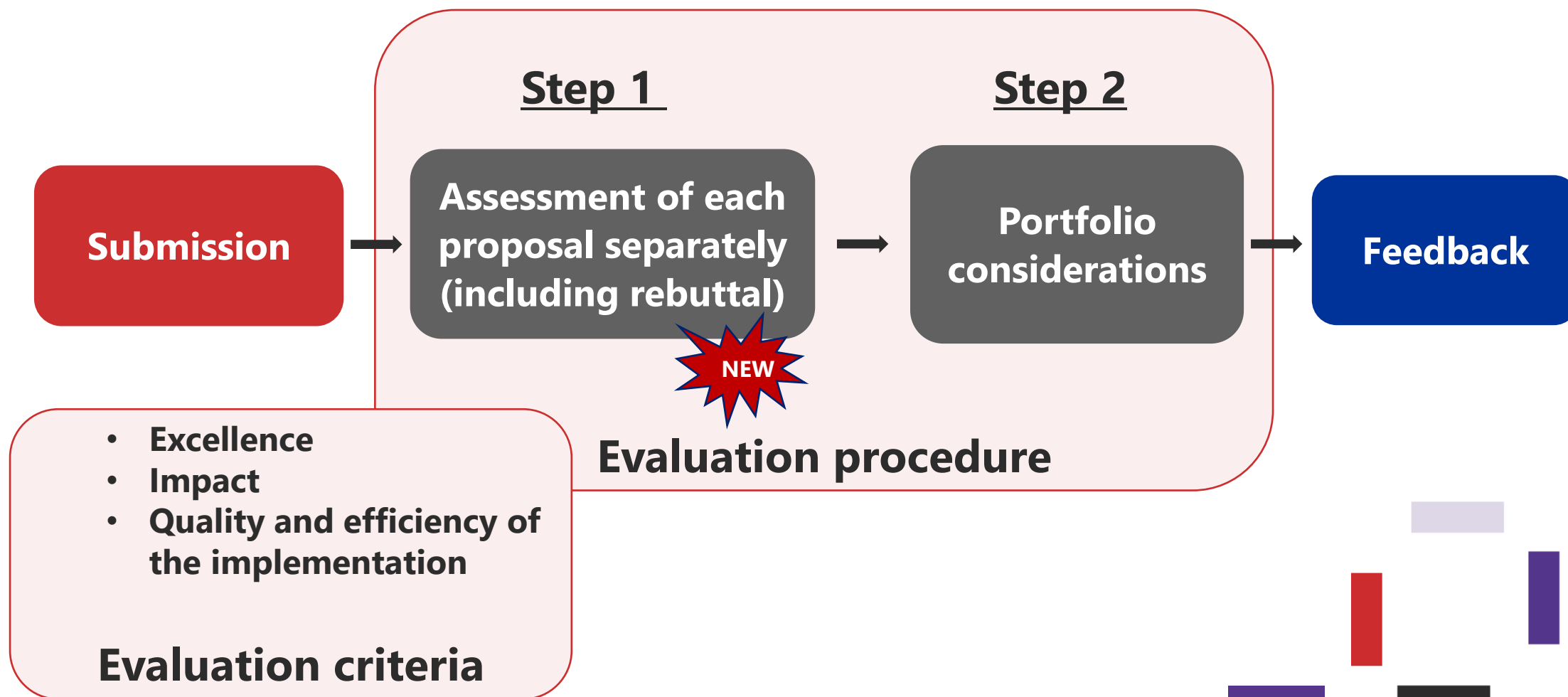
What support will you receive if your proposal is funded?



