



Unlock EIC Accelerator funding

Presentation and key success factors

Self-promotion time



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Expertise:

Consultant in **building responses to national** (France 2030, BPI, Belgian government), **European** (Horizon Europe, MarTERA, Interreg) and **international** (UN) **calls for projects**.

European project management: RealHyFC; WhiteCycle.

Structure

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Horizon Europe
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Q&A session

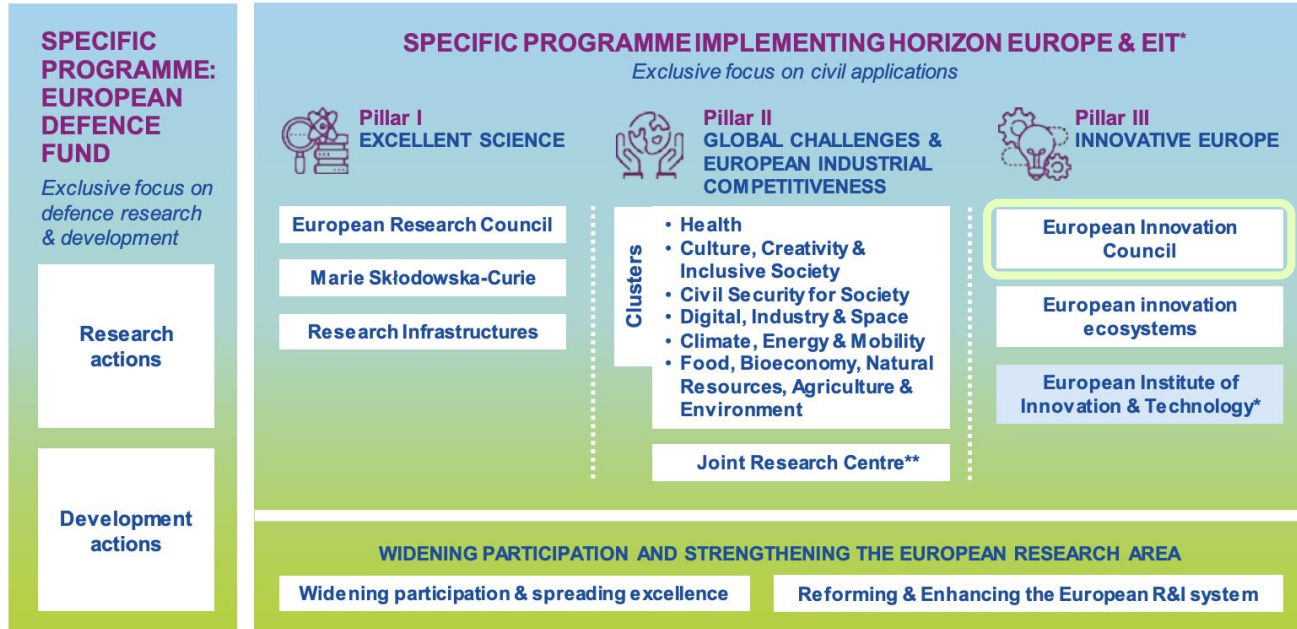
04

Application
process & tips



The Horizon Europe program

Horizon Europe



* European Institute of Innovation & Technology (EIT) is not part of the Specific Programme

** Non-nuclear activities of JRC

Horizon Europe

EU Framework Programme for Research and Innovation

95.5 billion € for 2021 - 2027

1st pillar: Excellent Science

Academic research

2nd pillar: Global challenges and industrial competitiveness

Collaborative projects on challenges identified by Europe

3rd pillar: Innovative Europe (10 B €)

Supporting breakthrough innovations

Transversal pillar

Strengthening Europe's overall potential for research and innovation



European Innovation Council

EIC

	EIC Pathfinder	EIC Transition*	EIC Accelerator**
TRL	1-4	3/4 to 5/6	6 to 8/9
Calls	Open Challenges	Open	Open Challenges
Format	Consortium/Small Consortium Single partner		Single partner
Organisations	Research organism Academics SME/Start-up Large companies		SME/Start-up “SME” of < 500 employees
Funding	Grant (100%)	Grant (70%)	Grant (70%) Equity
Amount	3M€ (Open) 4M€ (Challenges)	2.5 M€	2.5M€ (Grant) 10M€ (Equity)



* Reserved for EIC Pathfinder prize-winners and other European programmes or programmes exploiting results funded in this way.

