



EIC Accelerator **GUIDE FOR APPLICANTS**

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eic.ec.europa.eu

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EIC Accelerator – Guide for applicants

European Innovation Council

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History of changes



Version	Publication Date	Change
1.0	18.03.2021	Initial version
1.1	08.04.2021	- Clarifications and footnotes regarding several issues: TRL, type of funding, etc. - Updates of links
1.2	26.04.2021	Updates on main recurrent questions received since the opening of the Call; More details have been added to the following issues: - updated cut off dates - diagnostic results - registration of applicants - short application: pitch deck and video - withdraw vs resubmission - coaching support - language of face to face interviews
1.3	07.05.2021	Step 2 – Full application questions
1.4	26.05.2021	- Step 2 – Full application – extra documents to be provided - Financial Template
1.5	06.09.2021	- Types of funding offered - Composition of interview panel & interview timing - Step 2 pitch deck - Information regarding Step 2 questions
1.6	09.02.2022	- Rebuttal and complaints - Grant vs Investment components explained - Criteria of the new EIC work programme 2022 updated - Cut-off dates 2022 - Challenge driven calls 2022
1.7	25.02.2022	Type of funding components applicable - Blended finance clarification

Version	Publication Date	Change
1.8	21.12.2022	- Work Programme 2023 update - Cut-off dates 2023 - Challenge driven calls 2023 - Clarification on investment only component option - Resubmission rules update
2.0	02.06.2023	- Updates on submission platform - Added slides on short proposal and annex 1
3.0	03.08.2023	- Cut-off date of October postponed to 19 October - Clarified that full proposal length in 2023 is a target, not a limitation
4.0	03.01.2024	- Short proposal in SEP- new template (12 page max) - Short proposal thresholds - Full proposal templates (50 page max, video, cap table, lump sums) - Submission limits - No more rebuttal or access to previous evaluations - Redress procedure - Funding types (no more grant first) - Cut-off dates - Consensus meetings - Evaluation criteria updates - Jury outcome: no change to amounts by jury, SoE - New Challenges - Lump sums
5.0	26.11.2024	Update with 2025 EIC Work Programme



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1

The EIC Accelerator, why should you apply ?



1 Why should you apply ?



The EIC Accelerator supports companies (principally start-ups and SMEs) to scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones.

The EIC Accelerator can support your company to scale up if you:

- ✓ Develop **high risk/high impact innovations**;
- ✓ Have the potential to **create new markets, transform** existing ones and **contribute to societal innovation**;
- ✓ Build on scientific discovery, radical thinking or technological breakthroughs (**'deep tech'**);
- ✓ You innovation activities are currently at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 6 or above;
- ✓ Require significant **funding** over a long timeframe before returns can be generated ('patient capital').

1 Why should you apply ?



If you are invited to submit the full application, you will have to choose between:



OPEN CALL

This call is for innovations in **any field of technology** and innovations that cut across different scientific, technological, sectoral and application fields or represent **novel combinations**.



CHALLENGE DRIVEN CALLS

These topics have been identified in areas where breakthrough technologies or game-changing innovations developed by start-ups or SMEs can have a major impact on EU objectives.

In 2025, these challenges relate to:

- Acceleration of advanced materials development and upscaling along the value chain
- Biotechnology driven low emission food and feed production systems
- GenAI4EU: Creating European Champions in Generative AI
- Innovative in-space servicing, operations, robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure
- Breakthrough innovations for future mobility



2

**Can you
apply ?**



You can apply if you meet one of the following **eligibility conditions**:

✓ You are a **single start-up or SME** (including spin-outs) established in an EU Member State or [Horizon Europe \(HE\) Associated Country](#).

✓ You are a **'Small mid-cap'** (up to 499 employees) established in an EU Member State or HE Associated Country.

You need funding for rapid scale up and your activities are at TRL 9 (e.g.: commercialisation and market deployment).

You can only apply for blended finance or investment only.

✓ You are **one or more natural persons or legal entities*** willing to set up a SME.



*Natural persons or legal entities:

- From **EU Member State or HE Associated Country** intending to establish an SME or small mid-cap in a Member State or Associated Country. Your company will have to be established prior to signing the Accelerator contract.
- Intending to invest in an SME or small mid-cap in a Member State or a HE Associated Country. As agreed with the company, **you will be submitting the proposal on behalf of the SME/small mid-cap** while the contract will be signed with the beneficiary company only.
- From a **non-associated third country** and you are ready to establish a SME (including start-ups) or to relocate an existing SME to an EU Member State or HE Associated Country, then you must have done so by the time of submitting a full application. Your company must prove its effective establishment in an EU Member State or HE Associated Country. The Commission may set specific conditions and milestones in the contract to ensure that the interest of the Union is met.



Applicants from the **United Kingdom** can apply for the Accelerator, but can only request and receive funding in the form of **"grant only"**.



Your application is **admissible** if it is **not a concurrent submission** or **concurrent implementation**.

Concurrent submission: You can submit only one proposal for evaluation to the Accelerator. You cannot submit another proposal until you have received the evaluation result for the first submission. In case a concurrent submission is identified, only the proposal submitted last before the deadline will be deemed admissible.

Concurrent implementation: You cannot submit a new proposal if you are a beneficiary of an ongoing EIC Accelerator/EIC Accelerator Pilot/SME instrument project.

Exceptionally, ongoing grant-only projects selected under a Horizon 2020 EIC pilot Accelerator or under Horizon Europe EIC Accelerator call may be eligible to submit a proposal for a blended finance or an investment only support under an EIC Accelerator call. Ongoing blended finance projects selected under a Horizon 2020 EIC pilot Accelerator call may be eligible to submit a proposal for a related investment component

Please note that a project is considered finalised when it reaches its end date.

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Which types of funding can you get?



Which types of funding can you get?



The EIC Accelerator provides blended finance to support:



DEVELOPMENT

(TRL 6 to 8)



DEPLOYMENT



SCALE-UP

(TRL 9)

The blended finance consists of an investment and grant component:

Grant component	Investment component
Maximum of less than EUR 2.5 million (equal to a maximum of 70 % of total eligible costs)	Minimum EUR 0.5 million and maximum EUR 10* million <i>*investments from 10-30 million available under the STEP Scale up call</i>
Innovation activities supported should be completed within 24 months	Usually in the form of direct equity or quasi-equity
Small mid-caps are not eligible for grant only	Maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company
	"Patient capital" principle (indicatively 7-10 years perspective)

Which types of funding can you get?



You may choose to apply to one of the following types of funding:

- **Grant Only**
- **Blended Finance**
- **Investment only**

The application profile and corresponding activities should be well justified for the type of funding chosen.



You may choose to apply to one of the following types of funding: **Grant Only, Blended Finance, Investment only**.
The application profile and corresponding activities should be well justified for the type of funding chosen.

