



Hrvatska agencija za malo gospodarstvo, inovacije i investicije
Croatian Agency for SMEs, Innovations and Investments

European Innovation Council (EIC)

www.hamagbicro.hr | www.investcroatia.hr





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The EIC aims at identifying and supporting breakthrough technologies and game-changing innovations with the potential to scale up internationally and become market leaders.

It supports all stages of innovation from R&D on the scientific level , to validation and demonstration of breakthrough technologies and innovations to meet real world needs, to the development and scaling up of start-ups and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).





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Financial support is provided through three main funding schemes:

EIC Pathfinder' - for advanced research on breakthrough / game-changing technologies

EIC Transition' - for transforming research results into innovation opportunities

EIC Accelerator' - for individual companies to develop and scale up breakthrough innovations with high risk and high impact





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The majority of funding will be awarded through open calls with no predefined thematic priorities ('EIC Open') or through challenge driven approach ('EIC Challenges') that provides funding to address specific thematic priorities

These challenges take into account EU priorities for transitioning to a green, digital and healthy society, as well as the overall strategic planning for Horizon Europe





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EIC Pathfinder provides support for the earliest stages of scientific, technological or deep-tech research and development.

Pathfinder projects aim to build on new directions in science and technology and a market or create new opportunities by creating innovative technological solutions.





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EIC Pathfinder Open, is open to proposals in any field of science, technology or application without predefined thematic priorities;

EIC Pathfinder Open involves interdisciplinary research and development by bringing diverse areas of research together. The expected outcome is the proof of principle that the main ideas of the envisioned future technology are feasible, thus validating its scientific and technological basis.





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**EIC Pathfinder Open- total indicative budget for this call is
EUR 183 million**

-opened on 18 December 2021-

**deadline for submitting your proposal is 2 March 2022 at
17h00 Brussels local time**

**For this call, the EIC considers proposals with a requested EU
contribution of up to EUR 3 million**

**Consortia of at least three different independent legal
entities established in at least three different eligible
countries (research organisations, universities, SMEs,
industry)**





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EIC Pathfinder Challenges-supports proposals within a predefined thematic area and addressing specific objectives.

**The total indicative budget for this call is EUR 167 million
the EIC considers proposals with an EU contribution of up to
EUR 4 million**





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Consortia of at least three different independent legal entities established in at least three different eligible countries (research organisations, universities, SMEs, industry).

Single applicants or small consortia (two partners) for EIC Pathfinder Challenges only. (Consortia of two entities must be comprised of independent legal entities from two different Member States or Associated Countries).





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The call will open on 15 June 2022- deadline is 26 October 2022 at 17h00 Brussels local time.

Specifically, your project must aim to deliver, by its end the expected outcomes defined in the respective challenge:





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- Carbon & Nitrogen management and valorisation
- Mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage
- Cardiogenomics
- Healthcare Continuum technologies
- DNA-based digital data storage
- Alternative Quantum Information Processing, Communication, and Sensing





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EIC Transition- funds innovation activities that go beyond the experimental proof of principle in laboratory.

It supports both the maturation and validation of your novel technology from the lab to the relevant application environments as well as development of a business case and business model towards commercialisation.





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EIC Transition projects should address, in a balanced way, both technology and market/business dimensions.

Activities must in all cases address market readiness towards commercialisation and deployment (market research, business case, prospects for growth, intellectual property protection, competitor analysis etc.)





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EIC Transition Open which has no predefined thematic priorities and is open to proposals in any field of science, technology or application.

EUR 70.86 million of the total indicative budget will be allocated to Transition Open.





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Single applicants (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) or small consortia (two partners) or consortia of three to five different independent legal entities established in at least three different eligible countries.

Larger companies (i.e. which do not qualify as SMEs) are not eligible to apply as a single legal entity.

Grants of up to EUR 2.5 million (or more if properly justified) (Technology Readiness Levels 4 to 5/6) and develop market readiness





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The call opens on 18 December 2021.

The cut-off dates for 2022 are:

6 April 2022 at 17h00 Brussels local time;

15 June 2022 at 17h00 Brussels local time;

5 October 2022 at 17h00 Brussels local time.





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EIC Transition Challenges in predefined thematic areas of emerging and strategic technologies. EUR 60.5 million is allocated to Transition Challenges:

- **Green digital devices for the future**
- **Process and system integration of clean energy technologies**
- **RNA-based therapies and diagnostics for complex or rare genetic diseases**





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The EIC Accelerator focuses in particular on innovations, building on scientific discovery or technological breakthroughs ('deep tech') and where significant funding is needed over a long timeframe before returns can be generated.

