EEN2 EIC

Calls' Frequently Asked Questions

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LIC LITHUANIAN INNOVATION CENTRE

praxi help-forward network

Steinbeis Europa Zentrum Enabling Innovators to Grow

Funded by the European Union

www.een2eic.eu
een2eic@apre.it
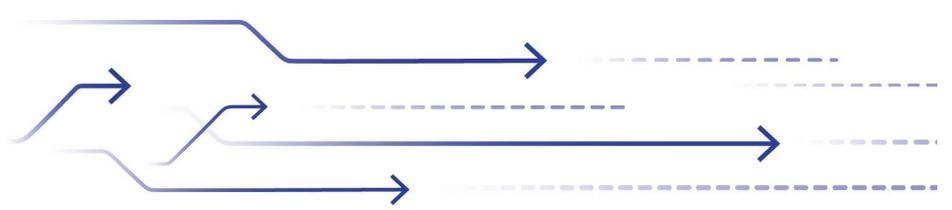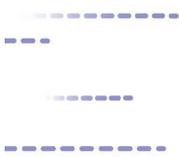
@EEN2EIC

This document aims at clarifying the information included in the open calls official documents of the project EEN2EIC to support the potential applicants. It is an official calls' integrative document and has to be consider full part of the documents' set.

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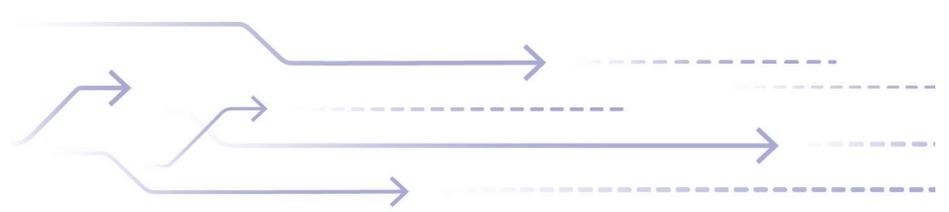
1. General information

2. Q.1.1 Can the same EEN organization apply to different calls?
A.1.1. Yes, an EEN members can apply to different calls.

Q.1.2 Do you plan to organise a webinar / info day about the calls?
A.1.2 Yes, the info day is organized on the 8th February 2023. Detailed information can be found in the project website https://een2eic.eu/

Q.1.3 Are the vouchers essentially additional funding for EEN?
A.1.3 Yes, vouchers are additional funding but the scope is to provide innovative European companies (the final beneficiaries) with additional assistance. In the past EEN provided EIMC and KAM services, the idea is to provide again these services and support the capacity building and help EEN partners to gain know how from other more experienced EEN members.

Q.1.4 Does the spoke, who contributed to the service, receive some "acknowledgement" for its service? Will it be reporting in EEN?
A.1.4 Yes, in the logic of client journey, if an EEN member has a client and it provides this client also services thanks to EEN2EIC, they can also reported as achievement in the EEN project but It is necessary that these services are included in the client journey. Please check the EEN Achievements Guidelines and the related FAQ

Q.1.5 EIC Accelerator has a success rate of 6%. How is EEN2EIC going to be evaluated? Only based on quantitative results or also by the quality of the impact?
A.1.5 EEN2EIC project will be evaluated both by quantity and quality. It is challenging to submit an application so if the EEN network provides assistance to apply, it is an indicator of quality. A EEN2EIC indicator is also referring to winning proposals.

Q.1.6 Will EEN expert/advisor working on the ground in widening countries be stimulated to advice Women lead company, for example to spend additional days?
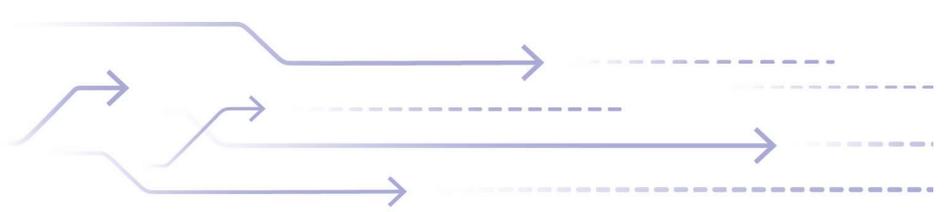
A.1.6. Both women-led and widening/associated countries companies are our priorities in the project, additional support is given for companies that are both widening/associated countries and women-led companies.