1. GRANT ONLY



Type of activities

Innovation Activities only (TRL 6 to 8)



Funding components

EIC Grant component to cover a maximum of 70% of your total eligible costs of TRL 6 activities. I will take the form of a lump sum contribution.



Conditions

You provide evidence that you have sufficient financial means (e.g. revenue flow, existing investors or shareholders) to finance the deployment and scaling up of your innovation.



Remarks

Small mid-caps are not eligible for grant only support.
UK companies are only eligible for grant only support.



You may choose to apply to one of the following types of funding: **Grant Only, Blended Finance, Investment only**.
The application profile and corresponding activities should be well justified for the type of funding chosen.

2. BLENDED FINANCE



Type of activities

Innovation Activities (TRL 6-8) and Market Deployment Action
(TRL 9 and onwards)



Funding components

EIC Grant component to cover a maximum of 70% of your total eligible costs of TRL 6-8 activities (flagged as to be co-financed by the grant component in your proposal) in the form of lump sum contribution.
EIC Investment component to cover remaining expenditures, including TRL 9 activities onwards and TRL 6-8 activities (flagged as to be co-financed by the investment component in your proposal).



You may choose to apply to one of the following types of funding: **Grant Only, Blended Finance, Investment only**.
The application profile and corresponding activities should be well justified for the type of funding chosen.

3. INVESTMENT ONLY



Type of activities

Market deployment and scale up (TRL 9) and can be used to co-finance innovation activities (TRL 6-8)



Funding components

Investment from 0.5 million to 10* million in the form of direct equity or quasi-equity such as convertible loans via an investment agreement.

**larger investments between 10-30 million available under the STEP Scale up call*



Conditions

You are a non-bankable SME, including start-up

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What will be assessed?





For SHORT Proposal

Your proposal will be assessed against the evaluation criteria set out below using a binary system of **GO** or **NO GO** per proposal. A detailed description of the evaluation criteria applied for short and full proposals is available in the [Work Programme](#).

In summary, the experts will assess:

1

EXCELLENCE

Breakthrough and market creating nature; timing for the innovation.

2

IMPACT

Scale-up potential; positive broader impact.

3

LEVEL OF RISK, IMPLEMENTATION, AND NEED FOR UNION SUPPORT

Team's capability and motivation.



For SHORT Proposal

Excellence

Is the proposed innovation **highly novel, deep tech breakthrough** compared to existing solutions?

Is there sufficient demonstration that the innovation has completed all aspects of TRL 5 (validation in a relevant environment completed for the application of the technology) and therefore the **innovation is currently at TRL 6?**

Is the innovation at the **cutting edge** of new market, societal or technological trends?

Impact

Is the innovation **better than** what the **competition** proposes, and is the solution bringing sufficient added value to trigger demand from potential customers?

Does the innovation have the **potential to develop new markets** or significantly transform existing ones?

Will the innovation, if successfully commercialised achieve **positive broader societal, economic, environmental or climate impacts?**

Level of risk, implementation, and need for Union support

Does the **team** have the capability and motivation to implement the innovation proposal and bring it to the market? Is there a plan to acquire any critical competencies which are currently missing, including adequate **gender** balance?



For FULL Proposal

Your proposal will be assessed against the evaluation criteria set out below using a binary system of GO/NO GO per criterion.

Please note Grant only proposals will be evaluated in the same manner as blended proposals with the exception of the "Risk level of investment" sub-criterion which is not applicable to Grant only proposals. In addition, the sub-criterion question on "scale up potential" will assess whether a Grant only applicant can demonstrate access to the resources needed to commercialise and scale-up the innovation.

A detailed description of the evaluation criteria applied for short and full proposals is available in the [Work Programme](#).

1**EXCELLENCE:**

scale up vision, novelty
and breakthrough
nature, technology;
Intellectual
Property Rights; timing

2**IMPACT:**

market fit and competitor
analysis; commercialization
strategy; key partners;
scale-up potential; positive
broader impact.

3**LEVEL OF RISK,
IMPLEMENTATION, AND
NEED FOR UNION
SUPPORT:**

clear implementation plan;
high investment risk; risk
mitigation assessed;
team's capability and
motivation

What will be assessed?



For FULL Proposal

Excellence

Is the proposed innovation highly **novel**, deep tech **breakthrough** compared to existing solutions, and for EIC Accelerator Challenges, does the innovation address the specific objectives of the **Challenge** to which it was submitted?

Is the **timing** right for this innovation in terms of being at the cutting edge of new market, societal or technological trends?

Has the **technology** been developed in a safe, secure and reliable manner? Has it been adequately assessed, validated or certified? 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) and therefore the innovation is **currently at TRL 6**?

Does your company have the necessary **Intellectual Property Rights** to ensure adequate protection of the idea? Has a freedom to operate analysis been carried out?

Impact

Is the innovation better than what the **competition** proposes, and is the solution bringing sufficient added value to trigger demand from potential customers?

Does the innovation have the potential to **develop new markets** or significantly transform existing ones? Has the potential market for the innovation been adequately quantified, including conditions and growth rates? Is the expected market share acquisition reasonably ambitious and reachable?

Is there a convincing and well thought, thorough **strategy for commercialisation**, including regulatory approvals/compliance need ed, time to market/ deployment, and business and revenue model? Are the key partners identified and committed?

Does the innovation have the potential to **scaleup** the company?

Will the innovation, if successfully commercialised achieve positive **broader societal, economic, en vironmental or climate impacts**, and for EIC Challenges does it have the potential to contribute to the expected outcomes and impacts set out in the Challenge?

Level of risk, implementation, and need for Union support

Does the **team** have the capability and motivation to implement the innovation proposal and bring it to the market? Is there a plan to acquire any critical competencies which are currently missing, including adequate gender balance?

Can the company demonstrate that: – The nature and **risk level of the investment** in the innovation mean that, without an investment from the EIC Fund, European market actors are unwilling to commit the full amount that is needed? AND The company will be able to attract, with the support of the EIC, the remaining funding from other investors within the next two years?

Have the main **risks** (e.g. technological, market, financial, regulatory) been identified, together with measures to take to mitigate them?

Is there a clear **implementation plan** with defined milestones, work packages and deliverables, together with realistic resources and timings?



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Who will be assessing your proposals?



Types of experts/evaluators

Under the EIC Accelerator Programme, two types of experts are going to review your proposal:

- **Remote Experts**
- **Jury Members**



1. REMOTE EXPERTS

Proposals are evaluated remotely at [short proposal](#) and [full proposal](#) stages by independent expert-evaluators (remote experts) selected from a proprietary database of the European Commission.

Different profiles are selected in order to ensure a variety of high-level skills, knowledge and experience in different domains and sectors.

