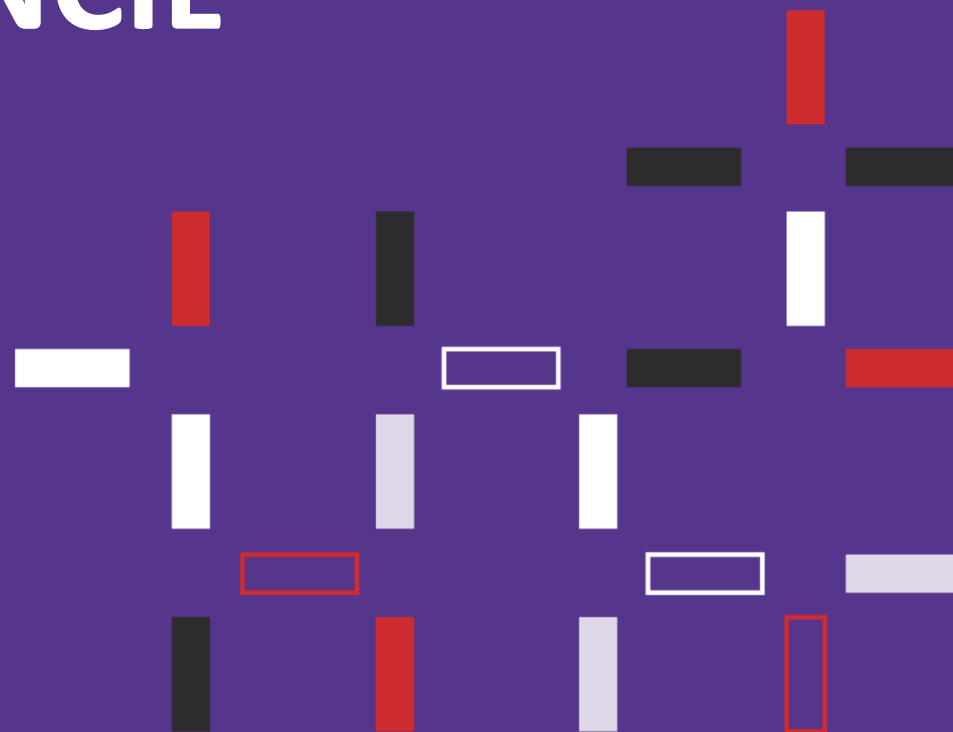


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THE EUROPEAN INNOVATION COUNCIL

EIC Pathfinder - Novelties in
processes and calls in 2023



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- 1 The European Innovation Council (EIC)
- 2 General Introduction to EIC Pathfinder & EIC Transition
- 3 State of play 2021 & 2022 Pathfinder calls
- 4 2023 **EIC Pathfinder Open** call & its main novelties
- 5 2023 **EIC Pathfinder Challenges** call & its main novelties
- 6 Business Acceleration Services



Europe's most ambitious innovation initiative

Budget (2021-2027)

€ 10 billion

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Unique

combines research & accelerator for SMEs, startups, scaleups

Largest deep-tech investor in Europe

Over €3 billion

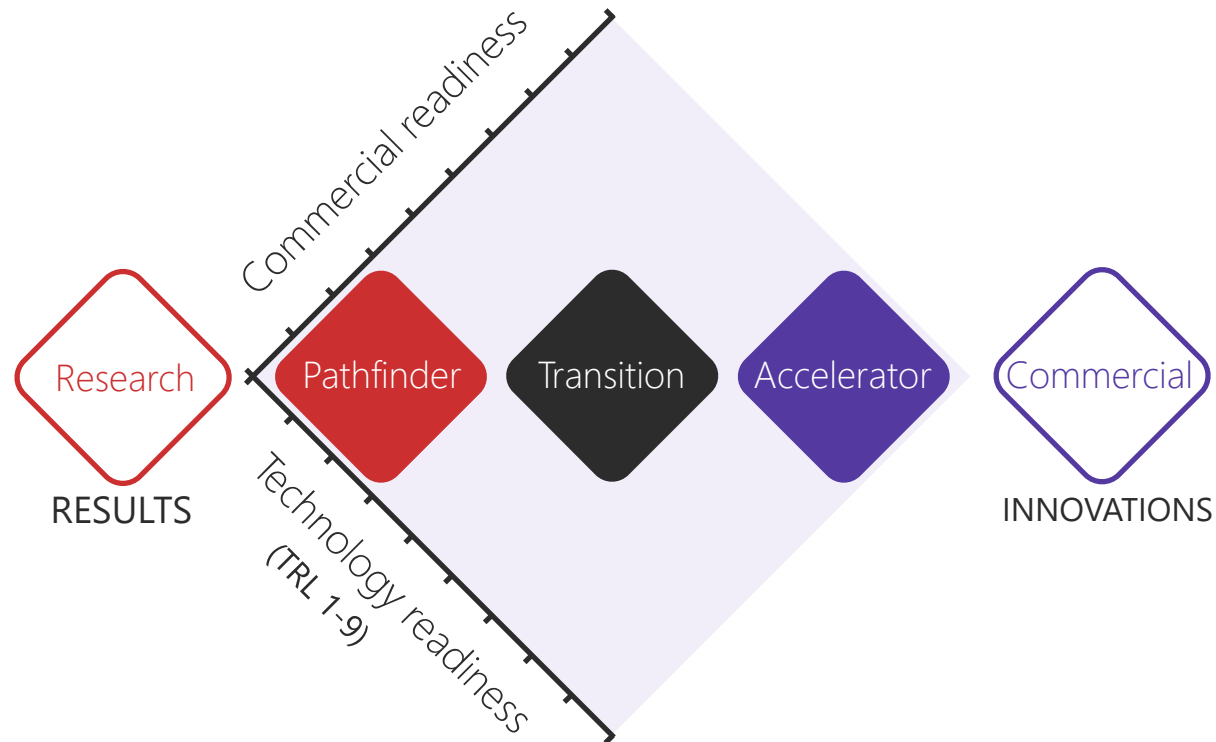
Enhances the European Innovation Ecosystems

Partnerships with ERC, EIT regions...

Annual Work Programmes (separate from Horizon Europe main WP)

- First WP (2021) adopted 18 March 2021, €1.5 billion
- Second WP (2022) adopted 7 February 2022, €1.7 billion
- Third Work Programme (2023) adopted 7 December 2022, € 1.7 billion

European Innovation Council (EIC)



Su principal objetivo es **apoyar a la innovación tecnológica**, desde la concepción de la idea de investigación, el desarrollo de la tecnología resultante, y su posterior explotación comercial.