Q.1.7 Are plug-in companies eligible?
A.1.7 Yes.

Q.1.8 If several partners of the same consortium apply, is a coordination within the consortium to be planed ?
A.1.8. Each consortium is strongly encouraged to internally agree the applications. The consortium as foreseen selection criteria, as indicated in the call documents, in case more than one application is submitted.

Q.1.9 Will Commission share applicants data with the EEN2EIC consortium members?
A.1.9 No, the EISMEA won't share applicants data, the EEN2EIC consortium is discussing with the EISMEA for the sharing of SoE holders data.

Q.1.10 Do I understand correctly that EEN members are not obliged to apply for all 3 calls but can choose one or 2 calls?
A.1.10 Yes, EEN members are free to decide to apply for all 3 calls or choose only one or two of them.

Q.1.11 Are the EEN expert services different from NCPs?
A.1.11 EEN and NCPs have two different roles but they cooperate. The services are different: EEN provides assistance to companies for the whole client journey: it has to understand if the company can apply, if the business model is appropriate. NCPs provide assistance when the company already wants to apply.

Q.1.12 Are the working hours of this services reported in EEN also meaning this is additional incentive? Or are the hours working in EEN2EIC not eligible in EEN?
A1.12 Working hours recorded for EEN2EIC cannot be accounted in EEN.
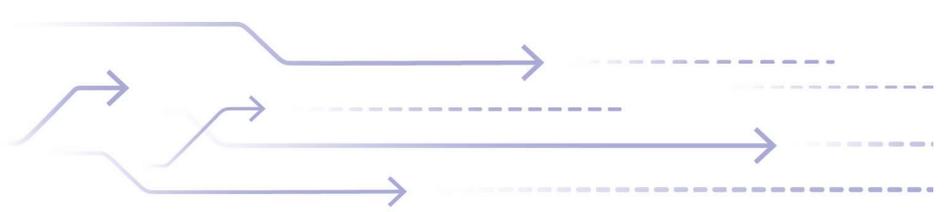
Q.1.13 ScandalOctober cut off results. Have Commission already made evaluators debriefing regarding Widening and Women companies rejection on main reasons and findings?

A.1.13 The Commission doesn't debrief the evaluators because it meets them only before evaluation and it doesn't need them afterwards to make a wrap up of what happened but during the briefing for evaluators it emphasizes the equal footing and transparency for all applicants. There are no specific award or selection criteria that would give additional credits to widening companies or women-led companies. Three years ago, a quota for women-led companies was foreseen but today there isn't. There are several reasons why widening countries have less success: few of them apply, the successful rate is discouraging, they don't feel comfortable enough to submit proposals, there is a lack of knowledge of this funding scheme, a lack of knowledge how to apply and in general that's why the help from EEN is necessary.

Q.1.14 When a company doesn't fall into any category of the calls, are those services still eligible for funding under the GA?

A.1.14 No, if the company doesn't fall into one of the target categories, it is not eligible.

Q.1.15 From which date are activities under all three calls eligible? Can we claim the vouchers backwards?

A1.15 The assistance to companies that want to apply to EIC accelerator would be eligible from September 2022 (start of the project). The activities of CILs and of GLs an LNs of call 3 are eligible only after the selection.

Q.1.16 Can EEN partners from non-widening countries be involved in exchange of best practice to widening countries?