- A **grant** for a **Research and Innovation Action** to cover eligible costs
- EIC considers proposals with an EU contribution of **up to EUR 4 million** as appropriate (larger amounts possible, if duly justified)
- Funding rate **100% of the eligible costs.**
- Total indicative budget for this call: **EUR 163.5 million** (expected to be allocated in approximately equal shares across the Challenges)
- Successful applicants will receive tailor-made access to a wide range of **Business Acceleration Services** and interactions with **EIC Programme Managers** and other actions in the portfolio of projects selected



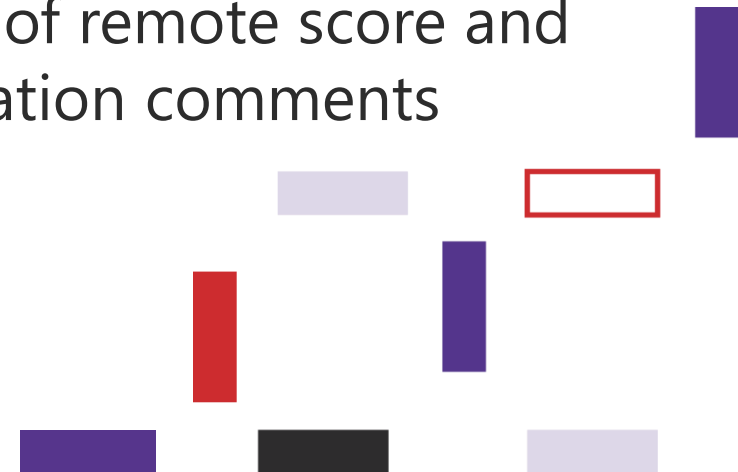
How does the EIC decide if your proposal will be funded?



Step 1: Assessment of each proposal separately



- EIC expert evaluators to assess **each application separately** against the defined award criteria
- **Remote score** for each award criterion is the median of the evaluators' scores.
- **Overall remote score** is weighted sum of three median scores from three award criteria.
- The **evaluation committee** (composed of EIC expert evaluators and EIC Programme Managers) will **decide on final score** on basis of remote score and outcome of its consensus discussions, taking into consideration comments from **rebuttal procedure**, if any



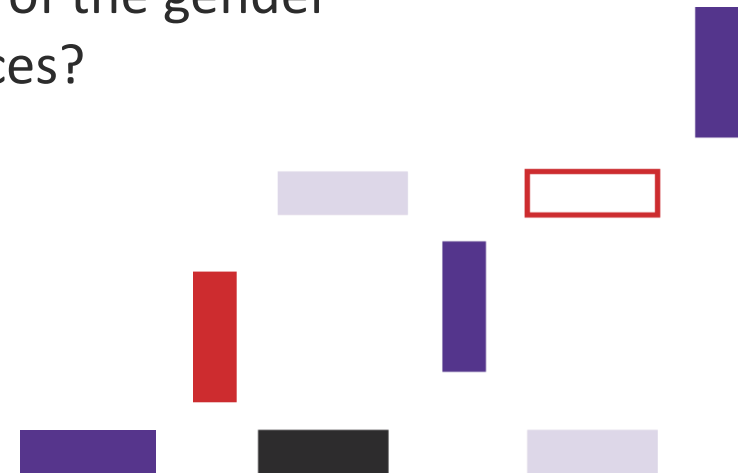
Award criterion “Excellence”



- **Objectives and relevance to the Challenge:** How clear are the project’s objectives? How relevant are they in contributing to the overall goal and the specific objectives of the Challenge?
- **Novelty:** To what extent is the proposed work ambitious and goes beyond the state-of-the-art?
- **Plausibility of the methodology:** How sound is the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content, and the quality of open science practices?

Threshold
4/5

Weight
60%



Award criterion “Impact”



- **Potential Impact:** How credible are the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts of the Challenge? To what extent would the successful completion of the project contribute to this?
- **Innovation potential:** How adequate are the proposed measures for protection of results and any other exploitation measures to facilitate future translation of research results into innovations with positive societal, economic or environmental impact? How suitable are the proposed measures for involving and empowering key actors that have the potential to take the lead in translating research into innovations in the future?
- **Communication and Dissemination:** How suitable are the proposed measures, including communication activities, to maximise expected outcomes and impacts for raising awareness about the project results’ potential to establish new markets and/or address global challenges?

Threshold
3.5/5

Weight
20%



Award criterion “Quality and efficiency of the implementation”



- **Work plan:** How coherent and effective are the work plan (work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones, timeline, etc.) and risk mitigation measures in order to achieve the project objectives?
- **Allocation of resources:** How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources (comprising person-months and other cost items) to work packages and consortium members?
- **Quality of the applicant/consortium (depends if mono or multi-beneficiaries):** To what extent do(es) the applicant/consortium members have all the necessary high quality expertise for performing the project tasks?



