



Call 5

Open Call for EEN Organisations in Horizon Europe Widening Countries Hosting Additional EIC Accelerator Training Sessions – EEN2EIC

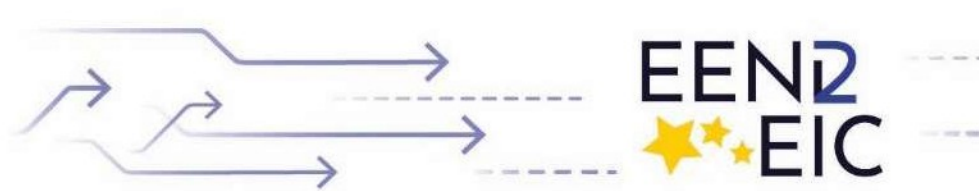
Programme : Horizon Europe Framework Programme
Call : Cooperation with EEN
(SoE, Applicants in widening countries and from women-led companies)
(HORIZON-EIC-2021-EEN-01)
Type of Action : CSA
Project : Support to EIC Accelerator by the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN2EIC)
Grant Agreement No. : 101075818

www.een2eic.eu

@EEN2EIC

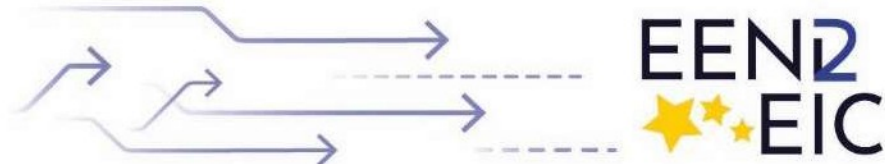


Funded by
the European Union

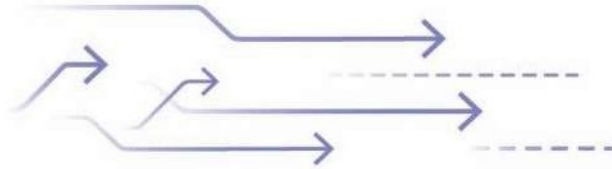


INDEX OF CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| 1. ABOUT THE PROJECT | 4 |
| 2. ABOUT THE CALL 5..... | 4 |
| 3. OBJECTIVES | 5 |
| 4. ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS AND PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENTS | 6 |
| 4.1 ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS..... | 6 |
| 4.2 ROLE OF THE SELECTED ORGANISATION..... | 6 |
| 5. TRAINING SCHEME AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES | 7 |
| 5.1 TRAINING SESSION VOUCHER – EUR 8,000 | 7 |
| 5.2 INDICATIVE TRAINING CONTENT | 7 |
| 5.3 INTERACTIVE AND PRACTICAL TRAINING COMPONENTS..... | 8 |
| 5.4 ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES..... | 9 |
| 5.5 TARGET COMPANIES..... | 9 |
| 6. EVALUATION AND ALLOCATION..... | 10 |
| 7 APPLICATION PROCEDURE..... | 12 |
| 8 EVALUATION COMMITTEE | 13 |
| 9 REPORTING AND PAYMENT | 13 |



| | | |
|----|---|----|
| 10 | BUDGET AND DURATION..... | 14 |
| 11 | EXCLUSION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION..... | 14 |
| 12 | CALL SUMMARY..... | 15 |



1. ABOUT THE PROJECT

The EEN2EIC project aims to strengthen cooperation between the Enterprise Europe Network (EEN) and the European Innovation Council (EIC), supporting highly innovative SMEs and startups in accessing the EIC Accelerator.

The project reinforces the capacity of EEN organisations to identify, advise and support potential EIC Accelerator applicants, with particular attention to women-led companies and companies established in Horizon Europe Widening Countries.

EEN2EIC also promotes cooperation, knowledge sharing and the dissemination of effective support approaches among EEN organisations.

Following the adoption of Amendment No. AMD-101075818-6, the EEN2EIC project has been extended to 60 months, until 31 August 2027.

The project is funded by the European Union's Horizon Europe programme under Grant Agreement No. 101075818.

2. ABOUT THE CALL 5

During the EEN2EIC project, capacity-building sessions on the EIC Accelerator have already been organised in Horizon Europe Widening Countries.

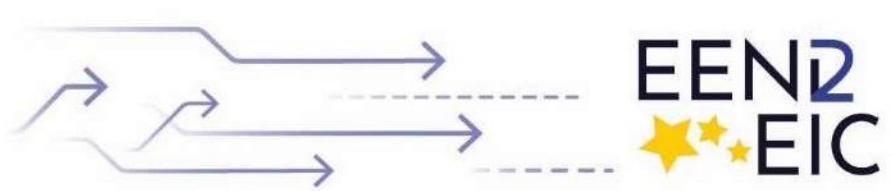
Building on these activities, Call 5 aims to identify Enterprise Europe Network organisations interested in hosting and supporting the organisation of an additional training session on the EIC Accelerator.

The sessions will be addressed to:

- EEN advisors and other EEN staff involved in supporting highly innovative companies;
- innovative SMEs and startups that are potential applicants to the EIC Accelerator.