For each specific call a "pool" of expert-evaluators is appointed. They are selected based upon their experience and knowledge in project management, technology and innovation, investment and finance and entrepreneurship and business. A balance in terms of geographical diversity, gender, private and public sectors is ensured. A yearly rotation rule guarantees that at least 25% of remote experts included in a 'pool' are renewed every year.





2. JURY MEMBERS

If you are invited to a **fact to face interview**, a panel of Jury members are going to assess your **full proposal**.

They have a solid experience in different areas as entrepreneurs who have started and scaled-up innovative enterprises at European or global level, investors (banks, venture capitalists, business angels, crowd-funders, etc.) and experts involved in the innovation ecosystem (business schools, universities, innovation hubs, accelerators, etc.)

They will be allocated to thematic panels of a minimum of 4 and a maximum 6 jury members.

The list of Jury members is available at this [link](#). Their recruitment is a continuously ongoing process, therefore this list is updated regularly.



Conflict of interest:

The remote experts and Jury Members must perform their work **impartially** and take all measures to prevent any situation that could cast a doubt on their impartiality. The evaluation must **not be influenced by economic interest, political or national affinity, family or emotional ties or any other shared interest ('conflict of interests')**. Remote experts and Jury Members with a conflict of interest are excluded from the evaluation. All evaluators and Jury Members are bound by confidentiality agreements in their contracts.

Observers:

The evaluation process may be **monitored by one or more independent observers** appointed to observe the practical workings of the evaluation process and to give independent advice on the conduct and fairness of the evaluation sessions, the application of the award criteria and the ways in which the procedures could be improved.



How will proposals be assigned to the expert-evaluators?

The allocation of short proposals and full proposals to expert-evaluators for the remote evaluation steps will be done based on the affinity between the content of the proposal and the specific profiles of expert-evaluators.

In order to facilitate and ensure the best possible match between the proposals and the expert-evaluators, during the submission process you will be requested to select up to three keywords.

Keywords are grouped under 15 parent level categories (called “sub-discipline” in SEP). You will be able to select them by picking first a parent keyword (“sub-discipline”). You will then be able to choose a

child keyword called “descriptor” in the SEP evaluation part A.

The list of keywords covers a wide range of innovation fields and driving markets. The full keyword nomenclature can be found using the [following link](#).

Similarly, expert-evaluators will also be requested to select three main keywords (sub-discipline) and three descriptors from the same list in order to facilitate the matching of proposals.



We strongly advise you to **identify keywords** that best correspond to the innovation, service or product proposed as well as to the specific market or niche market targeted and to select the maximum number of sub-discipline keywords and descriptors, within the limit presented above.

If you believe that the [selected keywords](#) do not sufficiently cover your proposal, then you will also have the option to provide additional free keywords.

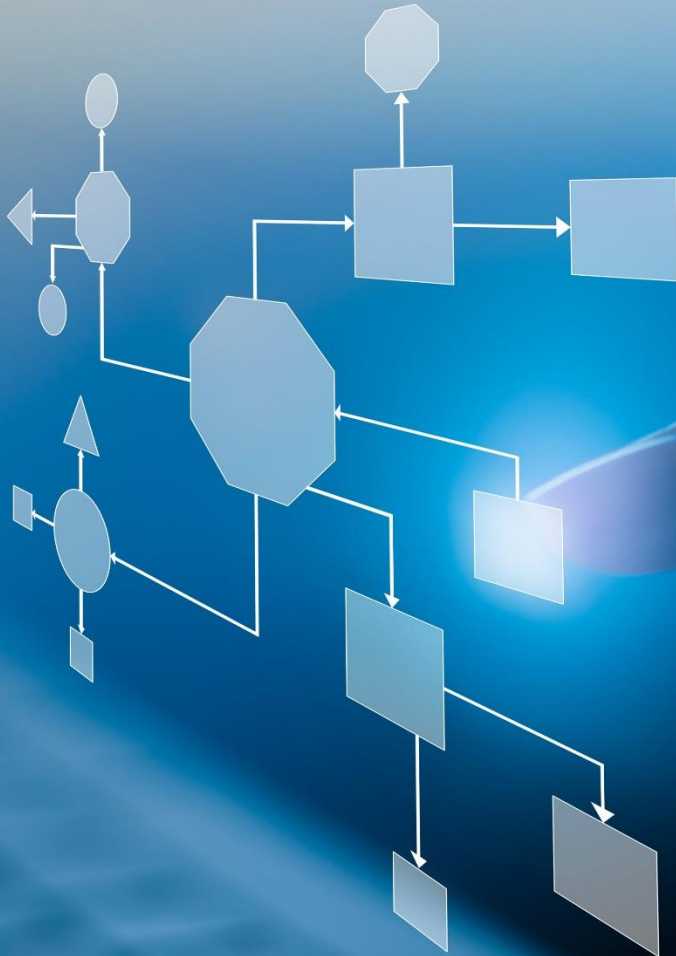
Regarding the allocation of proposals for the interviews, **the Jury members will be requested to select three main keywords** from the same list available for applicants that best describe their expertise. These keywords will be used to allocate them to the thematic panels for the interviews.

The keywords you will choose at the full proposal submission stage (as described above) will then be used to allocate your proposal to the most relevant thematic panel for the interviews.

