



**EIC Accelerator –  
Informal Info Session for  
Women-led Deep Tech  
Companies**

**11.03.2025, 14:00–15:30 CET**



## EEN2EIC – Info Session 11.03.2026

### Agenda

Time	Title of Presentation	Speaker
14:00-14:05	Welcome & Introduction Presentation of EEN2EIC & Tech Glow EU Community	Frederik Bischler, Project Manager - Steinbeis 2i GmbH
14:05-14:30	EIC Accelerator – Overview & Novelties for 2026	Frederik Bischler, Project Manager - Steinbeis 2i GmbH
14:30-14:50	Deep Dive: Starting with the Short Proposal Stage	Natalia Garcia Mozo, Head of Unit SME Advisory Services - BayFOR
14:50-15:00	Alternative Funding Instruments & Initiatives for Women-led companies	Jana Drzkova, Head of Business Development - Euroquity
15:00-15:15	Open Horizons - Cascade Funding Opportunities for Start-ups	Virginia Vasilakou , EU Project Manager - Sploro
15:15-15:20	Teaser: Investor Readiness - a Toolkit provided by the Enterprise Europe Network	Marco Lentini, EEN2EIC Coordinator – APRE
15:20-15:30	Question & Answers	



## EEN2EIC – About the project

Frederik Bischler – Steinbeis 2i GmbH



# EEN2EIC – Support to EIC Accelerator by the Enterprise Europe Network

## About the Project

Funding programme: Horizon Europe

Project funding total: 7.3 Mio EUR

Project Duration: 4 Years (September 2022 – August 2026)

## Objectives

- Support to Women-led enterprises and companies from widening countries in submitting excellent EIC Applications by leveraging on EEN to boost the participation of this specific target group
- Support to Seal of Excellence Holders to find alternative sources of funding

## Services

- Direct Coaching Services for SMEs, applying for EIC Accelerator
- Capacity Building activities in Widening Countries
- **Digital Training for companies and EEN advisors**
- Organization of ePitch Events for SoE Holders





# EEN2EIC – Support to EIC Accelerator by the Enterprise Europe Network

## EEN's participation

- More than 130 registered EEN advisors from 115 EEN organisations for direct assistance to women-led enterprises and companies from widening countries
- Find your local contact point:
  - <https://een.ec.europa.eu/local-contact-points>

## Follow us on Social Media



[linkedin.com/company/een2eic/](https://www.linkedin.com/company/een2eic/)



[@een2eic](https://twitter.com/een2eic)



Project Coordinator: Marco Lentini  
Project Manager: Stefania De Santi  
Email: [een2eic@apre.it](mailto:een2eic@apre.it)  
Web: [www.een2eic.eu](http://www.een2eic.eu)



Funded by  
the European Union



Empowering European Women-Led  
Innovative Companies

# Introducing TechGlow EU community

Empowering Women Led -

Companies

Connecting - Sharing -

Glowing

TechGlow EU is **a new online community for women-led companies** in Europe. Our goal is to create a strong network that transcends borders and **fosters collaboration among women leaders** in the technology sector.

Join us to access executive insights and guidance for navigating the ever-changing technology landscape. Be part of a vibrant community that celebrates women leaders in tech. Together, we can inspire, connect, and empower each other to achieve greater success.



TechGlow EU community, is supported by **the EEN2EIC project**, which aims to support European innovation and scale-up companies by developing a strong cooperation mechanism between the European Innovation Council and EEN through specific outreach and support activities.