Threshold
3/5

Weight
20%



Rebuttal - “Right-to-react”



European
Innovation
Council



- Approximately 1.5-2.5 months after the call deadline, you will have the opportunity to **reply within 8 calendar days** (at 17h00 Brussels local time) with a strict page limit (**maximum two A4 pages**) to the evaluators' comments;
- your **replies cannot be used to alter or add to the content** of the proposals, but must strictly focus on responding to potential misunderstandings or errors by the evaluators;
- the replies will be **made available to the evaluation committee**;
- the evaluation committee will **take into consideration** the comments from the rebuttal procedure, if any, in order to arrive at their final scores for the proposals that underwent this procedure.



Step 2: Portfolio considerations




- All proposals that meet the thresholds defined in the award criteria will be considered in step 2
- **Mapping of proposals in categories** stemming from overall goal and specific objectives of the Challenge (e.g., building blocks or subsystems, technical areas and/or competing technologies, platforms, applications areas, risk level and stage of technology readiness level, size)
- A **suitable portfolio of proposals** to be selected by evaluation committee by applying **portfolio considerations** in order to propose for funding a coherent set of projects to achieve expected outcomes and impacts of Challenge (in all cases the overall balance and composition of the portfolio will be taken into consideration)
- Further information and details about categories and portfolio considerations to be detailed in **EIC Pathfinder Challenge Guides**, which will be topic and domain specific
- Evaluation committee may also **propose some minor adjustments** to the proposals.

Feedback to Applicants



Applicants will receive an **Evaluation Summary Report** that will comprise of:

- the **final score**;
- a **comment that summarises** the assessment by the evaluation committee;
- **additional comments**.
- It will also specify if and how the evaluation committee took into account your reply received via the rebuttal.
- Applicants will also be informed about the **underlying portfolio**  **considerations** in case their proposal was not retained for funding while it received a score that was higher than other proposals retained for funding under the same Challenge.

What happens after a proposal is evaluated and retained for funding?



- Successful applicants will be contacted and supported by **Project Officer** and relevant **EIC Programme Manager** during grant preparation
- Planning of **portfolio activities** - all projects in the Challenge Portfolio are expected to collaborate with each other
- Start of preparation of **Challenge roadmap**, which will define collective deliverables, activities and objectives of the portfolio of projects
- During the execution of the project: **continuous interaction** with Project Officer assigned to your project and the EIC Programme Manager assigned to the Challenge Portfolio of your project, who will oversee all the portfolio projects



Pathfinder calls 2023 – Summary table



	Pathfinder Open	Pathfinder Challenges
Total budget	€179.5 million	€163.5 million
Proposals (indicative)	Up to €3 million	Up to €4 million
Funding rate	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs
Opening	10 January 2023	20 June 2023
Deadline	7 March 2023 at 17.00 CET	18 October 2023 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)

European Innovation Council

What is the
EIC Transition?

European
Innovation
Council



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

Eligible projects must have started 12 months before the call deadline and not ended more than 24 months before call deadline



■ **Budget: €128.36 million**

- €67.86 million for open, bottom up calls in any field of technology and application
- €60.5 million is earmarked for 'Transition Challenges':
 - Full scale Micro-Nano-Bio devices for medical and medical research applications;
 - Environmental intelligences;
 - Chip-scale optical frequency combs.

■ **Grants** up to €2.5 million (or more if well justified)

■ **Applications**

- All year-round open application process 2 cut-offs in 2023
- 12th April and 27th September cut-offs

Important: make sure the Transition is the right call for you!



Please ask yourselves these questions before you apply?

- Is this **novel technology ready** for the next steps?
- Have you performed **early market / competition explorations** ?
- Do you have a **motivated and diverse team** for commercialisation?

Did you answer to each one of these questions is a clear 'yes'?



Can you apply?