Pathfinder

- For **consortia**
- **TRL 1-4** (Early stage research on breakthrough technologies)
- Grants up to € 3 to 4 million

- For **consortia & single** researchers /companies
- **TRL 3-6** (Proof of concept to validation)
- Grants up to € **2.5 million**

Transition

- For **individual companies**
- TRL 6-9 (Development & scale up)
- **Blended** finance
 - grants up to € 2.5 million
 - investment up to €15 million

Accelerator

EIC WorkProgram 2023 deadlines and budgets

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Accelerator	Open		
	11 January 2023		
	22 March 2023		
	7 June 2023		
Challenges	4 October 2023		
			~€611m
			(~grant/equity)
Pathfinder	Open	7 March 2023	~€179.50m
	Challenges		~€163.50m
		18 October 2023	
Transition	Open	12 April 2023	~€67.86m
	Challenges		
		27 September 2023	~€60.5m

2 European Innovation Council [EIC]

EIC Pathfinder and
EIC Transition







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

*-Apoyo a innovación puntera con una fuerte componente tecnológica
-Debe tratarse de ideas ambiciosas y visionarias que lleven a innovaciones disruptivas
-Niveles de maduración tecnológica bajos (1-4)*

Pathfinder Funding schemes

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

EIC Transition

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Focus on **validation** and **demonstration of technology in application-relevant environment** and development of **market readiness**

Why EIC Transition?

Support of novel technologies

Commercialisation support

The Open funding support

Challenges: predefined thematic priorities (project portfolios)

Who can apply?

Pathfinder* & H2020 FET*

H2020* or HEU* if on topic to EIC Challenges

FET ERA NETs*

Eu Defence Fund (Preparatory Action on Defence Research)

ERC PoC*

Financial contribution

€0.5 - 2.5 mil

**Started 12 months before or ended less than 24 months after the call deadline*

EIC Transition: Can you apply if you are not part of the initial consortium generating the innovative results?

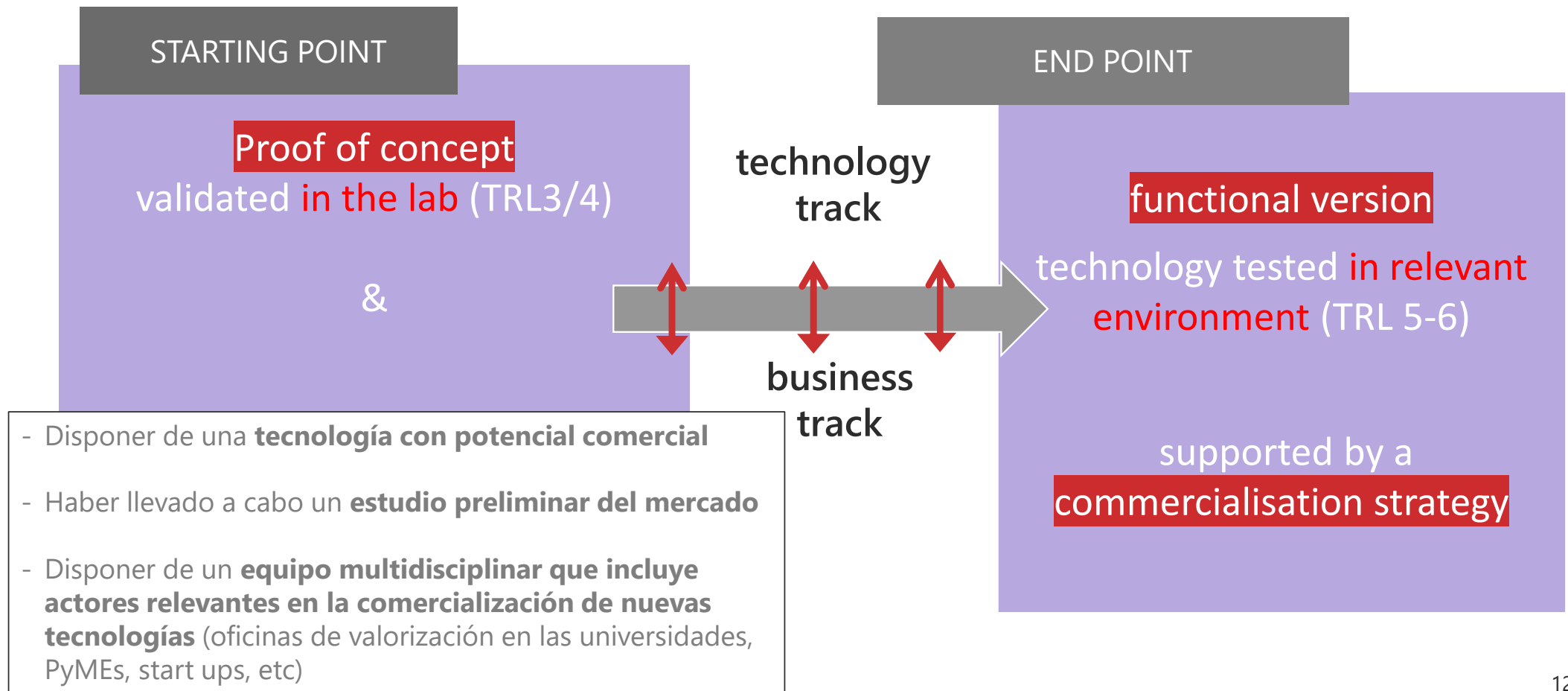
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- **Absolutely YES!** WP2023 clearly mention this:
 - If you **were not part of the eligible project** whose results are further developed in the EIC Transition proposal, **you need to include in your proposal a commitment letter** from the relevant owner(s) of the result(s), which confirms the **commitment of the owner of the eligible project result to negotiate** with you fair, reasonable and non-discriminatory **access to such results**, including IPR, for the purpose of future commercial exploitation.