**JOIN TechGlow EU  
COMMUNITY**





## Info Session

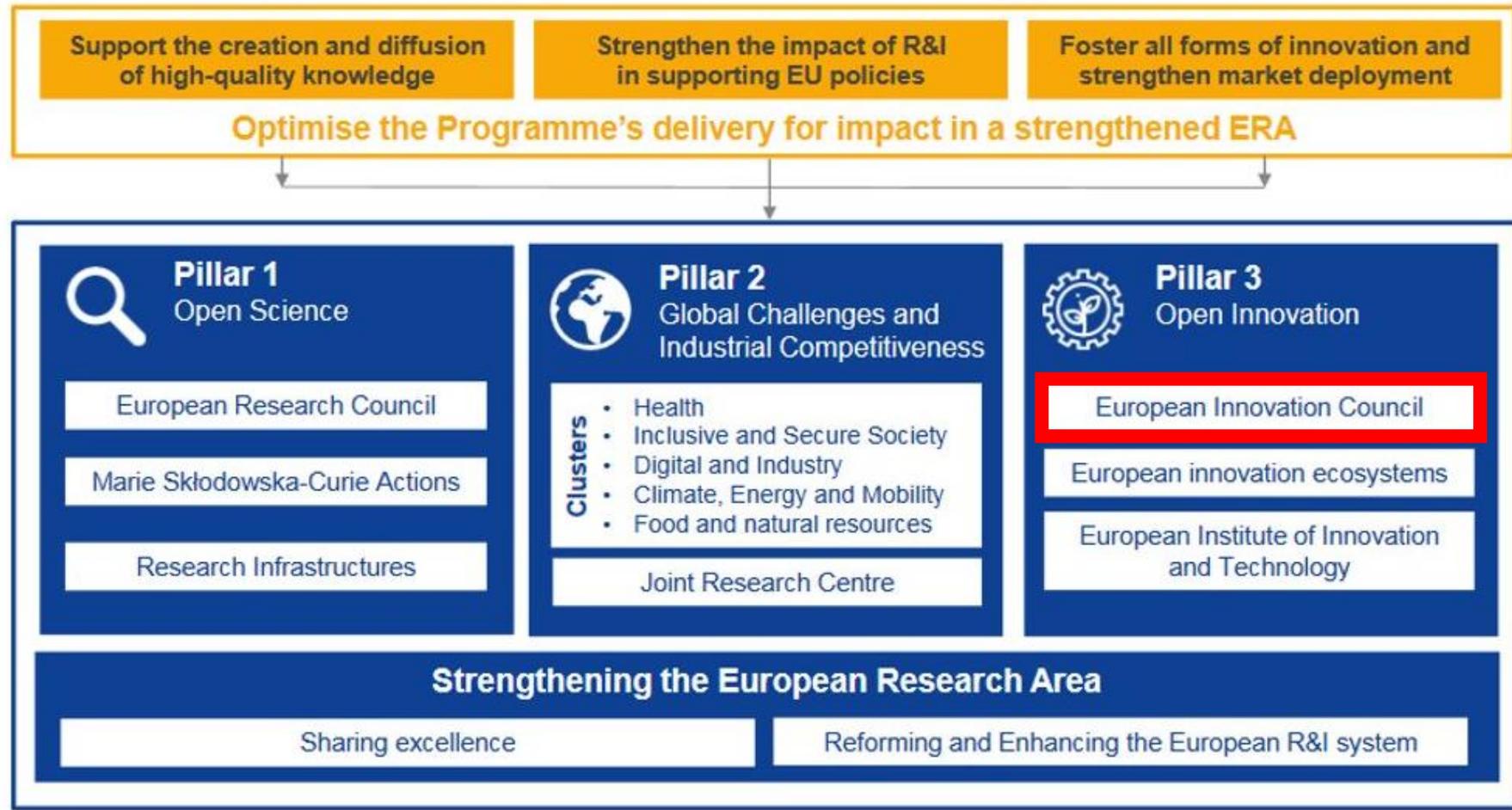
EIC Accelerator – Overview

Frederik Bischler – Steinbeis 2i GmbH



# European Innovation Council

## Funding Opportunities in Horizon Europe – Objectives





# European Innovation Council

## Eligibility – Who can apply?

Start-ups and SME, that:



Have a highly breakthrough product/service/business that create new markets (from TRL 6)



Seek for intensive funding that cannot be secured in “classic” capital market (so called non-bankability)



Small mid-caps (499) with rapid scale up potential

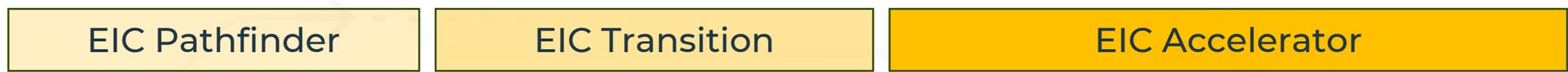
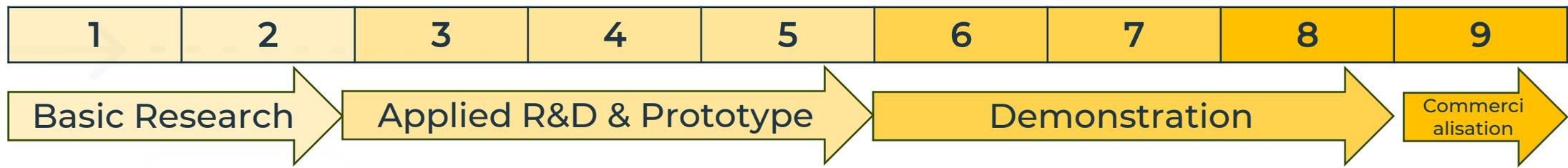
- Single Company (i.e. no consortia, but subcontracting and affiliated entities are possible)
- SME according to EU definition: < 250 employees, < 50 million EUR turnover or < 43 million EUR total balance sheet, data from linked or partner enterprises might need to be taken into account\*





# European Innovation Council

## Calls and TRL



Collaborative research in Future Emerging Technologies (FET)

Validation and development of new FET from lab in relevant application environment.