A1.16 For the organization of knowledge exchange events, the most experienced partners will be asked to participate as speakers. If a partner feels it can contribute, it is invited to contact the EEN2EIC to cooperate.
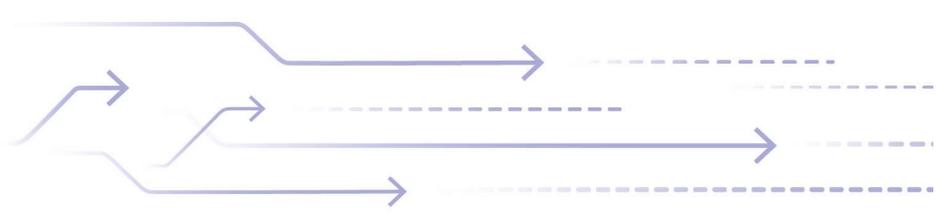
Q.1.17 After our application is approved – will we sign a contract/agreement with your consortium? Can we get a draft of a contract/agreement?

A.1.17 Yes, if you will be selected as CIL, Group Leader or Local Nodes for SoE Laureates , you will sign a contract with APRE (EEN2EIC Consortium Coordinator) , we're defining the model of the contract.

Q.1.19 Will the advisory services for SMEs within the call (that EEN advisor provided) be eligible also for EEN project (as for instance KPI2) or only for the call?

A.1.19 Please check the revised EEN Guidelines https://een.ec.europa.eu/connect/how-we-work/discussion/updated-achievement-guidelines-reflect-interaction-een2eic

Q.1.20 Are consortia from associated countries under grant agreement negotiation eligible for EEN2EIC calls?

A.1.20 With reference to the rules of participation to the EEN2EIC project, consortia from future associated countries that are allowed to take part in EEN activities can be eligible also for the een2eic open calls.

2. CALL 1: Open Call for Consortium Innovation Leader

Q.2.1 To be eligible to participate in the present call for CIL, each organisation shall fulfil all the following conditions: be part of existing Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Consortium at the time of application. Could you explain the meaning "Be part of existing Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Consortium at the time of application"?

A.2.1 As indicated at the point 2.2.1 Eligibility Conditions the applicant organization has to be member of existing Enterprise Europe Network Consortium (EEN).
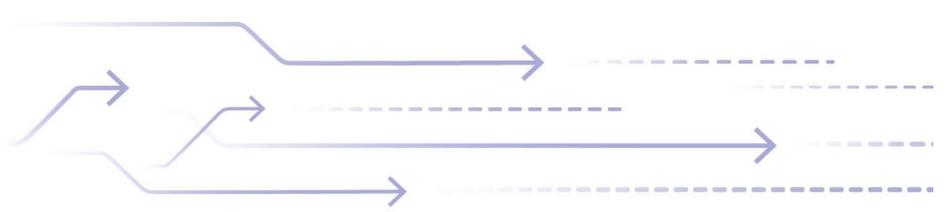
Q.2.2 Please confirm that the deadline is 27th March, 2023.
A.2.2 The deadline to submit application for CIL is 27th of March 2023 at 17:00 Brussels time.

Q.2.3. Is it welcome to organise CIL capacity building activities jointly e.g., for two widening countries?
A.2.3. EEN2EIC project encourages collaboration between different EEN consortia and complementarity of their Capacity building activities. If more than one CIL wants to claim a voucher for the same Capacity building activity, they have to justify their individual contribution to it and prove the participation of their consortium members and / or SMEs from their country / region.

Q.2.4. Can we apply to be CIL only for one of the 2 target groups. Then, the voucher for the CIL will be 5000 € ?
A.2.4. Yes, a CIL can choose either to work both with Women-led enterprises and Widening & Associated countries, or to work only with one target group. In the latter case CIL would be eligible to receive only one voucher of 5000 €.

Q.2.5. CIL call foresees 3 capacity building activities. Since the support capacity of EEN2EIC consortium is limited, how will you plan/prioritise for 15 countries?
A.2.5. EEN2EIC project has allocated budget for Capacity building activities in 15 Widening countries and 5 Associated countries. The budget is divided into equal parts and each country will receive the same amount of funding.