Core elements of a good proposal



3 European Innovation Council [EIC]

2021 & 2022 Pathfinder
calls (statistics)





European Innovation Council Pathfinder Open

Successful proposals | Cut-off 4 May 2022



858

PROPOSALS EVALUATED



57 (6.6 %)

PROJECTS CHOSEN



183 million

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION



3.2 million

AVERAGE EU GRANT



29

COUNTRIES



352

PARTICIPANTS

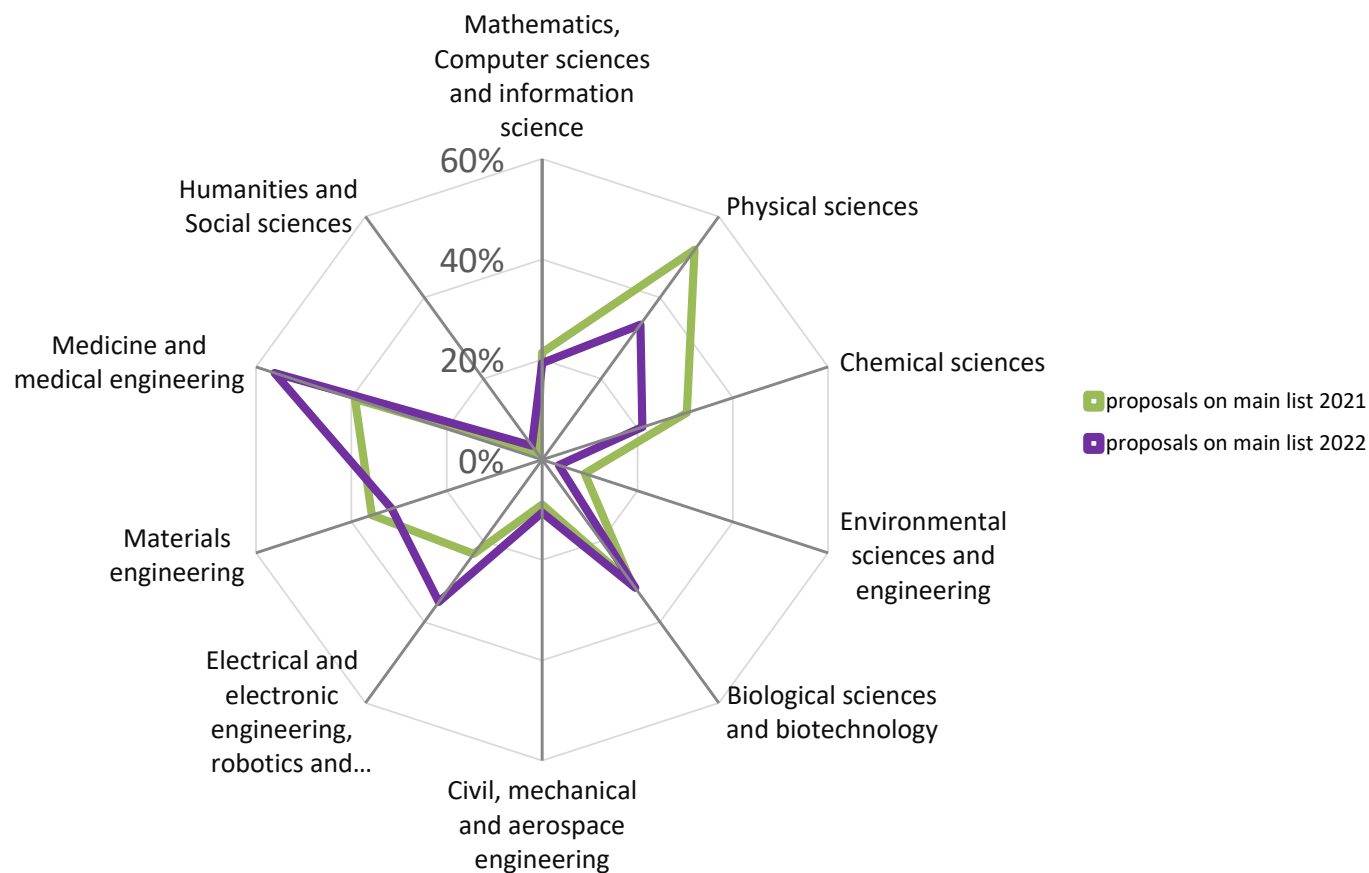
45% HIGHER EDUCATION,
26% RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS,
22% PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS,
8% OTHER

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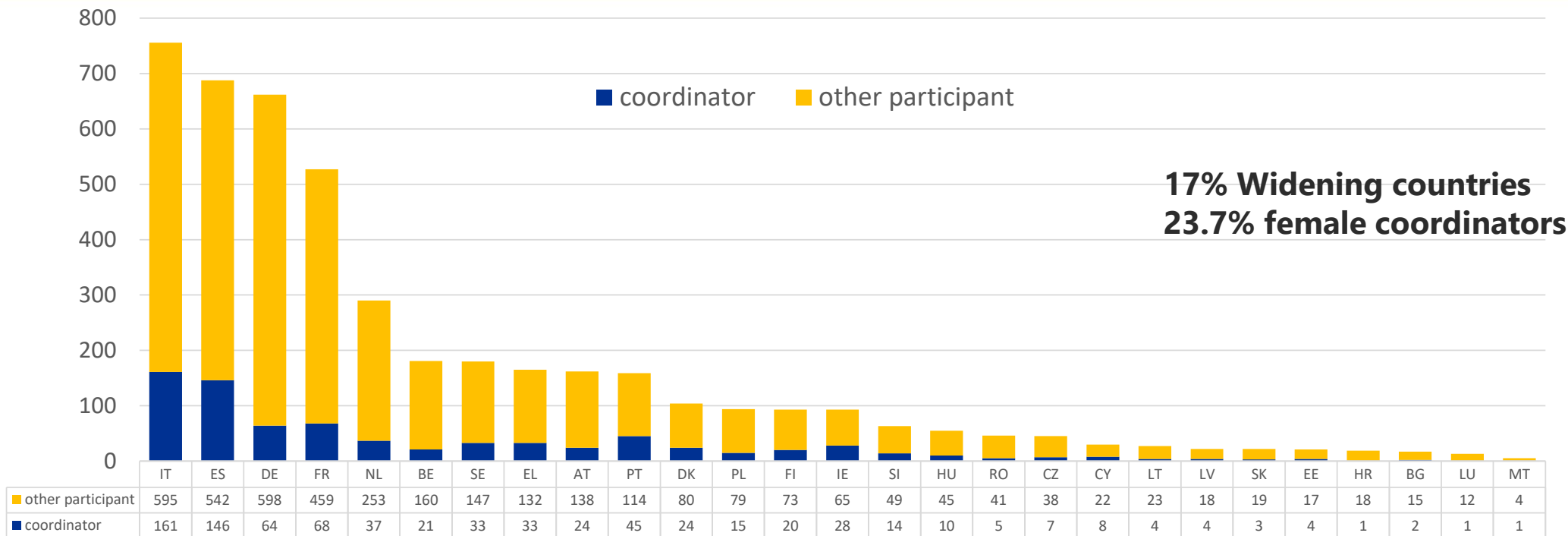
2022 Pathfinder Open call – discipline coverage in proposals retained for funding

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EU countries' participation in submitted proposals PATHFINDER **OPEN** (2021)

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Council



EU-27 countries: 85% of the participants (4.539)



European Innovation Council Pathfinder Challenges

Successful proposals | Deadline 27 October 2021



403

PROPOSALS EVALUATED



39 (9.6 %)