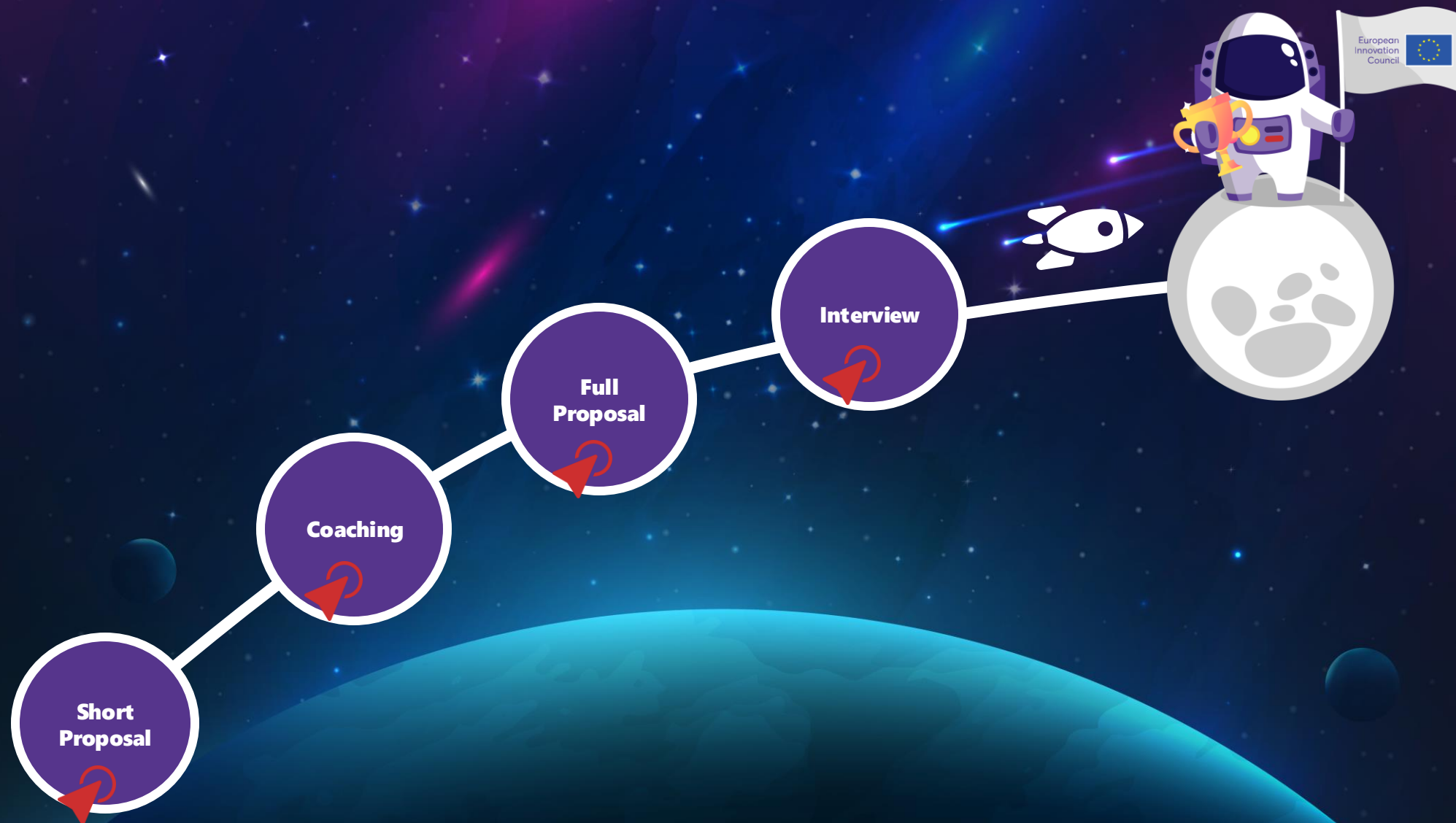


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How do you apply?



How do you apply?





Write your Short Proposal

At this stage of the process, you will be requested to provide an **indicative amount of the EIC Accelerator support you might request**. This data is used for statistical purposes only. Should you be invited to submit a full proposal, you will be allowed to revise your request.

The short proposal finishes with **a list of self-declaratory questions**. You may also provide your consent to grant access to your [National Contact Point](#) (NCP) to view your proposal, evaluation reports and results. By providing your consent, you allow your NCP to follow up your application throughout the selection process, and in case you are not selected for full proposal and the interview phase, to be able to support you by other means, including access to national funding schemes and other sources of financing.

Submission

Once your application is complete, you can submit. If you realize you made a mistake after submitting your proposal, it is best to contact the EC Tenders Portal helpdesk and ask to withdraw your proposal immediately. You may then make the necessary changes and submit it again.





Write your Short Proposal

How will your proposal be evaluated ?

Short proposals will be evaluated by **four experts** and you should receive your results within approximately **4-6 weeks** from the day of the batching (the first Tuesday of every month at 10am).

Evaluation process

Your short proposal will be evaluated remotely by **four experts** with expertise in the area of technology and market application of your innovation. The evaluators will essentially look at the **innovativeness/disruptiveness of your idea**, its **impact** and **your team** using the [award criteria](#).

Each evaluator will give a GO or NO GO.

- If **at least three evaluators** give a **GO** to the proposal, then your short proposal will be **successful** and you will be invited to prepare **a full proposal**.
- If **two or more evaluators** give a **NO GO** to the proposal, then your proposal is considered unsuccessful.



Write your Short Proposal

Open call

The short proposal is open to submit on an ongoing basis throughout the year.

Registration

Before starting your application, you must first register on the [Funding and Tenders Portal](#) (F&T Portal) and obtain a 9-digit Participant Identification Code (PIC). Should you have already a validated PIC you are able to use it. Natural persons also need to obtain a PIC in order to start the submission.



Write your Short Proposal

The application

1. Proposal information- Part A

You must fill in a set of general information essential for the preparation of the proposal: **Acronym, title, abstract & keywords.**

2. Company and CEO information

You need to insert and confirm your PIC number. Also information about the **CEO of the company** (or the highest managing position of the company) will be asked. In the case of a natural person, please simply provide your name. See section registration.

3. A pitch-deck of maximum 10 slides

There is no pre-defined template for the content. The document should be uploaded in **pdf format.**

You may use it to show images, data, tables not included in the questionnaire.

Please keep in mind that in case your short proposal is a GO, you will be asked to submit another pitch deck at the time of the submission of the full proposal, which would be used should you be invited to the face-to-face interviews. This can be the same or can be an expanded version of the short proposal pitch deck.

What to consider? You should dedicate two to four slides to provide basic but key elements and figures regarding your business model, the targeted market and growth forecast. Applicants are expected to have a clear vision of their market and commercial deployment.





Write your Short Proposal

The application

4. A video of maximum 3 minutes

In this video, the core members of your team (up to three people) should illustrate your **innovation** and the **main motivation** behind your application.

Please note the following:

You should keep the video simple. The objective is to show the team behind the idea/proposal and your motivation.

If you are a natural person, you can include future team members in the video or present your plan to acquire the necessary resources to establish your company and team.

The video does not have to be in English (and may include subtitles). However, bear in mind that experts will assess the video in the context of a Programme which has the objective of supporting companies with the potential to impact markets in an international/European context.

5. A series of questions describing the details of your innovation, your potential market and your team

You will have a limit of **12 pages** to present your application.

The questions are presented in Annex 1.



If your **short proposal** received a GO in 2023 or 2024, you can submit your full proposal to one of the two cut offs in 2025. If you receive a GO on your short proposal in 2025, you can submit to one of the cut offs in 2025 or 2026. At the time of the full proposal, you will need to CHOOSE if you apply for:

- **Accelerator Open call**
- **Accelerator Challenges**



Cut-off dates 2025:

March 12 | October 1

*deadline 17:00:00 CET



Write your FULL Proposal

Coaching

If you are successful in your short proposal, you will be entitled to receive three days of remote [coaching from the EIC Business Acceleration Services](#) to help you refine your business case. The coaches are independent business experts with entrepreneurial and fund raising backgrounds who will provide you crucial insights and guidance. This service is free of cost.

From our large pool, you can find the best coach for your proposal with ample experience in your specific industry and market context.

