

BUDGET FOR THE CALL	APPLICATION PERIOD
<p>€634 million:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EIC Accelerator Challenges: €220 million</li> <li>• EIC Accelerator Open: €414 million</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short applications: any time (continuous)</li> <li>• Full application deadlines 2026: 7 January; 4 March; 6 May; 8 July; 2 September; 4 November</li> </ul>
ELIGIBLE PERIOD	TYPE OF GRANT
Maximum 24 months	Grant + optional equity
OBJECTIVE	
<p>The EIC Accelerator is a funding programme under Horizon Europe that offers support to start-ups and SMEs that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• have a innovative, game changing product, service or business model that could create new markets or disrupt existing ones in Europe and even worldwide,</li> <li>• have the ambition and commitment to scale up,</li> <li>• are looking for substantial funding, but the risks involved are too high for private investors alone to invest.</li> </ul> <p>The EIC Accelerator selection process comprises <b>3 steps</b>. Each step passed successfully give access to the next step:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Writing a <b>short</b> proposal</li> <li>○ Submission of a <b>full</b> proposal</li> <li>○ Face to face <b>interview</b> with the EIC Jury (Brussels)</li> </ul> <p>Two possibilities:</p> <p><b>a) The EIC Accelerator Challenges:</b> for proposals in predefined topics that 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.</p> <p><b>b) The EIC Accelerator Open:</b> for proposals dealing with a different topic.</p> <p>Challenges:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems</li> <li>2. Alternative Concepts and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants</li> <li>3. Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils</li> <li>4. Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain</li> <li>5. Deep Tech for Climate Adaptation</li> </ol>	
BENEFICIARIES AND CONDITIONS	
<p>Applicants from EU Member States and countries associated to the Horizon Europe programme:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single start-up or SME (including spin-outs).</li> <li>• Small mid-caps (up to 499 employees) in need of rapid scale up of the TRL 9 activity. Mid-caps can apply for investment only.</li> <li>• Natural persons or legal entities willing to set up an SMEs or a mid-cap.</li> </ul> <p>Applicants from third countries:</p>	

- Applicants from third countries may relocate their company in order to become eligible. This must be done before submitting the full application (Step 2).
  - Applicants from the United Kingdom can only apply for the "grant only" scheme
- Concurrent applications:
- Applicants may submit only one application to the EIC Accelerator. Additional applications can be submitted after receiving the results of the original submission. Furthermore, your application is admissible if it is not a concurrent submission or concurrent implementation.

The EIC particularly welcomes applications from startups and SMEs with **female** CEOs.

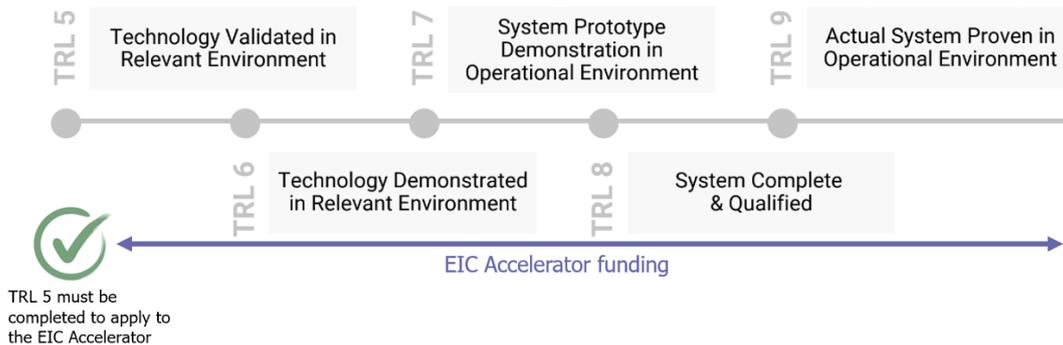
### FUNDING CHARACTERISTICS

There are several options:

- **Grant funding** (70% of the approved and justified budget). Lump sum contribution below € 2.5 million, for innovation activities (TRL 6-8), to be completed within 24 months.
  - Grant only - for start-ups and SMEs with capacity to scale-up. To be provided only once during the period of the Horizon Europe programme (2021-2027)
- **Investment component.** To fill the gap for high - risk innovation to a stage where they can be fully financed by other investments. € 1 - € 10 million. Higher amounts available in STEP ScaleUP (another EIC call).
  - Blended finance: a grant component & direct equity or quasi-equity such as convertible loans.
  - Investment only: for mid-caps companies and companies that have received a «grant only»

### ITEMS COVERED BY THIS GRANT

Applications must have **completed** Technology Readiness Level 5 (Technology Validated in Relevant Environment). So TRL6 or above. All costs directly related to activities such as testing, prototyping, validation, demonstration and testing under real conditions (TRL6-TRL8).



The budget categories include, in addition to expenditure on staff, travel, consumables, depreciation of equipment, contracting of services, indirect costs (calculated as 25% of the remaining costs, except subcontracting).

The costs arising from market access activities (TRL9) will be covered through Private Investment.

### PAYMENTS

There are 2 pre-financing payments paid within the project lifetime, and a third final payment of the balance paid after the end of the project, if all conditions are met:

- The **first pre-financing** payment occurs just before or shortly after the start of the project, and it is normally 45% of the total grant awarded. Additionally, 5% of the grant amount is transferred to the Mutual Insurance Mechanism (MIM) where it is retained until the end of the project and then returned to the company as a part of the balance (final) payment.
- The **second pre-financing** is paid no later than 2 months after the submission of the periodic report, which is normally scheduled at mid-project. For projects typically lasting 24 months, the second pre-financing should be released no later than month 15. The second payment can be at most 40% of the grant amount provided that at least 70% of the first pre-financing (incl. amount retained on MIM) has been used. If the company has used less than 70% of the first pre-financing, the amount of the second payment will be reduced.
- The **final payment** (payment of the balance) is transferred after approval of the final reports. The final payment is calculated as the total grant amount (based on eligible costs) minus the amount already paid by the EIC in the two pre-financing payments.

#### OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Supported companies must keep most of their value, including their IP, in the EU or in the Associated Countries.
- It is mandatory to comply with Law 18/2022, of the 28<sup>th</sup> of September, for the creation and growth of enterprises, which, among others, modifies on Article 13 the Law 38/2003, of the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, General Subsidies Law, so an enterprise will not be able to be a beneficiary of an aid over 30.000€ if it does not comply with the payment terms established under Law 3/2004 of combat of late payment (60 days).
- **This sheet is merely informative** and, thus, does not gather all the information. Referring to the regulatory legislation is imperative.