



Call 4

**Open Call for the selection of EEN
organisations delivering *IRS Awareness
and Support Services* – EEN2EIC**

Programme : Horizon Europe Framework Programme

Call : Cooperation with EEN

(SoE, Applicants in widening countries and from women-led companies)

(HORIZON-EIC-2021-EEN-01)

Type of Action : CSA

Project : **Support to EIC Accelerator** by the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN2EIC)

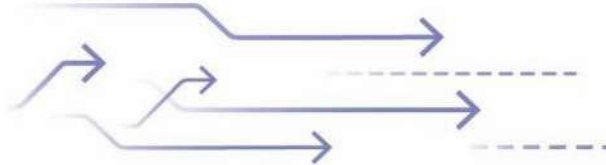
Grant Agreement No. : 101075818

www.een2eic.eu

@EEN2EIC



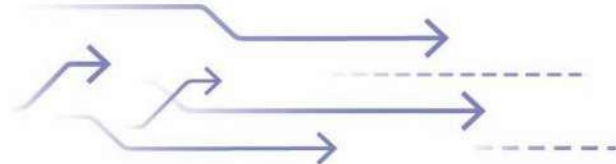
Funded by
the European Union



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1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

The EEN2EIC project aims to establish a stronger cooperation mechanism between the European Enterprise Network (EEN) and the European Innovation Council (EIC), supporting innovation and business scaling-up through financial support. In doing so, EEN network offices will be empowered to support potential EIC applicants and thereby increase the number of high-quality proposals to the EIC.

A special focus will be put on the promotion of female innovators and on Widening and Associated Countries that have submitted only few applications. Furthermore, the support of Seal of Excellence holders in accessing alternative sources of funding and ensuring a strong and profitable exchange of best practices within the EEN will be strengthened. EEN2EIC will make EU innovation support more efficient by improving the capacity of SMEs and avoiding overlapping with NCP activities.

EEN2EIC project is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme under grant agreement No. 101075818.

2. ABOUT THIS CALL

The EEN2EIC consortium is launching Call 4, aimed at mobilizing EEN partner organizations to deliver Investment Readiness Service (IRS) awareness and support services to SMEs.

This call will strengthen the uptake and use of the IRS Toolkit by SMEs across Europe and Associated Countries, ensuring that EEN members can deliver consistent, practical support in the field of investment readiness.

3. OBJECTIVES

The activities under this call will pursue multiple objectives. First, they will contribute to increasing awareness of the Investment Readiness Service (IRS) Toolkit among SMEs, ensuring that a wider number of companies become familiar with the resources and guidance it provides.

Selected partners will also support SMEs in the first application of the Toolkit, offering light-touch follow-up services to help them use the tools effectively in practice. In parallel, partners will be expected to collect structured feedback from SMEs in order to identify strengths, gaps, and potential improvements to the IRS service.

Finally, the call aims to strengthen the overall capacity of EEN partners in delivering investment readiness support services, both at local and national level, thereby enhancing the long-term impact and sustainability of the initiative.

4. WHO CAN APPLY

- Members of the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) with proven expertise in SME support (investment readiness, access to finance, fundraising, scale-up services)

Eligibility reminder-

Applicants must not have previously received, nor may receive as a result of this call, more than €60,000 in total FSTP support under the EEN2EIC project-

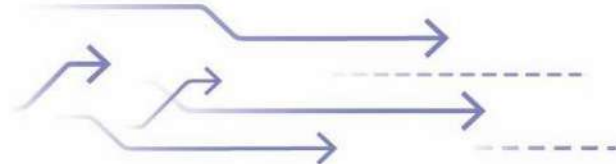
5. ROLES, ACTIVITIES & VOUCHER SCHEME

Selected EEN organizations will be required to:

1. Organize and deliver at least one IRS Information Session to SMEs.
2. Provide follow-up support to SMEs participating in the session, helping them to understand and apply the IRS Toolkit.
3. Collect and report SME feedback to the EEN2EIC consortium.

Financial Support (FSTP – Voucher Scheme):

- Each organization will receive a voucher of €8,000 for one activity package (1 information session + follow-up support).
- Maximum FSTP threshold remains €60,000 per third party across the project.



6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criterion	Explanation	Threshold	Max Score
Relevance	EEN membership, track record in SME support, expertise in access to finance/investment topics	3	5
Implementation	Capacity and resources to deliver information sessions and follow-up support	3	5
Impact	Outreach potential, expected number and profile of SMEs engaged	3	5
Threshold: 9 points Maximum: 15 points			

7 APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications must be submitted **via the online form**:

- Application form: [Application Form Call 4](#)

Applications must be submitted **no later than 30 June 2026 at 17:00 CET (Brussels time)**.

This call is implemented as a **rolling basis**. Applications can be submitted at any time until **30 June 2026 (17:00 CET, Brussels time)**, or until the available budget is fully allocated.

Eligible applications will be evaluated by the **EEN2EIC Evaluation Committee**, composed consortium representatives and, where necessary, integrated by members of the Advisory Board. Applicants will be informed of the outcome of the evaluation, and selected organisations will be contacted directly by e-mail to sign the sub-grant agreement.

8 EVALUATION COMMITTEE

All eligible applications will be evaluated by the EEN2EIC Evaluation Committee, composed of representatives from the project consortium and, where necessary, integrated by members of the Advisory Board. The Committee will assess applications based on the criteria set out in this Call . Selected applicants will be contacted directly by e-mail to sign the sub-grant agreement.

9 BUDGET AND DURATION

The total FSTP budget for the EEN2EIC project is €4,413,480.00.

Funding is allocated through the voucher-based scheme, up to the limits of the available budget.

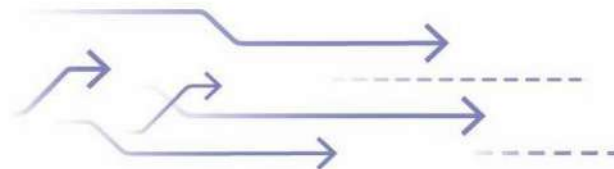
The duration of the sub-grant agreements will run until 31 July 2026 .

10 EXCLUSION & CONFIDENTIALITY

All exclusion, eligibility loss, and confidentiality provisions apply as set out in the previous EEN2EIC Calls.

11 KEY DATES & LINKS

Item	Details
Call title	Call 4 – Open Call for Harmonised Investment Readiness Services (IRS)
Project	Horizon Europe – EEN2EIC (GA No. 101075818)



Item	Details
Deadline	30 June 2026 – 17:00 CET
Type of call	Rolling basis – applications will be evaluated as they are received, until budget exhaustion or the final deadline.
Who should apply	EEN members with proven experience in supporting SMEs on access to finance and investment readiness.
Application form	Application Form Call 4
Contact	een2eic@apre.it