Coaching is there to support you, nonetheless, you remain fully responsible for the content of your proposal and you are the only one to decide to which cut-off you would like to apply. **This support can be offered only once.**



Write your FULL Proposal

Application

The full proposal requires the following steps:

- To follow the structure and provide the information detailed in the **templates** available on the F&T Portal.
- Define the type of funding (blended finance, grant only, equity only) you are applying for; see our [FAQs](#) for more information.
- A new pitch deck. There is no pre-defined template nor limit of slides, however, please keep in mind that you will be presenting this pitch deck if you are invited to the face-to-face interviews. Therefore, it is your sole responsibility to be able to present it during the 10 minutes allocated time. The pitch deck should be in pdf format.



Write your FULL Proposal

Application



VIDEO

You may choose to submit the same video as in the short proposal stage or you can upload a new one.



ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS

Financial information, Mandatory data, Freedom to Operate Analysis, Data Management plan, Letters of Intent, CVs of key personnel, 10-page max of any other relevant documentation. For applicants applying to the Challenge 3 and 4 or open proposals relating to these areas, you will be asked to upload an ownership and control declaration.



For blended applications and ONLY in exceptional cases, you may request EUR 2 500 000 or more as grant support. For grant only the maximum grant amount you can request is EUR 2 499 999.



Write your FULL Proposal

Concepts/issues to stress/tackle when preparing your proposal

TRL

Activities above TRL 8 cannot be covered by the grant component. TRL 6 means that all aspects of TRL 5 (validation in relevant environment) are completed and you are currently in TRL 6. The same applies to all the higher TRL levels.

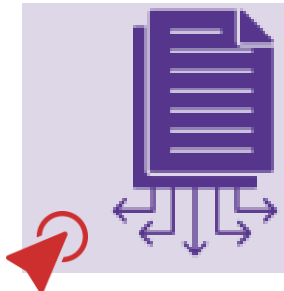
Need for EU support

You will be asked to demonstrate the need for EU support. This means that you will have to provide evidence that your company is not investment ready according to current market risk appetite. The risk relates to the current stage of development of the innovation and the company. It is a combination of the risk related to the early stage of your company as such (team/financing structure/governance/partners), your product development and market entry and the type of

product (deep tech, breakthrough). To already have or not have investors is not a decisive element for the EU support. If an applicant already has investors the applicant should clarify whether the EIC support is needed or if the EIC is playing a catalytic role. Conversely if there are no interested investors, is the company reaching out to investors? Is this due to the high risk or is there another issue? Is it possible that investors would be willing to invest at a later stage upon key milestones achieved?

Security

You will need to answer security questions related to your proposal. Projects involving classified and/or security sensitive information will have to go through the Security Appraisal process to authorise funding and may be made subject to specific security rules.



Write your FULL Proposal

Concepts/issues to stress/tackle when preparing your proposal

Economic security

For applications in generative artificial intelligence and space (both challenge and open), an ownership and control declaration is mandatory. Successful applicants in these domains will have to undergo a check to determine whether the company is controlled by a non-associated third country. The outcome of this assessment will determine the eligibility of the proposal.

Lump sum

More information on lump sum cost model:

- [How to manage your lump sum grants](#)
- [Lump sum funding in Horizon Europe](#)



Submission

Once your application is complete, you can submit. Submitted proposals may at any moment be withdrawn by the applicant ('Withdraw' button in SEP Submission, while the call is open, if you want to withdraw after the cut off, you must send a message to the F&T Portal helpdesk. *NB: Withdrawing the proposal before receiving the evaluation result will not count towards the resubmission limit.*



Remote evaluation of full proposal

Full proposals will be assessed after the set cut-off dates.

- Your proposal will be assessed remotely by three remote experts, matched against the area of technology and application of your innovation.
- Each evaluator will assess whether your full proposal meets each of the criteria and will give a GO or NO GO per criterion.

Please note there is no longer the possibility to rebut comments from previous evaluators and evaluators will not take into account previous evaluations. Each proposal will be assessed independently and on its own merit.



Remote evaluation

Outcome



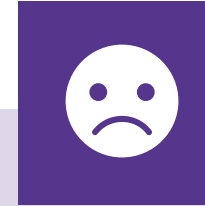
If 3 remote experts give a GO for all the criteria

Your proposal is successful, and you will receive an invitation to a face-to-face interview with the EIC jury.



If 2 of the 3 evaluators give a GO for all the evaluation elements

There will be a consensus meeting to decide if you will be invited to an interview with an EIC Jury. All 3 experts must give a GO for the proposal to be invited to interview.



If 2 or more remote expert give a NO GO under any of the criteria

Your proposal will be rejected.



Remote evaluation

Submission limits

After three unsuccessful submissions to the EIC Accelerator, which can be at any stage of the process (Short Proposal, Full Proposal) and for any form of support (Challenge, Open, Grant only, Blended finance, Equity only), an applicant may not apply again to the EIC Accelerator under the Horizon Europe Framework Programme.

COMPLAINTS

If the result of the evaluation is a NO GO, you will receive a rejection letter outlining the means of redress.



Pitch your Innovation

Face-to-face interviews with the EIC Jury

If your full application receives a GO, you will be invited to a face-to-face interview.



Pitch your innovation:

Face to face interviews with the EIC Jury

What to consider before the interview

When

The face-to-face interviews will be organized approximately 14-15 weeks after the cut-off date (or longer if there is a need for a further set of interviews). **For 2025, exact interviews dates will be communicated in due time on the [EIC website](#).**

Prioritization

In case the number of applicants to invite exceeds the capacities of the initially planned interview sessions, you will be invited according to the prioritization as set in the [Work Programme](#).

Applicant's representatives: You are allowed to send a maximum of 3 representatives for the interview.

More details on the rules for the participation of the applicant's representatives will be communicated in your invitation to interview.

If the appointed representatives fail to appear, or if no one is appointed, the interview will remain scheduled and proceed only on the basis of the documents already provided.

Costs for travel to Brussels will NOT be reimbursed by the EIC



Pitch your innovation:

Face to face interviews with the EIC Jury

What to consider before the interview

How

Composition of the panel: At the interview, you will be assessed by a panel of at least 4 and maximum 6 jury members.

In addition, EIC Programme Managers and representatives from EIC Investment Partners may also participate in the interview and ask questions, however they will not be members of the jury and will not take part in the jury's decisions (no right to vote). The names of the jury members of the panel you have been allocated to will be provided to you prior to the interview.

Where

The face-to-face interviews will take place either in Brussels. An invitation letter will be sent approximately 3 weeks before the interview date and will include:

- date and time of the interview - interview times will not be changeable!
- address and directions where the interview will take place;
- instructions on how to appoint up to three company representatives for the interview and what information must be provided.