Q.2.6. Can a CIL be also at the same time Local Node?
A.2.6. Yes, the same organization can become CIL and Local Node at the same time. In order to do so, the organization should fill both the application for Call 1 and for Call 2.
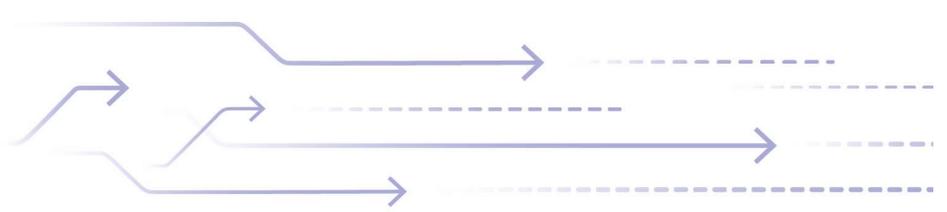
Q.2.7 What does it happen if WE potential is not enough to reach 10 ?
A.2.7 The voucher for CIL can be redeemed only when at least 10 companies are supported under each of the two strands foreseen by the Open Call. You need reach the threshold to be eligible to redeem the voucher.

Q.2.8 if Local node works with an SME in a different country, which CIL takes credit for this case (in order to collect 10 cases and get a voucher)?
A.2.8 The CIL to which the Local node belongs.

Q.2.9 The end of execution for call 2 is indicated as 31.03.2025 and for call 3 the end of execution is indicated 31.08.2025 but not deadline is highlighted for call 1, could you please provide that data?
A2.9 The duration of the contract between CIL and Coordination office will be specified in the contract, with an end date planned to be on July 31st 2025.

3.   CALL 2: Open Call for Local Nodes

Q.3.1 Can you clarify eligible activity "Direct, 1-to-1 advice and support"? Can we require expertise from partners from our innovation ecosystem?
A.3.1 Activities of "direct 1-to-1 support" are listed in the Call Nr. 2 for Local Nodes in Section "2.4 Eligible Activities". In a nutshell all the activities necessary for a company to submit their Application for EIC Accelerator. The local node can make use of external expertise. However, this is not remunerated within the framework of the EEN2EIC.

Q.3.2 Call 2 is finally an OPEN call for all EEN members ?
A.3.2 Yes. The Open Call for Local Nodes is open for applications from 24.01.2023 until 31.03.2025 (17:00 Brussels Time). The applicant organization is full member of existing Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) Consortium at the time of application.
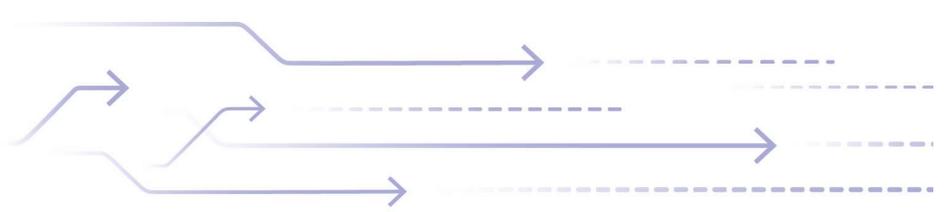
Q.3.3 Once an EEN member (local node) provides assistance to a targeted SME, is the organization able to apply for Group A or B Voucher until march 2025?

A.3.3 Yes. Once the application process is done and the organization is registered as local node, the organization can apply continuously for Group A- or B Voucher for supported SMEs until 31.03.2025 (17:00 Brussels Time)

Q.3.4 Is the local node (selected under the Call 2) able to serve SMEs and start-up outside the Region of competence but inside its Country?

A.3.4 Yes. Support for women-led enterprises and enterprises in associated countries is also allowed outside the own consortium and outside its own country.

Q.3.5 Can an Organization qualify as a local node and decide later to redeem vouchers or cover its cost for services under EEN?