** No entry requirements, unlike EIC Transition



A focus: new (2025 program) EIC's calls

	EIC Accelerator STEP Scale-up*
Budget	300 M€
Call	STEP
TRL	No requirement
Format	Single partner
Organisations	SME/Start-up "SME" of < 500 employees
Funding	Equity
Amount	10 to 30 M€
Specificity	Scale-up



* No need to be a EIC Accelerator laureate





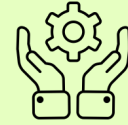
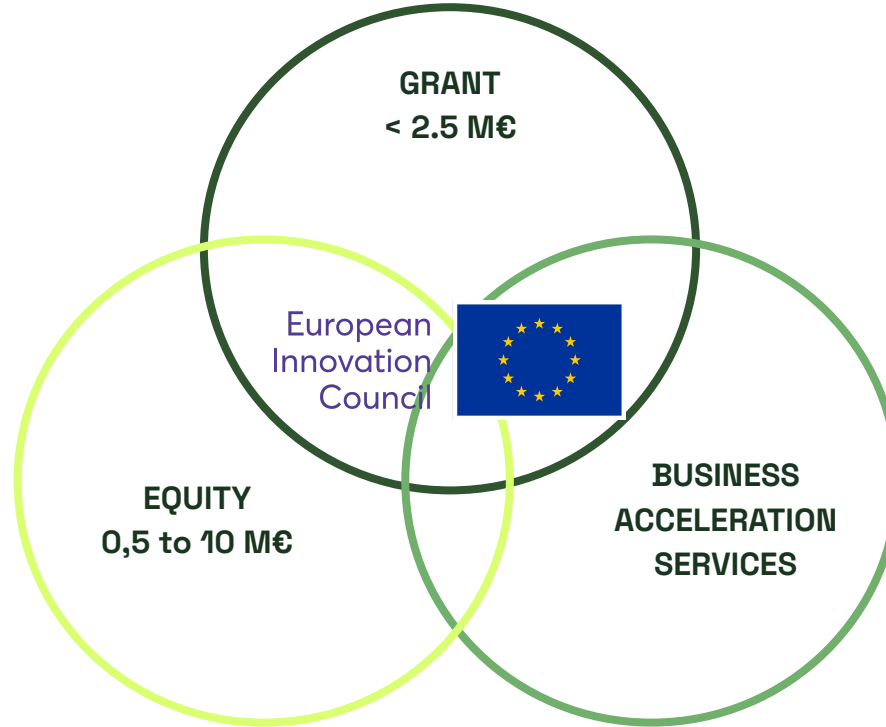
EIC Accelerator

EIC Accelerator



FUNDINGS

- Grants without equity conditions
(and/or)
- Leverage investments



SUPPORT SERVICES

- International trade fairs
- Network of investors
- Contact with key accounts
- Coaching
- Etc.

Company & project eligibility*



SME/startup status & 'SME' with <500 employees

- User guide for SME definition ([link](#))
- SME on all parameters except the number of employees, which must remain below 500

TRL 6 project



- **Generic TRL scale:** CEA (FR: [link](#)) or Euraxess (EN: [link](#))
- Achievement of all TRL 5 objectives (validation in a representative environment)



* EIC guide for applicant: [link](#)

Company & project relevance*



Deeptech company/project

- Strong links with and/or stemming from academic/private research
- Innovation funding (e.g. JEL, CIR, CII, Bourse French Tech Emergence, Aide au Développement DeepTech, i-Lab, i-Nov, ERC, EIC, etc.)



Risky project, central and with the right-timing

- Significant 'physical/chemical/biological/etc.' uncertainties
- Potential for scale-up
- Crucial timing Acceleration of deployment



Financial needs

- Significant but still insufficient public funding
- Private funding already sought and/or obtained
- Too risky and/or too large for single investors for the future



* EIC guide for applicant: [link](#)

EIC Accelerator funding

	Grant Only	Blended	Equity Only
Eligibility	PME/Start-up	SME/Start-up “SME” of < 500 employees	
TRL	6-8	6-9	8-9
Grant	< 2.5M€		Ø
Modality	70% of all R&D costs Lump Sum (see dedicated slide)		
Equity	Ø	0.5 to 10 M€	
Modality		All eligible expenditure Maximum 50% of a fundraising and the EIC is not the lead* Additional investment of €2m Follow-up investment	



* Investment guidelines ([link](#))



Open and Challenges calls*

Calls	Budget (M€)
OPEN	384
Acceleration of advanced materials development and upscaling along the value chain	50
Biotechnology driven low mission food production systems	50
GenAI4EU: Creating European Champions in Generative AI	50
Innovative in-space servicing operations space-based robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure	50
Breakthrough innovations for future mobility	50



* EIC Webinar on the EIC Accelerator Challenges ([link](#))



Other points to highlight regarding this year

- ✱ Eligibility moved on to TRL 6
- ✱ Nuclear is now eligible (before was specifically treated in the EURATOM program)
- ✱ No more Evaluation Summary Report (ESR) between the full proposal and the interview phases.