The EIC Accelerator supports the later stages of technology development as well as scale up.

The technology component of innovation must therefore have been tested and validated in a laboratory or other relevant environment (e.g. at least Technology Readiness Level 5/6 or higher and have fully completed Technology Readiness Level 4.)





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To be an eligible applicant to EIC Accelerator, you must apply as one of the following eligible entities:

-a single company classified as a SME and established within a Member State or an Associated Country or

-a single company classified as a small mid-cap (up to 499 employees) established in a Member State or an Associated Country; or

-One or more natural persons (including individual entrepreneurs) or legal entities, which are either:





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- a. From a Member State or an Associated Country intending to establish an SME or small mid-cap (as defined above) in a Member State or Associated Country by the time of signing the EIC Accelerator contract or, in case the equity only is awarded, at the latest when agreeing on its investment component;**
- b. Intending to invest in an SME or small mid-cap in a Member State or an Associated Country and who may submit a proposal on behalf of that SME or small mid-cap, provided that a prior agreement exist with the company. The contract will be signed with the beneficiary company only; or**





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c. From a non-associated third country intending to establish an SME (including start-ups) or to relocate an existing SME to a Member State or an Associated Country. Your company must prove its effective establishment in a Member State or an Associated Country at the time of submission of the full proposal.





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The EIC Accelerator provides finance which is composed of:

**-An investment component usually in the form of direct equity or quasi-equity such as convertible loans
The minimum investment component is EUR 0.5 million and the maximum is EUR 15 million if duly justified.**

**-A grant component to reimburse eligible costs (max. Up to 70%) incurred for innovation activities, including demonstration of the technology in the relevant environment, prototyping, R&D and testing required to meet regulatory and standardisation requirements, intellectual property management, and marketing approval.
The grant component should normally not exceed EUR 2.5 million**





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EIC Accelerator Open, which has no predefined thematic priorities and is open to proposals in any field of technology or application

-EUR 635.29 million of the total indicative budget will be allocated to Accelerator Open.





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EIC Accelerator Challenges in predefined thematic topics in areas of emerging and strategic technologies.
-EUR 539.55 million to Accelerator Challenges

supports companies (principally SMEs, including start-ups) to scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones in identified areas of strategic relevance:





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-Technologies for Open Strategic Autonomy- The expected impact of this Challenge is a significant reduction of the European dependency on other regions for deep-tech innovations and services of EU key strategic interest, and consequently strengthening of European competitiveness, security and autonomy.

- Technologies for 'Fit for 55' - The expected impact of this Challenge is a more inclusive and steady acceleration towards climate neutrality by 2050 while considering design and aesthetics of proposed solutions., innovations that can contribute effectively to the goals enshrined in the 'Fit to 55' plan accelerating decarbonisation by having high potential impact on reducing net CO2 emissions.



The application process consists of a number of steps:

- 1. Short proposals which may be submitted at any time and which will be evaluated remotely by EIC expert evaluators on a first come, first served basis;**
- 2. If successful, you will be invited to prepare a full proposal, where you will have access to support through the EIC artificial intelligence-based IT platform and from EIC business coaches to develop a detailed business plan;**
- 3. Full proposals will first be assessed remotely by EIC expert evaluators. If successful, you will be invited to a face to face interview with an EIC jury as the final step in the selection process**





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4. If selected for funding, you will be invited to negotiate an initial contract for the grant component and to start the due diligence for the investment component.





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A full proposal which can be submitted to one of the cut-off dates within the next 12 months from the date of the response to your short proposal.

You may decide which cut-off to apply to. The cut-off dates for 2022 are:

- 6 April 2022 at 17h00 Brussels local time;**
- 15 June 2022 at 17h00 Brussels local time;**
- 5 October 2022 at 17h00 Brussels local time;**





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Technology Readiness Levels (TRLs):

TRL1 - basic principles observed

TRL2 - technology concept formulated

TRL3 - experimental proof of concept

TRL4 - technology validated in lab

TRL5 - technology validated in relevant environment

TRL6 - technology demonstrated in relevant environment

TRL7 - system prototype demonstration in operational environment

TRL8 - system complete and qualified

TRL9 - actual system proven in operational environment





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Potential applicants who wish to apply for EIC funding will need to apply through the EU Funding & Tender Opportunities portal (<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>)





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EIC NCP

Tanja Ivanović

tanja.ivanovic@hamagbicro.hr

01/5494738

www.hamagbicro.hr | www.investcroatia.hr

