

BUDGET FOR THE CALL	APPLICATION PERIOD
€262 million: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIC Pathfinder Open: €166 million EIC Pathfinder Challenges: €96 million 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EIC Pathfinder Open: 12 May 2026 EIC Pathfinder Challenges: 28 October 2026
ELIGIBLE PERIOD	TYPE OF GRANT
Not specified	Grant

OBJECTIVE

The EIC Pathfinder is a funding programme under Horizon Europe that offers support to research teams by:

- Funding research to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies
- Supporting the earliest stages of scientific, technological or deep-tech R&D
- Aiming to build on new, cutting-edge directions in science and technology to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities
- Realising innovative technological solutions to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations in Europe

This is achieved through:

- EIC Pathfinder Open**, which supports projects in any field of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities.
- EIC Pathfinder Challenges**, which support coherent portfolios of projects within predefined thematic areas with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge.

Open Call	Challenge Call
Consortia: Minimum 3 independent partners	Applicants: Single entities or consortia of minimum 2 partners
Budget: €166M	Budget: €96M
Deadline: 12/05/2026	Deadline: 28/10/2026
Max Grant: €4M	Max Grant: €4M
Funding Rate: 100%	Funding Rate: 100%

Challenges Topics:

Challenge Topics	
Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems	To support the development of a new generation of energetically autonomous systems that enable innovative services to improve the quality of life for European citizens through applications in areas such as point-of-care diagnostics and smart, sustainable cities.
Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing	To develop biotechnology-based or pharmaceutical interventions that prevent, delay, or reverse age-related diseases.
DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems	To push scientific progress and help build a strong, collaborative community focused on practical applications of trustworthy cognitive AI.

BENEFICIARIES AND CONDITIONS

Consortia from EU Member States and countries associated to the Horizon Europe programme

- Consortia of at least **three different independent** legal entities
- At least one legal entity established in a Member State
- At least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries
- Additionally, single applicants, small and larger consortia (two partners) for EIC Pathfinder Challenges only.

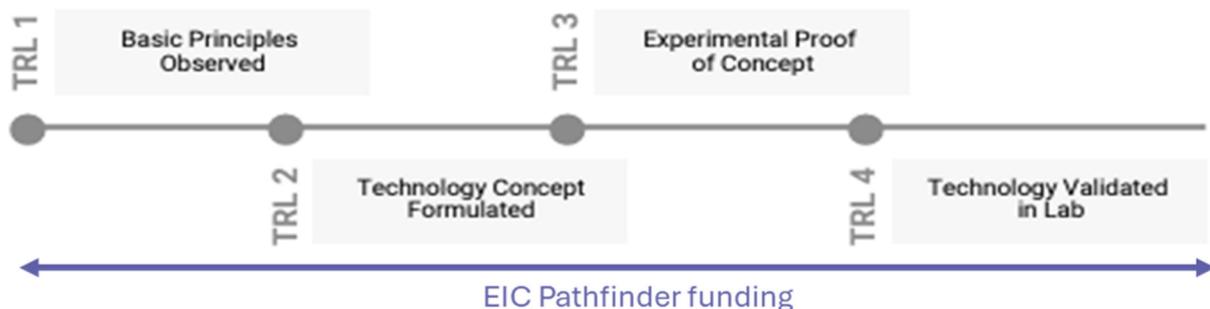
Requirements

Your proposal must meet all the following essential characteristics:

- Convincing long-term vision of a radically new technology that has the potential to have a transformative positive effect to solving a challenge in our economy and society
- Concrete, novel and ambitious science-towards-technology breakthrough, providing advancement towards the envisioned technology
- High-risk/high-gain research approach and methodology, with concrete and plausible objectives.

FUNDING CHARACTERISTICS

It is expected that the various activities within the EIC Pathfinder projects should cover low Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs), typically in the range between **TRL 1 and 4**. However that the TRLs range of some EIC Pathfinder Challenges may be narrower as specified in the given Pathfinder Challenge text call and Challenge Guide.



The expected outcome of Pathfinder Open project is the proof of principle that the main ideas of the envisioned future technology are feasible, thus validating its scientific and technological basis.

Grants of up **to 4 million euro** or more if duly justified to support early-stage development of future technologies, up to proof of concept.

Projects funded through EIC Pathfinder (including grants resulting from certain EIC pilot Pathfinder, FET-Open and Proactive calls) may be eligible:

- to receive Booster grants of a fixed amount not exceeding EUR 50 000 to undertake complementary activities to explore potential pathways to commercialisation or for portfolio activities;
- to submit an EIC Transition proposal;
- to submit an EIC Accelerator proposal via the Fast Track scheme;

- to participate in the 'Next Generation Innovation Talents' scheme. The personnel costs of researchers participating in this scheme are eligible under your Pathfinder grants.

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

- Eligible costs will take the form of a lump sum.
- It is mandatory to comply with Law 18/2022, of the 28th of September, for the creation and growth of enterprises, which, among others, modifies on Article 13 the Law 38/2003, of the 17th 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.