PROJECTS CHOSEN



€145 million

TOTAL EU CONTRIBUTION



€3.7 million

AVERAGE EU GRANT



27

COUNTRIES



214

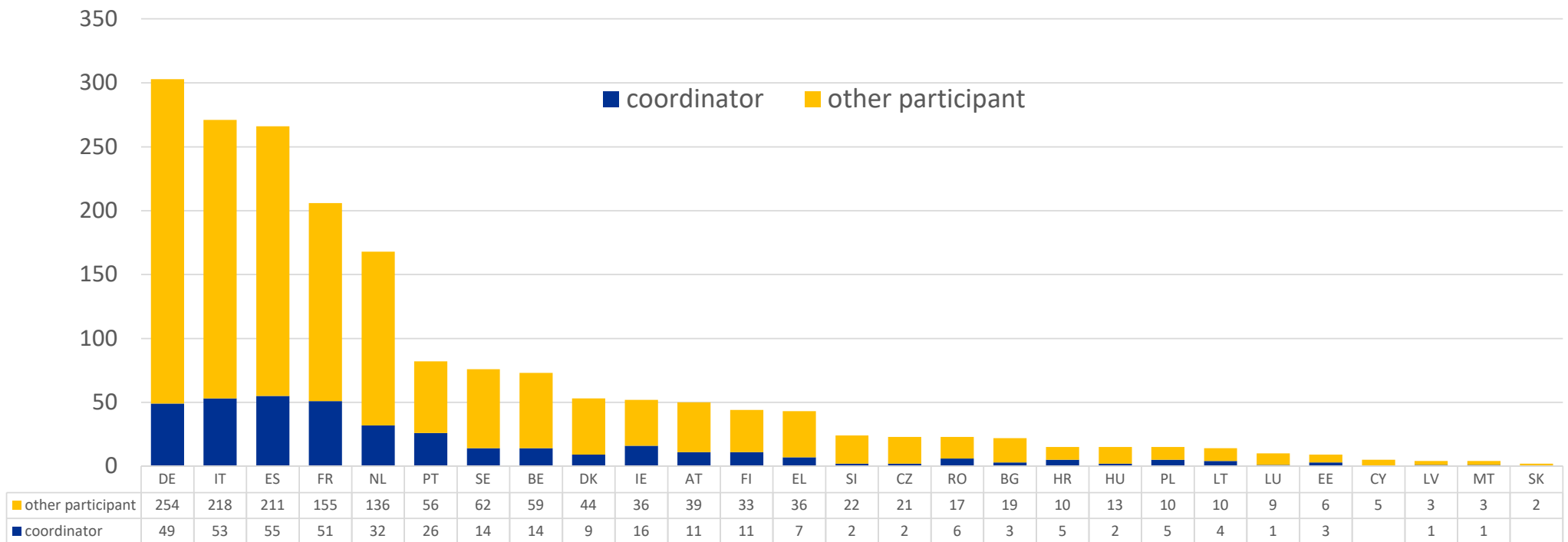
PARTICIPANTS

50.5% HIGHER EDUCATION,
25.2% PRIVATE ORGANISATIONS,
20.1% RESEARCH ORGANISATIONS,
3.7% OTHER
0.5% PUBLIC BODIES

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EU countries' participation in submitted proposals PATHFINDER **CHALLENGES** (2021)



EU-27 countries: 85% of the participants (1.872)

4 European Innovation Council [EIC]

2023 EIC Pathfinder Open call & its main novelties



Is EIC Pathfinder Open for you?

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- If looking for support to realize **an ambitious vision for radically new technology**, with potential to create new markets and/or to address global challenges (high risk/high gain).
- **In early stage development of such future technologies (Technology Readiness Levels 1-4),**
- This research must provide the **bases of the technology** you are envisioning.

-Innovación puntera con un importante potencial tecnológico
-Debe tratarse de ideas nuevas, ambiciosas y visionarias que lleven a innovaciones rompedoras
-Niveles de maduración tecnológica bajos (1-4)
-Alto riesgo, pero convincente, realizable

EIC Pathfinder Open: Expected output

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- **Scientific/Technological Validation (TRL3/4):** Proof of principle that the main ideas of the envisioned future technology are feasible
- **Dissemination:** Top-level scientific publications in open access
- Adequate formal protection of the generated **Intellectual Property (IP)**
- Projects are encouraged to involve and empower in their teams **key actors** that have the potential to **become future leaders** in their field such as excellent early-career researchers or promising high-tech SMEs, including start-ups
- Project are also encouraged to **empower female researchers** and to achieve gender balance among the work package leaders

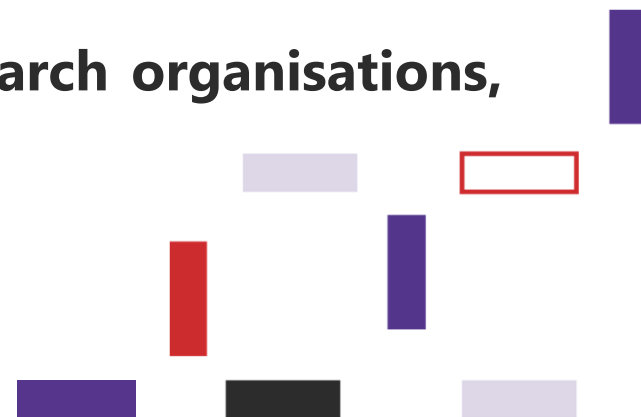


Eligibility Criteria - Consortium composition

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- At least **three** independent legal entities and each established in a different country as follows:
 - at least one legal entity established in a Member State; and
 - at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.
- The **legal entities** can be for example: **universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons.**



What will you receive if your proposal is funded?

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- A **Research and Innovation Action** to cover the **eligible costs (100%)**, necessary for the implementation of your project.
- EU contribution generally **up to EUR 3 million** (higher if properly justified).
- Indicative budget for the 2023 call is EUR **179.5 million**.
- Access to **Business Acceleration Services** (advise and support on IP, market studies, contact with potential investors, etc)



Additional opportunities for Pathfinder selected projects

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Projects funded through EIC Pathfinder are eligible:

- to receive additional **EIC Booster grants**: up to EUR 50 000 extra /up to 3 times per project (or more if duly justified) to undertake complementary activities:
 - to explore potential pathways to commercialization
 - for portfolio activities
- to submit an **EIC Transition** proposal
- to submit an **EIC Accelerator** proposal via the **Fast Track** scheme
- to participate in '**Next Generation Innovation Talents**' scheme (researchers can apply for an internship of 3-6 months i.e. in a company involved in other Transition or Accelerator projects - to get a 'real entrepreneurial feel')



How do you apply; how long does it take?