A.3.5 Yes. the organization is free to decide if and when to redeem vouchers. Vouchers can be redeemed until 31.03.2025 (17:00 Brussels Time) at latest.

Q.3.6 Is there a limit to the number of applications that can be made by one Local Node

A.3.6 There is no limit in the number of companies supported by the respective Local Node.

Q.3.7 Is a local node (call 2) able to support women- led enterprises and at the same time companies from widening countries or only one of it?

A.3.7 Yes. A local Node can focus on its local companies when established in a non-widening or associated country or even of a broader range of companies when established in Widening/Associated Countries.

Q.3.8 Should local nodes provide direct support to SMEs or could they engage industry experts? Should they provide proofs to justify the cost of the services?
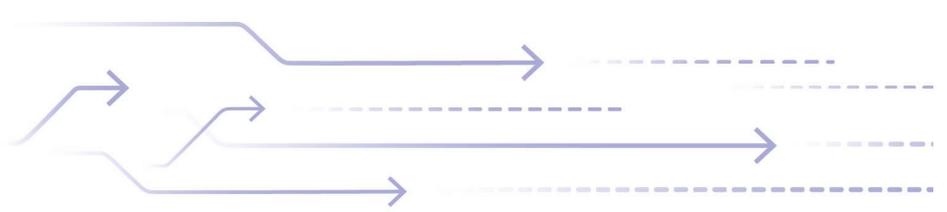
A.3.8 The local node is responsible for providing support directly to the SME. Only EEN members are eligible under the EEN2EIC Voucher Scheme. Please check Open Call 2 – Section 2.3 for further details.

Q.3.9 Is it possible for a consortium to apply with LNs (call 2) only ?
A.3.9 Open Call Nr. 2 is open to all the eligible EEN members. The application to Open Call Nr. 2 is valid for single organizations only, not for a Consortium.

Q.3.10 Are organizations of EEN2EIC coordination office eligible to these calls / Local Nodes ?
A.3.10 No.

Q.3.11 Can a Local Node establish a filtering mechanism to select SMEs to receive services?
A.3.11 Yes, it is up to each local node to assess and select the most promising SMEs. Further guidance will be published by EEN2EIC in the upcoming months.

Q.3.12 Should a local node provide support to all eligible companies, or could the node focus on local companies?
A.3.12 While Local Nodes are free to support SMEs established in Widening and Associated Countries and Women-Led SMEs established in all countries eligible under EIC programme (see question 3.7), it is advised to focus on your local innovation ecosystems to support the innovative SMEs from your region eligible under EEN2EIC.

Q.3.13 How will local nodes be selected? Are there any specific selection criteria?
A.3.13 The eligibility criteria for Local Nodes are available in Section 2.3.1 of the Open Call nr. 2-Guide for Applicants.

Q.3.14 Can the nodes be supported by external experts to provide the service?
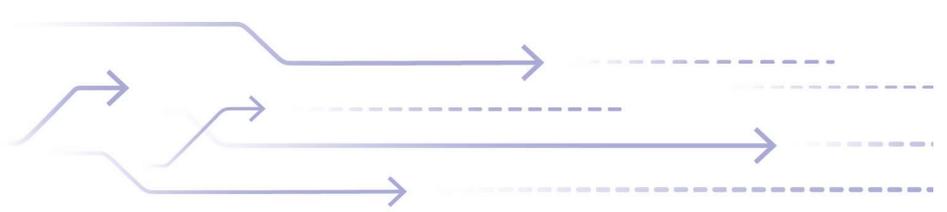
A.3.14 Only EEN members are eligible under the EEN2EIC Voucher Scheme (see Open Call 2 – Section 2.3) and can therefore redeem the Voucher. If you intend to leverage on external expertise to support you with this, please note that they will not be able to redeem the vouchers themselves.

Q.3.15 Regarding call 2, the voucher is only granted for proposals already submitted?
A.3.15 Yes, as indicated in the call at the point 2.5.1: the supported application for EIC Accelerator Short Proposal should be correctly submitted by the supported SME using the EIC Platform.

