

European Innovation Council: Accelerator, Prizes

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National contact point for EIC



EIC Accelerator

- **Objectives and Calls**
 - Support to companies (principally start-ups and SMEs) to scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones
 - The first call is foreseen for **March 18** with cut-offs on **June 9 and October 6, 2021**
- **What is new compared to H2020?**
 - Eligible applicants
 - Evaluation process
 - Accelerator Open vs Accelerator Challenges
 - Fast-Track and Plug-in mechanisms
- **TC CAS support**
 - EIC Accelerator training on proposal preparation and submission (March/April)
 - The EIC publication under VADEMECUM

Who may apply?

- **SMEs and start-ups** established in the EU/AC (https://ec.europa.eu/growth/smes/sme-definition_en)
 - Up to 250 employees
 - 50 m € annual turnover
 - 43 m € annual balance sheet
- **Small mid-caps** established in the EU/AC
 - Up to 500 employees
- One or more **natural persons** or **legal entities**
 - From EU/AC intending to establish an SME/Mid-cap
 - Intending to invest in an SME/Mid-cap in EU/AC – may submit on behalf of that company
 - From a non-associated 3rd country intending to establish or relocate an SME to EU/AC

Funding

- Innovation and Market Deployment Action
- Combination of a grant and investment components for SMEs/Start-ups
 - **Grant** up to **2.5 m €** (TRL 5/6 – 8), 70% funding rate
 - **Investment** (equity, quasi-equity) **0.5 to 15 m €** (TRL 9)
 - » In the case of equity, investments will not exceed 25% of the voting shares of the company;
Investments will normally be made with a long average perspective (7-10 years)
- Small mid-caps are **not eligible** for the grant component
 - Only TRL 9 activities
- Grant first & Grant only options for SMEs
 - **Grant first**: for innovations based on scientific discovery/novel technology, requiring further validation and demonstration in relevant environments
 - **Grant only**: for applicants who have sufficient financial means for deployment and the scale-up phase

Evaluation process (1)

- Three step evaluation
- No score: GO x NO-GO
- 3-day coaching available in the second step
- New submission tool
- **1st step: Short application**
 - 5-page form, Pitch deck, video
 - Submission at any time, result within 4 weeks
 - 4 experts: two GOs needed to proceed further
 - One resubmission allowed: if failed = 12 months cool down
- **2nd step: Full application**
 - Submission to a specific cut-off
 - 3 experts: three GOs needed to proceed to the interview
 - One resubmission to the 2nd step allowed: if failed = 12 months cool down

Evaluation process (2)

- **3rd step: Interview with the EIC Jury**
 - 8 – 9 weeks after the cut-off
 - The Jury consists of 6 experts (investors, entrepreneurs, business angels etc.)
 - Pitch and Q&A
- **Outcome of the evaluation**
 - **GO** (GA signature, due diligence)
 - **NO-GO**
 - » **Second chance:** one resubmission to the interview phase allowed
 - » **Seal of Excellence:** one resubmission to the 2nd step allowed
 - » **Rejected:** one resubmission to the 2nd step allowed
 - In case resubmission fails = 12 months cool down

EIC Accelerator Open vs Challenges

- The EIC Accelerator focuses in particular on innovations
 - building on scientific discovery or technological breakthroughs ('deep tech')
 - where significant funding is needed over a long timeframe before returns can be generated ('patient capital')
- **Accelerator Open**
 - Innovations in any field of technology or application
 - Exception: innovations that harm the environment or social welfare or that are designed primarily for military applications
- **Accelerator Challenges (2021)**
 - Innovations in areas of strategic relevance
 - » Strategic digital and health technologies
 - » Green Deal innovations for the economic recovery

EIC Accelerator Challenges

- **Digital technologies**
 - Advanced high performance computing, Edge computing, Quantum technologies, Cybersecurity, AI, Block-chain, Cloud infrastructure, IoT
- **Healthcare technologies**
 - AI-driven tools for early diagnosis, Point-of-care diagnostics, Novel approaches in cell and gene therapy, Development of novel biomarkers for clinical prognosis, Patient stratification or monitoring purposes, Bioprocessing 4.0, Healthcare intelligence services, E-health solutions for healthcare systems, medical practice and Intensive Care Units
- **Green Deal for the economic recovery**
 - Specific priority: Renewable energy, including renewable Hydrogen and energy storage, Deep Renovation of buildings, Low carbon industries, Batteries and other energy storage systems

Fast-Track and Plug-in

- **Fast-Track** provides a specific treatment of applications that result from existing Horizon Europe or Horizon 2020 projects
 - Based on an assessment by responsible funding body
 - Applicants are invited to prepare the full application (2nd step)
 - **Eligible bodies/schemes for 2021** cut-offs: EIC Pathfinder and Transition, ERC Proof-of-Concept, EIT KICs, Eurostars-2 (Partnership on Innovative SMEs)
- **Plug-in** applies to applications that result from existing national or regional programmes
 - A project review is implemented by funding/managing body responsible for the programme
 - Selected programmes must be certified by the EC
 - Applicants are invited to prepare the full application (2nd step)

EIC Prizes (1)

- **EU Prize for Women Innovators**
 - Awarded to the most talented women entrepreneurs from across the EU and AC, who have founded a successful company and brought innovation to market
 - » Main category (three prizes)
 - » „Rising Innovator“ aged up to 30
- **The European Capital of Innovation (iCapital) Award**
 - Recognizes cities' role as catalysers of the local innovation ecosystem and stimulates new activities aimed at boosting game-changing innovation
 - » European Capital of Innovation (min. 250K inhabitants)
 - » European Rising Innovative City (50 to 250K inhabitants)

EIC Prizes (2)

- **The European Innovation Procurement Award**
 - Recognizes public and private buyers across Europe in their efforts to promote innovation procurement and the innovative ways the solutions are procured
 - » Innovation procurement strategy award
 - » Facing societal challenges award
 - » Procurement leadership award
- **The European Social Innovation Competition**
 - Aims at stimulating social innovation's potential to provide solutions to societal challenges and foster sustainable and inclusive growth in Europe
 - » European social innovation challenge
 - » European social innovation impact



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