Must build on eligible EU-Funded projects' outcomes



Development & commercial scale-up of disruptive innovations for individual start-ups and SMEs



# EIC Accelerator

## Grant and Investment component

**Grant Component (only for development (TRL6-8))**  
max. EUR 2.5 million  
Funding rate: 70%

**Investment Component**  
1-10 million EUR in equity



Direct investment capital/ equity  
(max. 25% of the voting shares of the company, TRL9; "patient capital")





# EIC Accelerator

## Three types of funding

Grant Only



- Funds from EIC only necessary for development TRL6-8

Blended Finance



- EIC Grant + Investment component

Investment Only

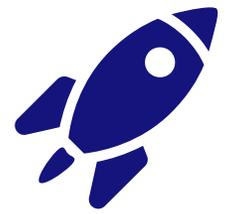


- SMEs that have previously received eligible Grant support (EIC + EIC Pilot)





# EIC Accelerator



## Application Process



**Technical Description:**  
12 pages  
**Pitch Deck:** 10 Slides  
**Video:** 3- minutes

At least 3 GOs

2/4 NO GOs

**Cut-Off 2026:**  
07.01, 04.03, 06.05, 08.07.  
02.09 and 04.11

**Full Business Plan:**  
Excellence of the company  
Timing  
Technological review  
Timing  
IP Strategy  
- **Updated Pitch Deck**  
- **Updated Video**

3 GOs

1 NO GO

- In-person interview in BXL
- Up to 6 Jury member

Access to EIC Business Acceleration Services (BAS) – three days of coaching



Time to Grant - 8/9 Months



# EIC Accelerator – Short proposal

## Submission through F&T Portal

EIC Accelerator 2026 - Short proposal

HORIZON-EIC-2026-ACCELERATOR-01

Topic Call for proposal

### Internal navigation

General information

Topic description

Topic updates

Conditions and documents

Budget overview

Partner search announcements

Start submission

Topic Q&As

Get support

### General information

#### Programme

Horizon Europe (HORIZON)

#### Call

EIC Accelerator 2026 - Short application (HORIZON-EIC-2026-ACCELERATOR-01)

#### Type of action

HORIZON-EIC-ACC HORIZON EIC Accelerator

#### Type of MGA

HORIZON Lump Sum Grant [HORIZON-AG-LS]

 Open For Submission

#### Deadline model

continuous

#### Opening date

06 November 2025

#### Deadline date

17 December 2026 17:00:00 Brussels time

### Topic description

Scope:

The EIC Accelerator supports companies (principally SMEs, including start-ups) to scale up high impact innovations with the potential to create new markets or disrupt existing ones. The EIC Accelerator provides a unique combination of grant and investment funding and Business Acceleration Services (see Section VII of EIC Work Programme 2026)....

[Show more](#)



Funded by  
the European Union



# Short Proposal

## Pitch Deck & Video

Pitch Deck

Max. 10 Slides

- Problem
- Solution (2-3 Slides)
- Company and Team
- Market Size
- USP
- Development Roadmap
- Business model
- Conclusion

Pitch Deck can be updated when submitting full application

Video

Max. 3 Minutes

- Keep the video simple: Show the motivation of the **team** and why the innovation matters.





# EIC Accelerator – Statistics 2025

## EIC Accelerator Statistics (October 2025 cut-off)

<b>ACCELERATOR</b>	<b>PROPOSALS SUBMITTED</b> CUT-OFF OCTOBER 2025
--------------------	--

40 companies selected  
for funding in 2025

Success rate 2025: 5%



923

Proposals submitted



€6.9 Billion

Requested budget



33%

Women-led companies  
(CEO, CTO or CSO)



32

Countries



74%

Request blended finance



2026

Results early 2026

European  
Innovation  
Council



Funded by  
the European Union



# EIC Accelerator Novelties 2026

- Simplification of the EIC Accelerator evaluation process (limitation to max. 20 pages)
- More frequent batching of proposals for evaluation
- Increase in budget for the Open Call from **384 to 414 million EUR**
  - **634 million EUR** in total available for EIC Accelerator applicants
- New EIC Challenges
- New Part A submission forms





# EIC Accelerator Open & Challenges

## Accelerator Open – 414 million EUR of Budget

- Open to all fields of technology and application

## Accelerator Challenges 2026 – 220 million EUR of Budget

1. Advanced Materials for Renewable Energy and Energy Storage Systems **Budget: 50 Million EUR**
2. Alternative Materials and Key Enabling Technologies for Fusion Power Plants **Budget: 20 Million EUR**
3. Biotech for Regenerating Agricultural Soils **Budget: 50 Million EUR**
4. Boosting the European Critical Raw Materials value chain **Budget: 50 Million EUR**
5. Deep Tech for climate Adaptation **Budget: 50 Million EUR**



# Thank you for your attention!

Frederik Bischler

Project Manager

Steinbeis 2i GmbH

frederik.bischler@steinbeis-europa.de

# EEN2 EIC



[www.een2eic.eu](http://www.een2eic.eu)



[een2eic@apre.it](mailto:een2eic@apre.it)

**#EEN2EIC**



Funded by  
the European Union