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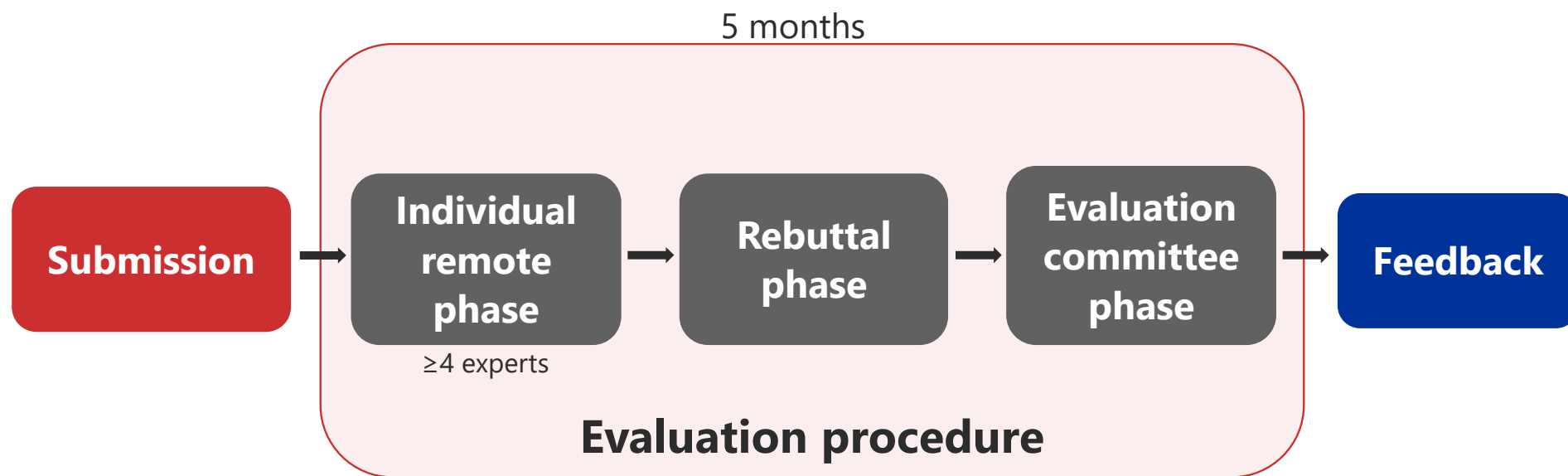


- Application via the **Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal**.
- Deadline for next call: **7 March 2023 at 17h00 CET**.
- Outcome of the evaluation within **5 months from the call deadline** (indicative).
- Grant agreement signed by **8 months after the call deadline** (successful proposals).



Evaluation process

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Proposal Submission

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The Proposal Application Form is composed of **two parts**:

- **Part A:** to be filled online (no page limit). It contains **administrative** details, the summarized **budget** and call specific questions.
- **Part B:** to be uploaded as a single document (page limit: maximum of 17 A4 pages – Section 1 to 3). It contains the **technical** description of the project.

Minimum modifications to reflect the award criteria as indicated in the EIC Work Programme 2023.

Template available on the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal.

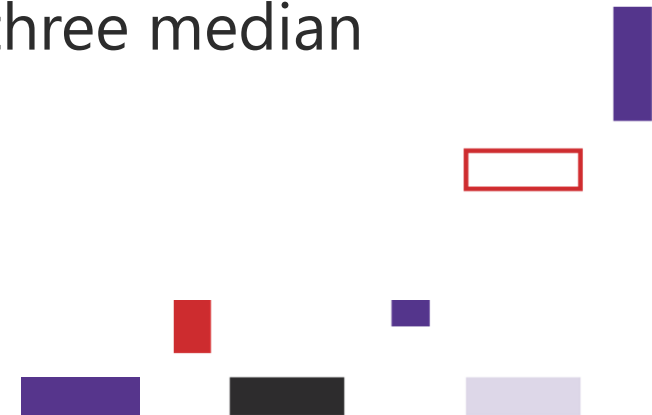


Individual Remote phase

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- At least 4 EIC expert evaluators evaluate the proposals with respect to the award criteria:
 - **Excellence** (60%)
 - **Impact** (20%)
 - **Quality and efficiency of the implementation** (20%)
- **Median** for each evaluation criterion
- **Global remote score** - the **weighted sum** of the three median scores from the three evaluation criteria.



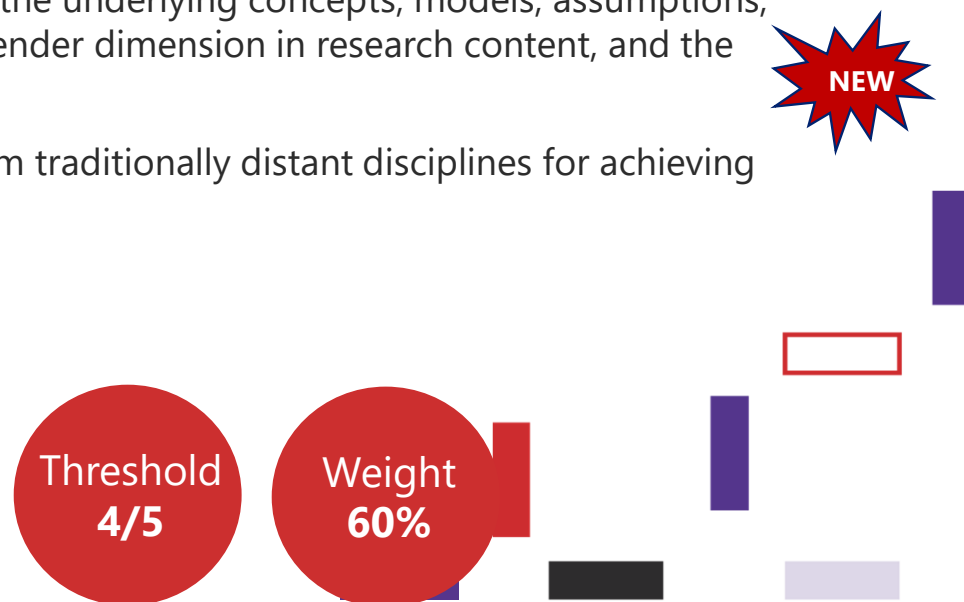
Award criterion “Excellence”

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- **Long-term vision:** How convincing is the vision of a radically new technology towards which the project would contribute in the long term?
- **Science-towards-technology breakthrough:** How concrete, novel and ambitious is the proposed science-towards-technology breakthrough with respect to the state-of-the-art? What advancement does it provide towards realising the envisioned technology?
- **Objectives:** How concrete and plausible are the proposed objectives? Is the research approach appropriate for achieving them? How sound is the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, alternative directions and options, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content, and the quality of open science practices?
- **Interdisciplinarity:** How relevant is the interdisciplinary approach from traditionally distant disciplines for achieving the proposed breakthrough?