Q.3.16 It is going to be a "first come first served" policy to give the vouchers or we need to wait until the cut-off dates to present the applications?
A.3.16 Yes, for the call nr.2 you can upload the given assistance on the IT Platform, the cut off dates will be identified only for the voucher's payment (point 3.3) and are not related to the submission of cases

Q.3.17 Referring to Call nr. 2, my company supports startups during project evaluation and proposal preparation. We focus on EIC Accelerator and Women TEchEU calls.
Many Local Nodes do not have a proven track-record. But they can work with us within the EEN2EIC program. Is it possible?
A.3.17 In reference to call 2, only EEN members at the time of submission can apply and to be eligible, they have to fulfil the conditions listed in section 2.3.1 included the conditions to have a proven track-record of direct supported SMEs and ensuring appropriate track record for the identification and mapping of innovative SMEs in their country that meet the priorities of EEN2EIC.

Q.3.18 Within Call nr. 2, can a company receive assistance from a EEN local node located in a different country?
A.3.19 Yes, if a EEN local node can provide added value to a company from widening or associated countries, the activity is eligible.
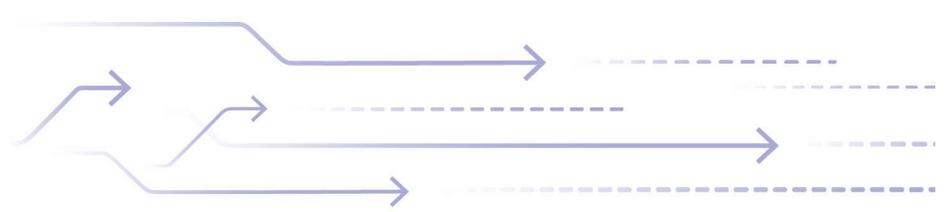
Q.3.19 Regarding call 2 of EEN2EIC, could you please confirm that there is no application form to become Local Node, just register into the EEN2EIC tool? Is there a limitation of registrations by partners into the EEN2EIC tool?

A.3.19 there is no application form for call nr. 2 and there is no limitation to the registrations of the EEN nodes.

Q.3.20 Is it possible to get the vouchers for the companies granted within the Startup Capital programme (which is equivalent to the Phase 1 EIC Accelerator applications successfully submitted)?

A.3.20 As indicated in the call nr. 2 (Section 2.5.1) the voucher will be granted only for EIC Plug-in Candidates supported for Full Proposal applications.

4.   CALL 3: Open Call for Group Leaders and Local Nodes for Seals of Excellence

Q.4.1. Could be more than one EEN member selected as a Local Node in Call 3?

A4.1 In specific cases, if the consortium considers that is necessary to identify more than one LN for the successful implementation of activities listed in section 3.3 of the call, more than one Local Node (LN) per consortium could be selected. The Selection will be made to enable full coverage of the country and the consortium area.

Q.4.2. Call 3: the call for GL is limited only to some countries (Italy as I understood, is already covered by APRE, Greece by PRAXI, etc.) correct?

A.4.2 Yes, in the call 3, we are looking for 7 Group Leaders (Group B – Portugal, Spain; Group C – Israel, Turkey, Armenia; Group E – United Kingdom, Ireland; Group F – Netherlands, Denmark; Group H – Belgium, Luxembourg, Switzerland; Group I – Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden and
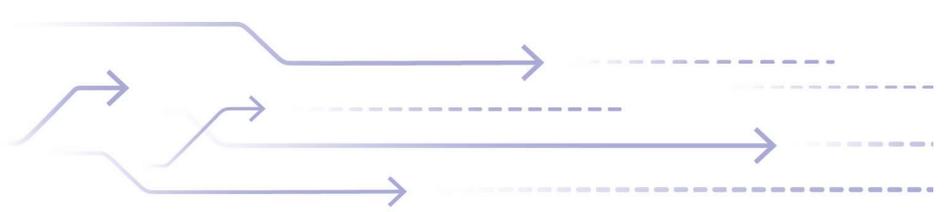
Group J – Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, Montenegro, Serbia, Slovakia and Slovenia).