European
Innovation
Council



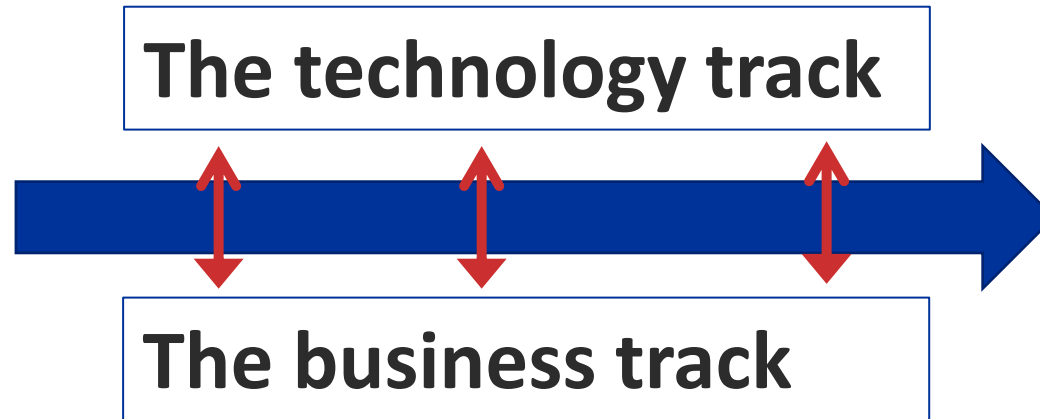
- You do **not need** to be a **participant**, Principle Investigator or **result owner** of the previous projects;
- **New participants** are **welcome** and encouraged to apply.
- However you need to prove **the commitment from the owner to negotiate** with you fair, reasonable, non-discriminatory access to the results.



Why EIC Transition?

The 2 core elements of a Transition proposal

The starting point in the project should be Proof of concept validated in the lab (TRL3/4)



The end point should be a completely functional version of the technology tested or demonstrated in relevant environment (TRL 5-6), supported by a sound and implementable commercialisation strategy.

If you did not follow the EIC Info day you can still watch it here recorded!

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

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)

Evaluation of proposals and next steps



- **First remote evaluation phase by experts**
 - Average of the individual scores per criteria (excellence, impact, implementation)
 - Overall score sum of the three averages
 - Feedback 9 weeks after the call deadline
- **If successful, within 2x available budget, invited to an in-person interview**
 - You may bring only people mentioned in the proposal
 - Jury composed of max 6 members, may include 1 programme manager
 - Convincingly pitch your proposal and answer clarifying questions
 - Recommends a Go/No Go, no change in the overall score
 - Invitation 13week and feedback 17 weeks after the call deadline
- **Grant agreement signed within 6 months from call closing.
Project starting <2-3M**

European Innovation Council

HOP-ON FACILITY?

European
Innovation
Council



HOP ON FACILITY: KEY FEATURES (1)

Who: _____

- A **consortium funded under Pillar 2 or the EIC Pathfinder actions** of Horizon Europe with a valid grant agreement but with no partner from a Widening country;
- A **legal entity from a Widening Country** wishing to join this collaborative R&I action.

How:

- The proposal must be **submitted by the coordinator of the consortium**
- **All consortium partners need to agree** on the accession of the new partner.
- The proposal should include a detailed description of the **profile of the new partner** and its role in the existing project and the **R&I relevance and complementarity** needs to be demonstrated.
- The additional partner and task should be described in a dedicated proposal template, DoA of parent project to be annexed



HOP ON FACILITY: KEY FEATURES (2)



Implementation:

- Selected consortia will be invited to submit an **amendment request** for accession of a new partner, modification of the description of the action and upgrade of the budget.

Costs:

- The budget increase must be **exclusively for the benefit of the new partner**. Indicative budget €200.000 - €500.000
- An additional **coordination fee of up to 10%** of the increased budget can be allocated to the coordinator of the consortium.

Deadline for applications **28 September 2023**



Thank you !

@EUeic

#Eueic

© European Union, 2021

Reuse of this document is allowed, provided appropriate credit is given and any changes are indicated (Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 International license). For any use or reproduction of elements that are not owned by the EU, permission may need to be sought directly from the respective right holders.

All images © European Union, unless otherwise stated. Image sources: ©Tom Merton/Caia Image, #315243588; ©REDPIXEL, #220695664; ©Halfpoint, #180578699; ©bnenin #213968072; ©MyMicrostock/Stocksy, #3094437622021. Source: Stock.Adobe.com. Icons © Flaticon – all rights reserved.