-Nueva tecnología? Innovación puntera?
-Idea ambiciosa? Realmente novedosa con respecto a lo conocido?
-Plan convincente? Realizable?
-Interdisciplinar?



Award criterion “Impact”

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- **Long-term impact:** How significant are the potential transformative positive effects that the new technology would have to our economy, environment and society?
- **Innovation potential:** How adequate are the proposed measures for protection of results and any other exploitation measures to facilitate future translation of research results into innovations? How suitable are the proposed measures for involving and empowering key actors that have the potential to take the lead in translating research into innovations in the future?
- **Communication and Dissemination:** How suitable are the measures to maximise expected outcomes and impacts, including communication activities, for raising awareness about the project results' potential to establish new markets and/or address global challenges?

Threshold
3.5/5

Weight
20%

-Potencial disruptivo (sobre economía, sociedad, medio ambiente)?
-Medidas apropiadas de protección propiedad intelectual? Es factible la explotación comercial?
-Incluye actores relevantes para la futura comercialización de la nueva tecnología?
-Medidas de comunicación y disseminación de resultados para dar visibilidad y crear nuevos mercados?

Award criterion “Quality and efficiency of the implementation”

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- **Work plan:** How coherent and effective are the work plan (work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones, time-line, etc.) and risk mitigation measures in order to achieve the project objectives?
- **Allocation of resources:** How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources (comprising person-months and other cost items) to work packages and consortium members?
- **Quality of the consortium:** To what extent do the consortium members have all the necessary high quality expertise for performing the project tasks?



Threshold
3/5

Weight
20%

-Plan coherente, realizable? (WP, deliverables, cronograma, etc)
-Distribución adecuada de los recursos? (costes, person-months, etc)
-Cubren los miembros del proyecto todos los campos de conocimientos necesarios?

Rebuttal phase - “Right-to-react”

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- Approximately 1.5-2.5 months after the call deadline, you will have the opportunity to **reply within 8 calendar days (maximum two A4 pages)** to the evaluators' comments;
- your **replies cannot be used to alter or add to the content** of the proposals, but must strictly focus on responding to potential misunderstandings or errors by the evaluators;
- the replies will be **made available to the evaluation committee**;
- the evaluation committee will **take into consideration** the comments from the rebuttal procedure, if any, in order to arrive at their final scores for the proposals that underwent this procedure.



Evaluation committee phase

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- The evaluation committee will be composed of **expert evaluators** different than those who evaluated the proposals remotely;
- **Proposals with realistic chance of getting funded → Discussion** (in particular for proposals with diverging opinions) → **Evaluators Consensus**
- The **final score** (remote score + the outcome of the consensus discussions + rebuttal procedure, if any);
- **Ranking list.**



Ranking list – Equal score resolution

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Proposals with the same scoring will be untied based on the following factors, in order

- criterion Excellence
- criterion Impact
- gender balance among the work package leaders
- number of SMEs applicants
- number of Member States and Associated Countries represented in the consortium
- If needed, other factors determined by the evaluation committee



Feedback to Applicants

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Within 5 months applicants will receive an **Evaluation Summary Report** that will comprise of:

- **Final score;**
- **Comment that summarizes** the assessment by the evaluation committee;
- **Additional comments,**
 - might include advice about resubmission of proposal.
 - how the evaluation committee took into account the rebuttal (if any)



5 European Innovation Council [EIC]

2023 EIC Pathfinder
Challenges call & its
main novelties



Pathfinder Challenges for 2023

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- **‘Top-Down’ approach**
- **Program Managers:** senior researchers who identify and define key areas of research (in agreement with experts in the field and the EC)
- **Challenges 2023** (mainly health, digital, clean energy)
 1. Clean and efficient cooling
 2. Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalisation for a novel triad of design, fabrication, and materials
 3. Precision nutrition
 4. Responsible electronics
 5. In-space solar energy harvesting for innovative space applications
- **Portfolios of projects in each challenge**



Specific EIC Challenge Info Days planning

Pathfinder	Clean and efficient cooling	March 15	Accelerator	Novel biomarker-based assays to guide personalised cancer treatment	February 3
	Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalisation for a novel triad of design, fabrication, and materials	February 2		Aerosol and surface decontamination for pandemic management	February 2
	Precision nutrition	January 31		Energy storage	February 1
	Responsible electronics	February 9		New European Bauhaus and Architecture, Engineering and Construction digitalisation for decarbonisation	February 2
	In-space solar energy harvesting for innovative space applications	January 26		1) Emerging semiconductor & 2) Quantum technology components	February 9
Transition	Full scale Micro-Nano-Bio devices for medical and medical research applications	February 2		Novel technologies for resilient agriculture	January 31
	Environmental intelligence	February 1		Customer-driven, innovative space technologies and services	January 26
	Chip-scale optical frequency combs	February 9			

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-challenges-information-days_en



Expected project outcomes

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Same as for Open

- Expected outcomes defined in the respective Challenge
- Project results should include **top-level scientific publications** as well as an **adequate formal protection of the generated Intellectual Property**
- Projects are encouraged to involve and empower in their teams **key actors** that have the potential to **become future leaders** in their fields such as excellent early-career researchers or promising high-tech SMEs, including start-ups
- Project particularly encouraged to **empower female researchers** and to achieve gender balance among the work package leaders





- Challenge guides will provide more information about:
 - **Objectives** of the Challenges
 - **Technical information** underpinning the objectives
 - **Portfolio considerations** used for the final selection of proposals to be funded
- Challenge Guides will be published on the EIC website and the Funding and Tender Opportunities Portal after the call opening (20 June 2023)



Eligibility criteria

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- **Consortia of three or more entities** must include as beneficiaries at least three legal entities, independent from each other and each established in a different country as follows:
 - at least one legal entity established in a Member State; and
 - at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.
- **Single legal entities** in a Member State or an Associated Country (mid-caps and larger companies will not be permitted)
- **Consortia of two entities:** 2 different Member States or Associated Countries
- The legal entities may for example be universities, research organisations, SMEs, start-ups, industrial partners or natural persons.



