



PILOT CALL: EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges 2026

Objective of the AIC call: Support to *high-risk, demand-driven deep tech* innovation & *acceleration* to the market

Key features:

- **Demand side integration:** commercial users/end-users/other major stakeholders to be involved
- **Proactive portfolio management:** a Programme Manager will guide and support projects throughout Stage 1; foster synergies and the potential formation of consortia; play a leading role in the selection process for Stage 2

STAGED FUNDING:

Stage 1 (2026)

- € 300 K for 9 months
- 10 projects to be selected
- Open to single applicants only (any legal entity except large companies)
- **Project activities:** prepare and benchmark breakthrough solutions and explore their feasibility and viability

Stage 2 (2027)

- Up to € 2.5 M for up to 30 months
- 5 projects to be selected (call restricted to beneficiaries from stage 1)
- Open to single applicants or small consortia of 2–3 partners
- **Project activities:** further develop the most promising solutions and test them in real world environments and with the involvement of users

Challenge 2-2026: Translating Disruptive New Approach Methodologies (NAMs) into Practice

Stage 1 call opening 3.12. 2025/deadline 26.2. 2026 (17:00)

Objective: to accelerate the adoption of NAMs in biomedicine and support companies that want to bring NAMs to the market

Applicants should propose innovative and disruptive NAMs addressing **one or both** of the following areas:

- *Preclinical biomedical research*
- *Testing of medicinal products and medical technologies for safety, efficacy, or quality*

Methods in scope of the Challenge:

- *Human organoids or microphysiological systems (organ-on-chip, disease-on-chip)*
- *In chemico methods*
- *Digital twins*



- *Virtual patient simulations*
- *AI-enhanced predictive models*
- *Mechanistic or integrated in silico platforms*
- *3D – advanced human tissue model*

Entry requirements:

- Proven viability of the proposed solution in a lab environment (**TRL 4**)
- Access to an **appropriate infrastructure** to carry out the planned activities
- **Letters of intent** of **at least one** of the following stakeholders: an industrial end user or regulatory body interested in the proposed project

Please, read full details in the EIC Work programme 2026:

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/advanced-innovation-challenges-pilot_en

You can watch a recording of an AIC infoday:

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/events/online-info-day-eic-work-programme-2026-advanced-innovation-challenges-2025-11-17_en

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