Pitch your innovation:

Face to face interviews with the EIC Jury

What happens during the interview

Timing

Duration of the interview: The interview* will last no longer than 45 minutes, and includes:

- 10 minutes (maximum) of presentation supported by the pitch deck document submitted with your full proposal;
- Maximum 35 minutes of questions and answers to clarify aspects of the proposal. There will be no pre-set questions.

**The interviews will take place in English*

Decision making process

After the interview and the departure of the applicant's representatives, the jury votes. The final decision is a consensus.

Jury members collectively prepare the Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) for the proposal which includes (1) the evaluation outcome and (2) jury's comments/recommendations.

The EIC jury will have access to the remote evaluation results of your full proposal but will not have access to your short proposal or the evaluation results of your short proposal and will also not have access to any previous proposals in cases of resubmissions.



Pitch your innovation:

Face to face interviews with the EIC Jury

What happens during the interview

The jury may focus the interview on any element of your proposal based on the remote evaluation result and its own assessment.

Jury members will decide based on your interview and their overall assessment whether your proposal should be funded ([GO](#)) or not ([NO GO](#)).

Adjustments to requested funding

If the proposal receives a GO and some activities above TRL 8 have been detected, the jury may lower the grant amount accordingly.

The EIC jury will not change the amount requested for the investment component, but may make observations for consideration by the EIC Fund. The

EIC jury will not change the form of support (blended, grant only, equity only) but may make recommendations to be taken into account when preparing the grant agreement or negotiating the investment component.

Regarding lump sums- experts will assess the estimated budget during remote evaluation in view of establishing the lump sum amount. Their recommendations will be added to the ESR and implemented during GAP.



Pitch your innovation:

Face to face interviews with the EIC Jury

Result / Outcome

You will be informed of the result of the interviews approximately 3 weeks after the interview session ends.

GO

If your proposal is recommended for funding, you will be invited to negotiate and then sign an initial contract that will initially provide for the grant component, which will include a first pre-financing payment on the grant component. In parallel, if you requested an investment component, the EIC Fund will start the negotiation process to structure the investment agreement.

If your proposal is not recommended for funding, your proposal will normally be awarded a Seal of Excellence to facilitate funding from alternative funding sources and access to EIC Business Acceleration Services. For proposals in the Challenges both GO and NO GO will receive a Sovereignty Seal (STEP Seal).

Exceptionally, EIC juries may recommend that your proposal does not receive a Seal of Excellence or STEP Seal if they find weaknesses in your proposal which were not identified by the expert evaluators at the remote evaluation stage. In such cases, you will receive feedback to justify this recommendation.



Pitch your innovation:

Face to face interviews with the EIC Jury

Result / Outcome



Seal of Excellence

Following the notification of the outcome of your application, you will receive an official rejection letter (and your Seal of Excellence, if awarded).

NB: Seal of Excellence can only become operational if you have given consent to share data about your application with other eligible funding bodies. Make sure to select the consent box when submitting your application.



Pitch your innovation:

Face to face interviews with the EIC Jury

Result / Outcome



Sovereignty Seal (STEP Seal)

If your proposal was submitted to one of the Challenges, you will receive a STEP Seal following the notification of the outcome of your application if awarded.

The STEP Seal is awarded to funded proposals to support access to complementary funding sources and those not selected for funding to support access to alternative funding sources. For proposals not selected for funding, Member States may decide to transfer budget from European Regional Development Fund Programmes to the Agency to fund directly Sovereignty (STEP) Seal proposals

NB: As STEP Seal beneficiary, you might be requested to provide additional documentation for the purpose of an Ownership and Control Assessment where there is such requirement.

7

Extra information





Other types of applications

Fast track scheme

The 'Fast Track' scheme is a novelty introduced under Horizon Europe to provide a specific evaluation path for existing Horizon Europe or Horizon 2020 projects to the EIC Accelerator.

Which projects are eligible for the fast track?

In 2025, the funding bodies and schemes which are eligible for the Fast Track for EIC Accelerator cut-off dates are:

- The EIC Pathfinder and EIC Transition projects (including under EIC pilot) managed by the Agency;

- Relevant schemes managed by the Knowledge and Innovation Communities (KICs) supported by the European Institute of Innovation and Technology (EIT), as identified as relevant by each KIC;
- Eurostars-2 Joint Programme and the Partnership on Innovative SMEs managed by the Eureka secretariat
- Companies awarded a grant only under the Horizon 2020 EIC pilot Accelerator and the Horizon Europe EIC Accelerator managed by the Agency.
- Companies awarded grants under the Pre-accelerator funding scheme;
- Companies awarded grants under the Women Tech.EU scheme.



Other types of applications

Fast track scheme

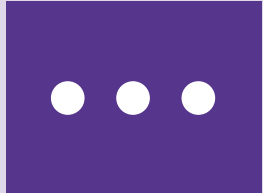
How can you apply?

Under the Fast Track scheme, applicants do not apply directly to the EIC Accelerator call. Instead, a project review is carried out by the responsible funding body to assess the innovation or market deployment potential of an existing project, to decide whether the project is suitable for support under the EIC Accelerator. If so, the applicant will be invited to submit a proposal directly to the full proposal stage .



For more information please see:

[WP Annex 3](#)



Other types of applications

Plug in scheme

The pilot Plug-in scheme is a novelty under Horizon Europe and a specific process applicable to the EIC Accelerator only. Similarly to the Fast-track scheme, it provides a specific evaluation path for applications coming from existing national or regional programmes to the EIC Accelerator.

The Plug-in scheme is a pilot initiative launched by the European Commission in close cooperation with Member States and Associated Countries.

Under the 'plug-in' scheme, applicants do not apply directly to the EIC Accelerator call. Instead, a project review is carried out to assess the innovation or market deployment potential of an existing project at national or regional level, to decide whether the project is suitable for support under the EIC Accelerator. If so, the applicant will be invited to submit a proposal directly to the full proposal.



For more information please see:

[WP Annex 4](#)



Annex 1



SHORT PROPOSAL | Part B template

1. Company description

Does the company have the vision and ambition to scale up?

2. Problem/market opportunity

Describe the problem you are trying to address from the customer/user point of view. Explain why it is a problem and for whom.

3. The Innovation: Solution/Product or Services (USP)

Present the solution; explain how it works in practice, what it changes for potential users, the way(s) in which it is unique, why it has deep tech breakthrough potential, why it is better than existing solutions. Specify which Technology Readiness Level your technology has attained and explain concretely how you have achieved it. Describe to what extent your solution has been validated/certified and by whom. Describe why now is the right time to bring it to the market.

4. Market and Competition analysis

Describe your business model and the target market, explain why customers would be willing to pay, who are the competitors, and what are the advantages and disadvantages of your solution. Explain why your innovation will be successful in these markets.



Annex 1



SHORT PROPOSAL | Part B template

5. Broad Impacts

Describe and quantify, if possible, the broad expected impact of your innovation on society, the environment and climate, the UN Sustainable Development Goals and on job creation. Refer to any relevant EU policy.