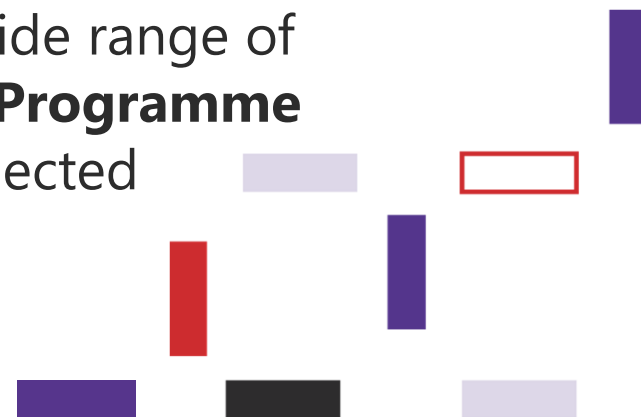
What support will you receive if your proposal is funded?

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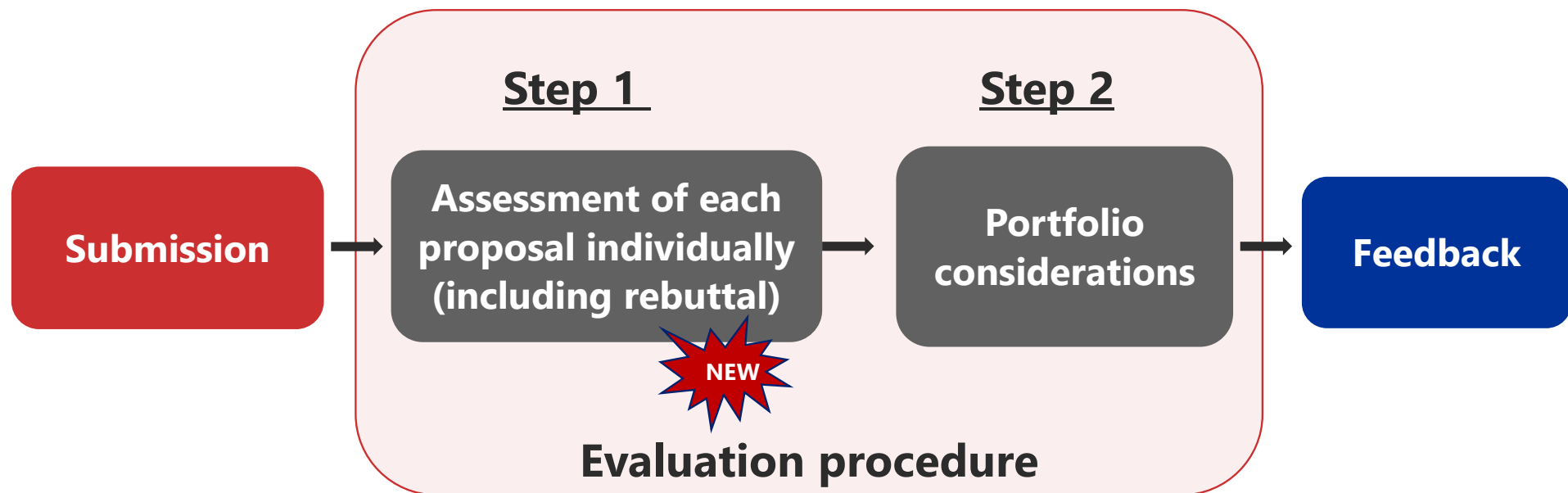
Same as for Open

- A **grant** for a **Research and Innovation Action** to cover eligible costs
- EIC considers proposals with an EU contribution of **up to EUR 4 million** as appropriate (larger amounts possible, if duly justified)
- Funding rate **100% of the eligible costs.**
- Total indicative budget for this call: **EUR 163.5 million** (expected to be allocated in approximately equal shares across the Challenges)
- Successful applicants will receive tailor-made access to a wide range of **Business Acceleration Services** and interactions with **EIC Programme Managers** and other actions in the portfolio of projects selected



Evaluation process (EIC Challenge)

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Award criteria

Same criteria as for Open

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Threshold
4/5

Weight
60%

Excellence

Threshold
3.5/5

Weight
20%

Impact

Threshold
3/5

Weight
20%

Quality / efficiency of the implementation



Rebuttal - “Right-to-react”



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- Approximately 1.5-2.5 months after the call deadline, you will have the opportunity to **reply within 8 calendar days (maximum two A4 pages)** to the evaluators' comments;
- your **replies cannot be used to alter or add to the content** of the proposals, but must strictly focus on responding to potential misunderstandings or errors by the evaluators;
- the replies will be **made available to the evaluation committee**;
- the evaluation committee will **take into consideration** the comments from the rebuttal procedure, if any, in order to arrive at their final scores for the proposals that underwent this procedure.

Same criteria as for Open / novelty for Challenges



Step 2: Portfolio considerations



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- En esta fase se tienen en cuenta todas las propuestas que hayan superado la nota de corte para los 3 criterios de evaluación en la fase 1.
- Las propuestas se **aglutinan en categorías** a propuesta del Programme Manager. Estas categorías pueden ser consideradas **bloques similares dentro del challenge** (porque se enfoquen en un objetivo específico común, o utilicen metodologías similares o complementarias, etc)
- El comité de evaluación evalúa las propuestas, y **busca crear un portfolio coherente con los objetivos** descritos en el Challenge Guide. Esto **puede generar inconsistencias**, como por ejemplo que una propuesta con una nota más alta que otra, se quede sin financiar porque se considere que encaja menos en las necesidades del portfolio.



Feedback to Applicants

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Applicants will receive an **Evaluation Summary Report** that will comprise of:

- **final score;**
- a **comment that summarises** the assessment by the evaluation committee;
- **additional comments.**
- how the evaluation committee took into account the rebuttal (if any).
- **underlying portfolio considerations** in case their proposal was not retained for funding while it received a score that was higher than other proposals retained for funding under the same Challenge.



Call 2023 - Main changes – Pathfinder Open

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- Minor changes compared to 2022
- Main novelties for **Pathfinder Open**:
 - **Eligibility criteria**: clearer definition of **consortium composition rules**
 - **Award criterion 3 – Implementation**: reordering of sub-elements, small improvement under “allocation of resources”
 - Reference to ‘**Next Generation Innovation Talents**’ scheme
 - ESRs will specify if and how evaluation committee took into account the replies received via the **rebuttal**