Q.4.3. Call 3: do LNs receive vouchers (EUR 1100) to perform activities with SoE holders, is it correct? How does the voucher scheme work? Can you make some example/scenarios?

A.4.3 Consortium will share the list of SoE companies with GLs and LNs, LN will know SoE holders in their territory, they will contact the company with 2 offers – private funding (if the company will participate on the e-pitch session) or public funding. In this case LN will have the list of regional / national funding and will support SoE with application form. After this process LN can apply to get voucher via IT platform.

Q.4.4. Call 3: is it possible to have specific information about the current number of SOEs by region (from July 2021 till today)?

A.4.4 We will share the information about SoE holders with Group Leaders and Local Nodes and we are trying to find a way, how we can share this information with whole EEN network.

Q.4.5 Call for Local Nodes for SoE. is it a payment of 1.100 EUR per company supported or one-time payment for the LN?

A.4.5 One voucher is for support of one SoE holders.

Q.4.6 What is the interaction between LN and GL? Does the LN have to support companies of its Consortium? (ex. acc to funding) or is this in charge of the GL?

A.4.6 Group Leader is a coordinator of each group and it is connection between EEN2EIC project to each group of countries. Local Nodes are in direct contact with SoE holders in their consortium's territory.

Q.4.7 Call for Local Nodes for SoE foresees only soft support (onboarding, e-pitching, etc.) for one-time payment of 1.100 EUR. Correct?
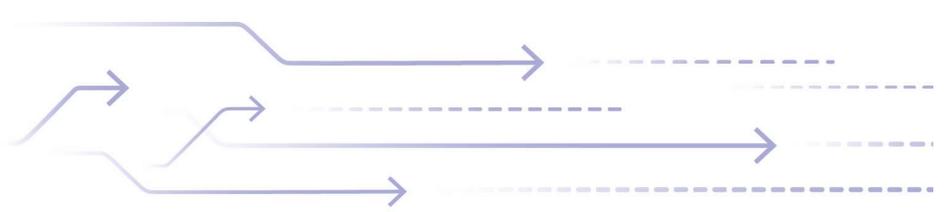
A.4.7 yes, this is correct information, but also support with application process in public funding.

Q.4.8 Will the SoEs contact local nodes or will local nodes have to contact SoEs and sell the service?
A.4.8 It could be both options. In any case the service for SMEs is free of charge.

Q.4.9 How will you distribute the GL?
A.4.9 We divided 45 countries in 12 groups with the similar number of SoE in each group of countries.

Q.4.10 How will the GL vouchers distributed between GLs? Same questions for LNs.
A.4.10 Voucher for LNs will be available after their support of SoE. Voucher for GLs will be available after organizing of pitch session with SoEs and reporting. The vouchers will be paid quarterly.

Q.4.11 Call 3: how does the interaction GL and LN work? The LN follows the local companies of the whole EEN consortium? Is the GL that assigns the voucher to the LN?
A.4.11 Group Leader is a coordinator of each group and it is connection between EEN2EIC project to each group of countries. Local Nodes are in direct contact with SoE holders in their consortium's territory. LN will be coordinated by GL and they will have a regular communication, probably weekly calls. Voucher for LNs will be available after their support of SoE (not depends on GL).