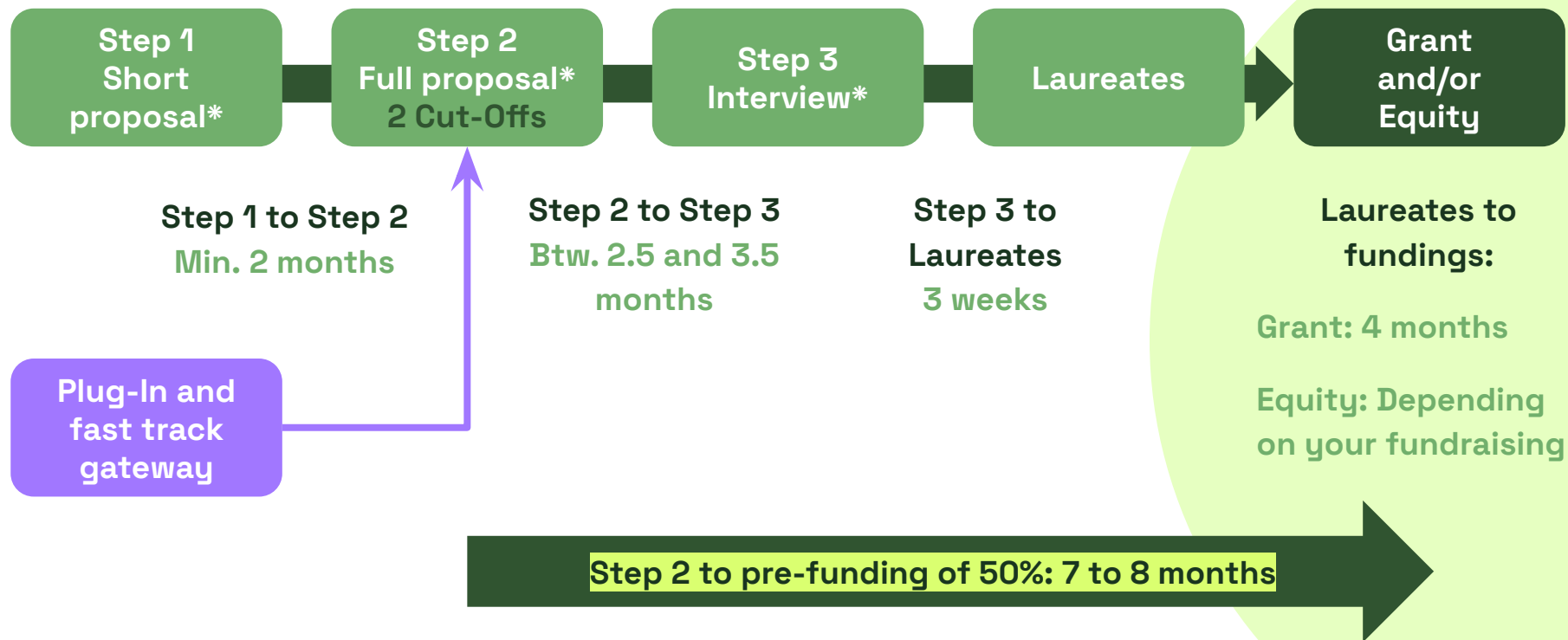
Application process & tips

General process

	Step 1 <i>Short Proposal</i>	Step 2 <i>Full proposal</i>	Step 3 <i>Interview</i>
Date `	Continuously open Pick-up date (1st Tuesday of the month at 10am)	12 March (17h) 2025 1 October (17h) 2025	9-13 June 2025 (TBC) 19-23 January 2026 (TBC)
Format	Funding & Tenders (link) 12 pages file (max.)	Funding & Tenders 50 pages file (max.)*	In Bruxelles (physically) 10 min de pitch + 35 min de Q&A
Additional document	10 slides pitch deck 3 min video Consent	Pitch deck 3 min video Lump Sum detailed budget Financial Plan and Equity needed Ownership Control Declaration Data Management plan CVs of key persons Freedom To Operate Letters of Intent	Pitch deck (from the previous step)
Working time	Some days to weeks	Some weeks to months	2 to 3 weeks
Evaluation	4 assessors Minimum 3 Go out of 4 4 to 6 weeks after the pick-up	3 assessors 9Go/9 or consensus if 6/6 and 0-2/3 6 weeks	5 jurors (link) Consensus 3 weeks
Comments	If Go 24h support proposed by EIC	Structuring effect	To anticipate



Global view



⚠ * After 3 failures (whatever the step), no more possibility to apply under Horizon Europe (End of 2027)

Step 1: Short Proposal



File to be constituted

- Part A & Part B & Annexes (Consent, Presentation & Video)



Assessment process

- Pick-up system every first Tuesday of the month at 10am
- 4 to 6 weeks to get the results



Evaluation

- 4 assessors
- At least 3 Go required



Validity

- Go in step 1 in 2023/2024/2025 eligible to apply for step 2 in 2025

If you have already submitted your application, you will not be able to re-submit it, so please contact support.