6. Team and management

Present your team members, including: the track record of the founders and key managers; explain how you plan to ensure gender balance among your team members, including those in executive positions (at least CEO, CSO and CTO); identify missing skills, recruitment targets and employee retention plans designed to address the identified missing skills .

7. Funding request

Describe your financial needs for grants and investment, explain why you have not been able to raise sufficient investment to carry out the project, and why you need the support of the EIC. Please note that the figures are indicative at this stage, and you will have the possibility to modify this within your full proposal.



From 2025 the short application is limited to 12 pages





Annex 2



SHORT PROPOSAL | Annexes

ANNEXES TO SHORT PROPOSAL

Please upload the following mandatory documents:

- **Video:** Describe your company and your project in a 3 minutes video with up to 3 team members.
- **Pitch deck:** Make sure your pitch summaries your proposal, but more importantly, engage us with your story! Convey your message in a compelling manner and persuade us to support your innovative idea. (It should be provided in PDF and not exceed 10 pages) Be assured you will have the opportunity to upload the latest version of your pitch as part of the full proposal.
- **Consent for data sharing**



Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

Part B – Table of content

Main evaluation criteria addressed

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PART 1 – BUSINESS CASE

1	Company description	Excellence
2	The problem/market opportunity	
3	The innovation: solution/ product or services (USP)	
4	Market analysis and competition analysis	Impact
5	Marketing and sales plan	
6	Team and management	Level of risk, implementation and need for union support
7	Risks	
8	Financial plan	



Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

Part B – Table of content

Main evaluation criteria addressed

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PART 2 – EIC SPECIFIC INFORMATION

9	Implementation plan	Level of risk, implementation and need for union support
10	How EU support takes the company to the next value point	
11	The funding request	
12	Broad impact	Impact



From 2025 the full application is limited to 50 pages



Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

PART 1 – BUSINESS CASE

1. Company description

- Explain the core mission and vision of your company.
- Explain who are the key partners and their expected contributions (e.g. a first lead customer, a university, potential user groups, partners for clinical trials, etc.).
- Describe the key assets of your company (e.g. offices, laboratories, access to production facilities).
- Highlight the top 3 to 5 clients or sell side partners and their share of revenues (if applicable), the top 3 to 5 suppliers and share of cost of goods sold (COGS) or operational expenses (OPEX), and the top 3 to 5 advisors (business, scientific, other) their role and their OPEX cost.

2. The problem/market opportunity

- Describe the problem you have identified and explain why it is a problem and for whom.
- Describe the unsatisfied need of potential customers. How is this addressed today and what are the shortcomings to current solutions?





Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

3. The innovation: Solution/Product or Services (USP)

- Explain in simple terms and with graphs if needed, how your solution works, its main features and what key areas are still subject to improvements/innovation.
- Value proposition: explain what is unique and has breakthrough potential; how this addresses the problem; how it is better than existing solutions; and why now is the right time to bring it to the market.
- Development stage: describe your technological achievements so far; specify which Technology Readiness Level this has attained; and describe to what extent your solution has been validated/certified and by whom. For health companies, explain if you have conducted clinical trials and to which level.
- IP strategy: explain your strategy to protect your intellectual property. List your key patents including their registration number and their status, mention key relevant scientific publications. Specify patents from others for which you have secured the right of use. Explain if you are combining patents and trade secrets. Explain how you ensure your freedom to operate and provide supporting documents (in annex).

4. Market analysis and Competition analysis

- Describe the targeted market - Total Addressable Market (TAM); Serviceable Available Market (SAM); Serviceable Obtainable Market (SOM); and market growth (Compounded Annual Growth Rate (CAGR)).
- Willingness to pay: explain why there is a willingness to pay from your targeted market customers. Include details on POCs run with users and clients.





Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

5. Marketing and sales plan

- Business model: what will be your business model, including the revenue model: key activities, resources, customer relationship, channels, revenues, scalability, geographical market.
- Describe your Go-to-Market Plan with milestones. What are the existing key barriers preventing market entry, and how can you overcome these barriers?
- Commercialisation strategy: what is your marketing approach and pricing policy? (upload any letters of intent, if relevant).
- Describe the potential for scaling up (turnover, licensing).

6. Team and management

- Present your team, including: the track record of the founders and key managers; available skills and experience; how you plan to ensure gender balance among your team members, including those in executive positions (at least CEO, CSO and CTO); missing skills identified (target recruitment); recruitment plans and employee retention plans designed to address the identified missing skills.
- Governance: describe your board of directors, consultants and advisors, and explain their added value and defined role in the project.
- Do you have an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) in place to incentivise key non-founding members of your team?
- Describe your capitalization table



Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

7. Risks

- Describe the financial risks and those risks linked to the technology, the market, the competition, the team; and outline their likelihood, their expected effects and planned mitigation methods.
- Legal and regulatory requirements to be fulfilled: describe the strategy for regulatory approvals and compliance; and what applicable EU legislation or standard might affect your project or, conversely, be affected by your projects?

8. Financial Plan

- Provide the requested financial information according with the template in the annex, e.g. what are your hypothesis supporting the projection of your turnover, the important capex and the main elements of your costs of goods sold. Use this space to comment on the figures shown in the excel table.





Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

PART 2 – EIC SPECIFIC INFORMATION

9. Implementation Plan

- Work plan and resources . Please provide the following:
 - Brief presentation of the overall structure of the work plan. The work plan should be a narrative presenting the logical sequence of the work packages corresponding to the key project deliverables.
 - Timing of the different work packages and their components (Gantt chart or similar).
 - Detailed work description, including work packages, deliverables, milestones, critical risks relating to project implementation, description and justifications of subcontracting costs, justification of purchase costs exceeding 15% of personnel costs and a table showing in-kind contribution for third parties, if applicable.

10. How EU support takes the company to the next value point

Explain why you have not been able to raise sufficient investment to carry out the project, and why you need the support of the EIC.

- Are you in discussion currently, or planning to start a discussion, with private or public investors? If so, please explain.
- What is your overall funding strategy for the future?





Annex 3



FULL PROPOSAL | Part B template

- Elaborate on how the EIC funding will benefit the scalability of your innovation.
- Which exit strategy do you foresee including the timeline and expected return on investment? Explain the assumptions behind this.
- Are there any financing issues that could compromise the ability of a project partner to exploit the innovation?

11. The EIC funding request

- Which type of EIC funding are you requesting (i.e. grant only, blended, equity only).
- Companies submitting a grant-only proposal must provide evidence that have sufficient financial means (e.g. revenue flow, existing investors or shareholders) to finance the deployment and scaling up of your innovation.