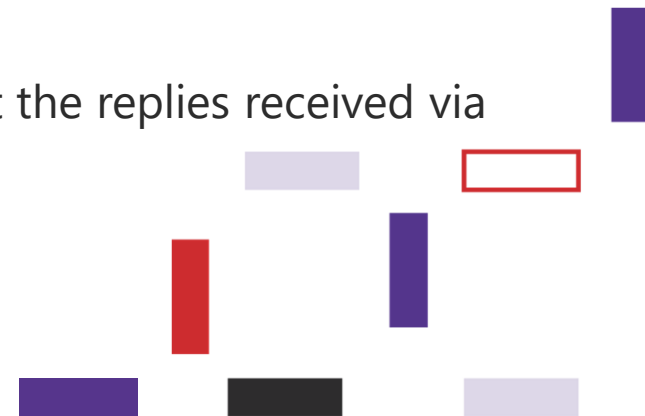


Call 2023 - Main changes– Pathfinder Challenges

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- Some elements in the 2023 **Pathfinder Challenges** call text were improved :
 - Clearer description of **two-step approach** during evaluation
 - **Step 1: Introduction of rebuttal process** (now harmonised with Open evaluation)
 - **Step 2:** Revised description how **portfolio considerations**
 - **Eligibility criteria:** clearer definition of **consortium composition rules**
 - **Award criterion 3 – Implementation:** reordering of sub-elements, small improvement under “allocation of resources”
 - Reference to ‘**Next Generation Innovation Talents**’ scheme
 - ESRs will specify if and how evaluation committee took into account the replies received via the **rebuttal**



Pathfinder calls 2023 – Summary table

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	Pathfinder Open	Pathfinder Challenges
Total budget	€179.5 million	€163.5 million
Proposals (indicative)	Up to €3 million	Up to €4 million
Funding rate	100% of eligible costs	100% of eligible costs
Opening	10 January 2023	20 June 2023
Deadline	7 March 2023 at 17.00 CET	18 October 2023 at 17.00 CET
Length of proposal	17-page proposal (part B)	25-page proposal (part B)
Applicants	Consortia: min. 3 partners from 3 different MS/AC (of which at least 1 partner in a MS)	1. Single legal entities in a MS/AC (conditions apply) 2. Consortia: - If 2 partners: from different MS/AC, otherwise - Min. 3 partners from 3 different MS/AC (of which at least 1 partner in a MS)

6 Business Acceleration Services

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EIC Business Acceleration Services (EIC BAS)

- EIC Support beyond funding

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WHY?

Accelerate EIC innovations and growth of EIC companies



WHAT?

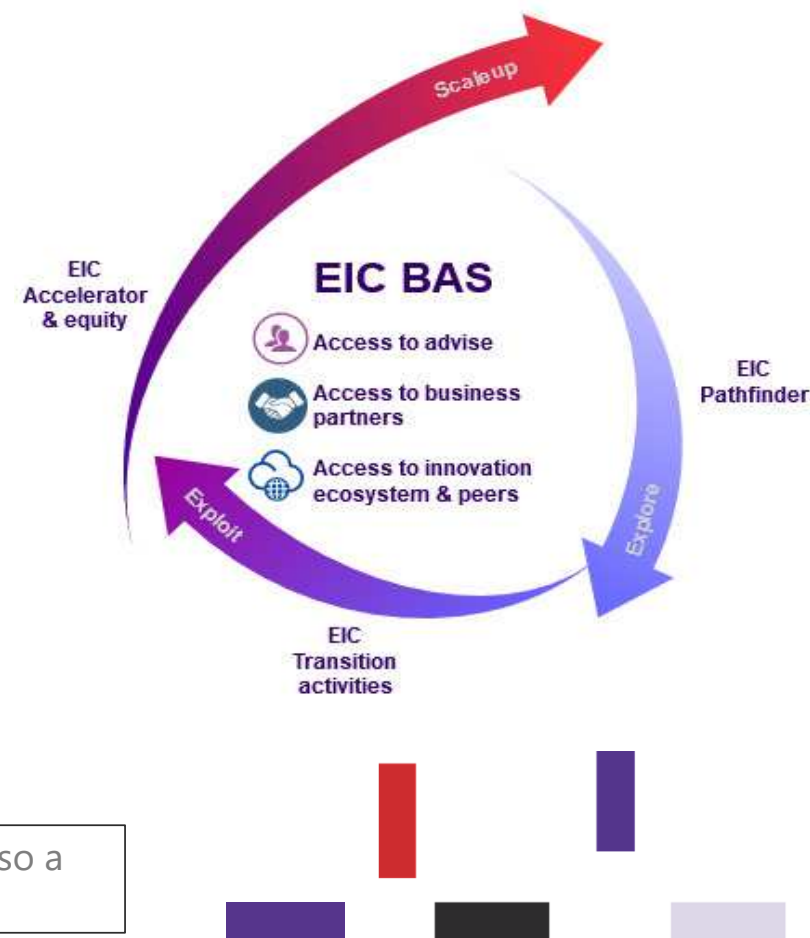
Access to tailor-made services worth up to **€50k+**



WHO?

- **EIC Awardees : Pathfinder, Transition, Accelerator** (H2020 legacy projects included)
- **Applicants** to EIC Accelerator 2nd stage (3 days coaching)
- **Horizon Europe Seal of excellence**
- **Women Tech EU**

Servicio de asesoramiento en estudios de mercado, propiedad intelectual, acceso a ecosistemas de innovacion, como contactar con potenciales inversores, etc



EIC Business Acceleration Services (EIC BAS)

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Connection to Innovation Ecosystem Partners' services

Incubators

Accelerators

Innovation
Agencies

R&I
Infrastructure

Venture
builders



EIT KICs

Access to Business Partners



Corporates



Investors



Innovation
procurers



Trade Fairs

Access to Advice and skills



Coaching



Tech2Market



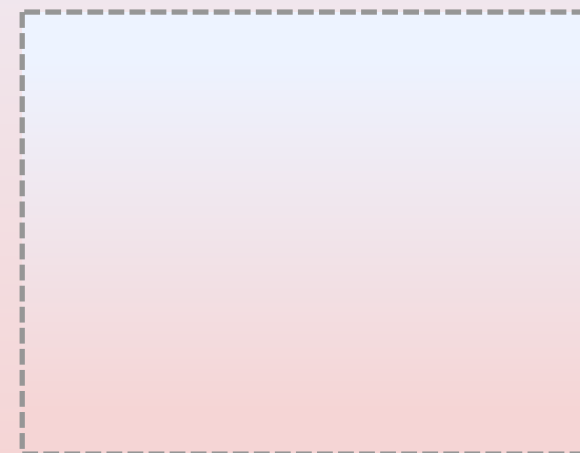
Women
Leadership



EIC
Scaleup



Reducing
GHG
emissions



Why go for BAS?

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Council



**+40 matching
events per
year**

**+1500
innovators
served**

**1k coaching
sessions per
year**

**Over 40+
ecosystem
partners
involved**

**+2000
Corporate and
investors
involved**

**20%
Business
follow-ups and
deals**

**3000
1:1 meetings
with business
partners**

**Access services
worth up to
€50k**





Thank you !

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