We advise to consider each step of the proposal as it is the main one, step 1 is crucial such as step 2 meaning that your 5-years strategy must be defined in this step.

Plug-in & Fast-track gateway: A focus



Plug-in (on selection)

- Selection managed by funding bodies managing certified national/regional programmes;
 - *e.g. France: laureate of French tech Seed, ADD, I-Lab or I-Nov (national call for proposals).*



Fast Track (on selection)

- EIT, EIC Pathfinder, EIC Transition, Women Tech.EU



If not selected, this does not mean you can't apply to the EIC Accelerator



Advantages

- No need to do the first step proposal
- No risk to lose one of the 3 permitted application
- “Immediate” access to step 2



Validity of the plug-in

- Plug-in of 2023/2024/2025 eligible to apply for step 2 in 2025



Disadvantages

- No first step proposal
- No evaluator feedbacks on step 1

Step 2: Full Proposal



File to be constituted

- Part A & Part B & Additional documents (Pitch deck, 3 min video, Lump Sum detailed budget, Financial Plan & Equity needed, Ownership Control Declaration, Data management plan, CVs of key persons, **Freedom To Operate, Letters of Intent**)



Assessment process

- Deadline on October the 1st
- 8 to 9 weeks to get the results



Evaluation

3 assessors & 3 criterias:

- If 9/9 → Congrats it is a go for step 3 (Interview)
- If 6/6 (2 assessors) & 0-2/3 for the third one then consensus meeting if consensus Go for step 3 interview



This stage is time-consuming and involves your company's key profiles in a major way so anticipate

* TIPS / MUST TO HAVE

- **Structure, structure and structure:** take the time to strengthen your vision, your ambition (e.g. when will you reach which TRL level, what's your go to market strategy, key partners, IP long-term strategy, etc.) these are the central elements of your proposal;
- Keep in mind that **each aspects of your company and strategy will be will be examined** from every angle;
- Show your commitment and plan to **become the European / global leader** in your area thanks to your disruptive innovation → SEE BIG;
- **Provide guarantees of having reached TRL 6:** customer testimonials, screenshots/pictures of your solutions, already obtained results, ongoing developments/work, etc.
- Dig deep regarding your competition and what are your differentiations aspects, your added-value.
- You know your market by heart: TAM, SAM, SOM, main actors, main targets, penetration strategy, main channels.
- **Mobilise your network and ecosystem as soon as possible:** Letter of Intent, Memorandum of Understanding, contracts, etc;
- **Sovereignty must be one of the, if not THE, main keyword;**
- **Anticipate the potential exit strategy:** provide the security that your solution/company will remain European even if a huge offer would come from external countries;

Step 3: Interview



Orals

- Date to be confirmed but likely to be on January 19th-23rd 2026 for the october deadline;
- Physically in Bruxelles (travel fees to be paid by candidates);
- Up to 3 company members and/or board members and/or investors.
 - *Our advice: CEO, CTO, CCO or any other complementary combination covering the whole aspects of your company.*



Step 2 presentation, so no possibility to change the pitch deck for the interview.



Evaluation process

- 10 min presentation and 35 min Q&A (all in english);
- 5 assessors from the EIC (investors, successful entrepreneurs, experts);
- Possibility to have EIC Fund and/or EIC Program Manager and/or Observers;
- Consensus decision;
- Results under 3 weeks.



Some results

Results - from June 2021 to July 2024

Laureates
631

Success rate
Step 1
35%

Success rate
Step 2 & 3
7.1%

Average
amount
6.4 M€

⌵ These figures are for European Union, although they vary from one country to another.



The ideal company profile, a french example

The ideal company profile, a french example



SENIORITY - average age: **5.6 years** and median age: **4 years**



EMPLOYEES - **10/15** - for the Health area from 5



LINKS WITH RESEARCH - More than **57%** have links with HEIs



PRIVATE FUNDINGS ALREADY MOBILISED - More than **75%** have already done a fundraising



PUBLIC FUNDINGS ALREADY MOBILISED - **56%** have already been laureates from I-Lab or I-Nov



These are consolidated figures over the period from June 2021 to July 2024

Some laureates

Pharma & Biotech



MedTech



Medical softwares



Industries & greentech



Space & engineering



IT





Any questions?



Thanks for your attention!