12. Broad impacts

- Describe the societal, economic, environmental and/or climate impact of your proposal.
- Describe your company's potential to create jobs each year for the next 5 years, including indirect jobs if applicable.
- Explain how your proposal contributes to the UN Sustainable Development Goals.





Annex 4



ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)

Financial plan and equity needed

Please refer to the instructions in the first worksheet. You can also use graphs in your graphs to illustrate the data. Data are required from year N to N+4

Table 1 - Simplified financials, k€

Project Data	FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS for your innovation (not your company)		
		Year N	Year N+1
	Market Share (%)		
	Units sold (#s)		
	Revenues (k€)		



Annex 4

**ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)**

Company Data	PROFIT & LOSS	Year N	Year N+1
	Revenue (Turnover)		
	Gross Margin (Gross Operating Profit)		
	Selling, General and Administrative expenses		
	R&D expenses		
	Other operational expenses		
	EBITDA	0.00	0.00
	Interest		
	Depreciation		
	Other revenues/expenses (including grants)		
	EBT	0.00	0.00
	Taxes		
	Net Operating Profit After Tax	0.00	0.00



Annex 4

**ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)**

Company Data	CASHFLOWS	Year N	Year N+1
	Cashflows from operating activities (net)		
	Cashflows from investing activities (net)		
	Cashflows from financing activities (net)	0.00	0.00
	<i>of which:</i>		
	Proceeds from grants		
	Proceeds from issuance of debt		
	Repayment of debt		
	Proceeds from issuance of equity		
	Dividends		
	Net increase/decrease in cash and cash equivalents	0.00	0.00



Annex 4



ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)

Company Data	BALANCE SHEET	Year N	Year N+1
	Total assets	0.00	0.00
	<i>of which:</i>		
	Cash and cash equivalents		
	Inventory		
	Accounts receivable		
	Property and Equipment		
	Intangible assets		
	Other assets		
	Outstanding liabilities	0.00	0.00
	<i>of which:</i>		
	Accounts payable		
	Short-term debt		
	Long-term debt		
	Other liabilities		
	Equity	0.00	0.00
	<i>of which:</i>		
	Share capital		
	Retained Earnings		
	Other equity		



Annex 4

**ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)**

Company data	BUSINESS METRICS AND RATIOS	Year N	Year N+1
	Cash and cash equivalents	0.00	0.00
	Total Debt	0.00	0.00
	Total Equity	0.00	0.00
	Gross Margin, %	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
	EBITDA Margin, %	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
	Debt-to-Equity ratio	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
	Return on Equity, %	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
	Return on Capital Employed, %	#DIV/0!	#DIV/0!
	Break-even (operating cashflows)	No	No
	Automatic cross-check if the balance Sheet is balanced	0.00	0.00



Annex 4

**ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)****Table 2 - Company up-to-date financial data/ Liquidity**

Information item	Value, k€	Comments
External Debt as of application date		
Total cash balance as of application date		
Cash burn per month (as per last month)		
Drivers of cash burn		
Cash needed to breakeven		
Company has cash until (MM/YY)		
Major short term liabilities of the company		



Annex 4



ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)

Table 3 - Company financing history

Please, specify all the previous funding and equity history

Date	Entities providing financing	Public or private	Financing type	Amount, k€	Implied valuation, k€ (if relevant)	Comments
			Total	0.00		

Table 4 - Current financing round

Information item	Value, k€	Comment
Total financing needed		
Grant amount requested		
Equity amount requested (if applicable)		
Other financing - specify		
Suggested post-money valuation		



Annex 4

**ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)**

Your company: Equity needed = cash flow from issuance of equity : line 39 of your Financial plan (Ensure coherence with the number of years in the "Financial plan" worksheet)		(k €)
Year N		0.00
Year N+1		0.00
Year N+2		0.00
Year N+3		0.00
Year N+4		0.00
TOTAL Equity needed		0.00



Annex 4

**ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)**

Of which

equity requested from the EIC	
equity provided by other investors	
Please detail here amount and origin	



Annex 4

**ANNEXES TO THE FULL PROPOSAL (Mandatory)**

Of which part is used for project activities financed by equity (above or below TRL 9)

Your project: estimated costs to be financed by equity (EIC + other

Follow numbering of grant work packages (use the same numbering as in your narrative document)

WP nr.	WP Title	Cost (€)
X		
X+1		
X+2		
X+3		
X+4		
TOTAL cost of work packages financed by Equity		€ 0.00



Annex 4



Mandatory data and consent full proposal

Declarations

By applying to the EIC Accelerator Programme, you and your company declare that natural persons and Ultimate Beneficial Owners are not listed on sanctions lists and, moreover undertake not to do business with customers, or make funds or economic resources available to, or for the benefit of (directly or indirectly) any natural or legal person designated under EU sanctions EU Sanctions Map.

Moreover, you and your company declare that entities subject to EU restrictive measures under Article 29 of the Treaty on the European Union (TEU) and Article 215 of the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU (TFEU) as well as Article 75 TFEU will not participate in any capacity in the action, including as beneficiaries, affiliated entities, associated partners, third parties giving in-kind contributions, subcontractors or recipients of financial support to third parties (if any) - <http://www.sanctionsmap.eu>.

In addition, you and your company undertake not to enter into consultations with a view to adopt remedial measures if one of the company's business partners is designated under EU sanctions or makes funds or economic resources available to, or for the benefit of, directly or indirectly, a person subject to EU sanctions.



Annex 4



Mandatory data and consent full proposal

Consent

In case my proposal will be selected for support through an investment component, I give my consent for the European Commission, EISMEA and other actors involved in the management of the action (e.g. EIC Fund, Alternate Independent Manager of the EIC Fund, European Investment Bank, etc.) to find a suitable Investment Partner to co-invest alongside the EIC Fund and to share necessary information, including personal data, with these Investment Partners.

Whilst EISMEA might not provide you financial support, it may award you a Seal of Excellence. This will allow your national or regional authority to help you in acquiring financial support. To benefit from this possibility, you must accept to share your basic information with the relevant authorities. I agree that the list of companies having been awarded a Seal of Excellence may be published.

I further consent to sharing the following data with my relevant National Contact Point and EEN Member, relevant public organisations from the European Union, EU Member states and Horizon Europe associate countries (including regional innovation organisations, European Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Managing authorities etc.): basic information about my proposal limited to the name, phone, email of the CEO or person in charge of managing innovation/company, proposal acronym, title, abstract, amount of grant requested to the EIC, total amount of investment requested to EIC and evaluation result (GO/NO GO).



Additional information

Should you have remaining questions, we recommend you contact your local [**National Contact Points**](#). This service can provide you advice and further information about the programme.

For any question regarding submission and evaluation of your proposal, you can contact the [**IT helpdesk**](#) via the Funding and Tenders Portal.

For enquiries related to the validation process of participants having a Participant Identification Code (PIC), please write via the [**Participant Register**](#).



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