Q.4.12 How will you distribute the GL voucher (90) between the GLs (there will be only 10-11 GLs if I remember well). Maybe number of countries covered *9xxx EUR?
A.4.12 The voucher for GL will be available after organizing of the pitching session and reporting.
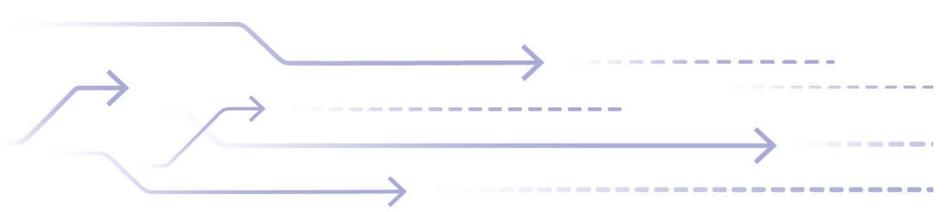
Q.4.13 the capacity building activities are all within call 3?
A.4.13 No, this is under Call 1.

Q.4.14In call 3, LNs are automatically enrolled? Or they have to do a joint application with GLs?
A.4.14 For each role in the EEN2EIC project (CIL, GL or LN), the applicant has to submit different application.

Q.4.15 Does one receive confirmation of one's submission for call 2 and / or 3?
A.4.15 Yes.

Q.4.16 Voucher for Local Nodes: if, despite the LN having done the work and having sent the invitation, the supported SoE company does not participate in a webinar or e-pitch organized together with the GL, is the voucher paid anyway or not?
A.4.16 In the project EEN2EIC the main premise is that the company is looking / searching funding/investment, and if the company didn't receive EIC grant, we will support them in obtaining private / public finance. With this premise, we expect that the company will actively cooperate with LNs and GLs in their work (e.g. the registration of the company on e-community EEN2EIC on EuroQuity platform, as the first step in cooperation process). However, the case that selected company won't participate on e-pitch session in the case of force majeure, we need to monitor the work what was done by LN for support of this SoE. In this case we will process each case one by one and then we will evaluate and decide with our EIC Project Officer.

Q.4.17 Voucher for Local Nodes: if, despite the effort and activities implemented, the supported SoE company ultimately does not obtain alternative sources of funding for its SoE, is the voucher paid anyway? Or
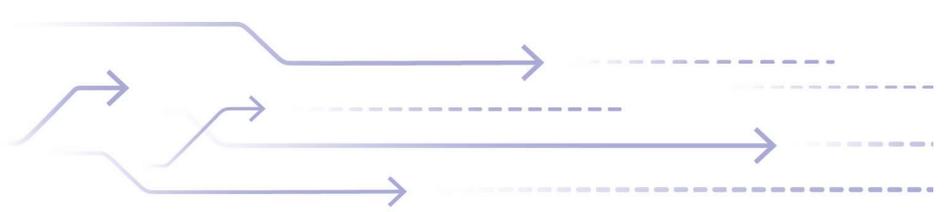
is it only paid if the company actually obtains alternative funding/funding for SoE?

A.4.17 The voucher will be paid after all work / support from LN side to SoE. The obtaining of alternative funding for SoE is expected only in 25% cases from 900 companies (112 SoE). The discussions with private investors take sometimes more weeks/ months, so this is not the condition for applying the voucher for LNs or GLs.

5. .IT-Tool

Q.5.1. Can I register the company in the EENConnect as well? If so, the action plan has to be different?

A.5.1 You could add the service under an existing client card and action plan in Community.

Q.5.2. Please show how to get diagnostic pdf. especially for a long application cases? If you can't - please confirm what this is possible

A.5.2. EEN advisors should work closely with the client on that. The SME should log into EIC AI diagnostic tool and complete the necessary fields. When completed, the system will come up with a diagnostic report. As long as the "Download" feature is not available yet, EEN advisors should print the page of the report as a pdf file and upload it. An example is available here. In cases of Fast track and Plug in schemes, EEN advisors should complete manually the diagnostic results and upload -instead of the results- any proof of participation in any of the two schemes.

Q.5.3. Could you please create a manual of the platform? (It is sufficient the screenshot in order to have the all data to be inserted)

A.5.3. The Users Guide of the IT-Tool is available here

EEN2
EIC

www.een2eic.eu
een2eic@apre.it

@EEN2EIC