An additional session may provide added value by:

- responding to the needs of EEN organisations or companies;
- reaching regions or geographical areas not sufficiently covered by previous activities;
- involving EEN advisors who did not participate in previous sessions;
- reaching additional potential EIC Accelerator applicants;
- addressing specific national or regional capacity-building needs;
- supporting a different or complementary target group.



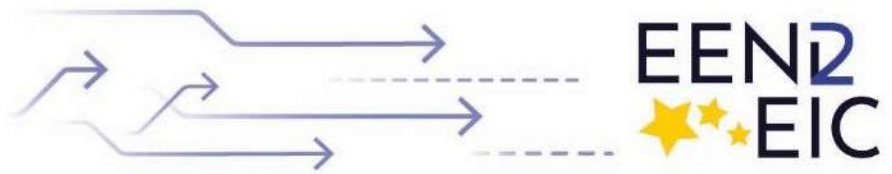
Selected EEN organisations will act as local hosting and implementation partners, working in cooperation with the EEN2EIC Coordination Office and the project consortium.

The sessions will provide practical information on the EIC Accelerator and support the identification, preparation and guidance of potential applicants.

3. OBJECTIVES

Call 5 aims to:

- provide additional capacity-building opportunities in Horizon Europe Widening Countries;
- strengthen the capacity of EEN advisors to identify and support potential EIC Accelerator applicants;
- improve understanding of the EIC Accelerator, its objectives, target companies and application process;
- provide innovative SMEs and startups with practical information on the EIC Accelerator;
- help potential applicants better understand the technological maturity, innovation potential, market ambition and scale-up potential expected under the EIC Accelerator;
- improve the quality and suitability of companies referred to the EIC Accelerator;
- share practical experience and effective support approaches among EEN advisors;
- facilitate cooperation among EEN organisations at national and regional level;
- increase awareness of EEN2EIC services and tools available to potential EIC Accelerator applicants;
- identify promising highly innovative companies, including women-led companies;
- address country-specific and regional knowledge gaps related to the EIC Accelerator;
- strengthen the visibility and role of the Enterprise Europe Network in supporting EIC applicants and beneficiaries.



4. ELIGIBLE ORGANISATIONS AND PARTICIPATION ARRANGEMENTS

4.1 Eligible organisations

Call 5 is addressed to EEN organisations established in Horizon Europe Widening Countries, including Associated Countries with equivalent characteristics in terms of research and innovation performance.

Eligible organisations must:

- be members of the Enterprise Europe Network;
- have experience in supporting innovative SMEs, startups, scale-ups or research-based companies;
- have the organisational capacity to host, promote and support the delivery of the session;
- be able to engage relevant EEN advisors from their country and potential EIC Accelerator applicants;
- be willing to cooperate with the EEN2EIC Coordination Office in the preparation, delivery and reporting of the session.

To ensure a smooth and timely implementation process and facilitate the implementation of the EEN2EIC Voucher Scheme, each country is strongly encouraged to submit only one application and to agree on it internally at national EEN level.

The applicant organisation will be responsible for signing the sub-grant agreement, coordinating the implementation of the session and submitting the required report.

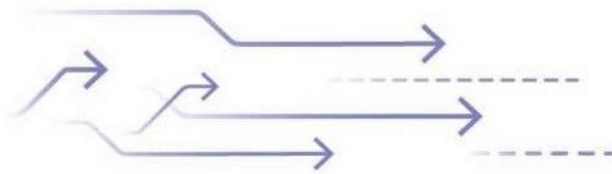
All participating organisations must comply with the cumulative Financial Support to Third Parties ceiling of EUR 60,000 per legal entity under the EEN2EIC project.

4.2 Role of the selected organisation

The selected organisation will act as the local host and implementation partner.

Its responsibilities will include:

- identifying an appropriate date and delivery format, in agreement with the EEN2EIC Coordination Office;
- contributing to the definition of the agenda and training needs;
- explaining how the proposed session will respond to national or regional capacity-building needs;
- promoting the session through EEN and relevant national or regional channels;



- recruiting EEN advisors from the country and potential company participants;
- identifying suitable companies that may be interested in the EIC Accelerator;
- managing participant registration and attendance;
- providing the logistical and technical arrangements required for the session;
- supporting the delivery of interactive and practical training activities;
- collecting participant feedback;
- providing the required reporting and supporting evidence.

The detailed division of responsibilities between the selected organisation and the EEN2EIC consortium will be agreed before the session is implemented.

5. TRAINING SCHEME AND ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

5.1 Training session voucher – EUR 8,000

Each voucher provides a lump-sum contribution of EUR 8,000 to support the preparation, promotion, organisation and follow-up of one additional EIC Accelerator training session.

The session may be organised:

- physically;
- online;
- in a hybrid format;
- as a stand-alone event;
- as part of a larger relevant innovation, funding or EEN event, provided that the EEN2EIC training remains clearly identifiable and meets all the requirements of this Call.

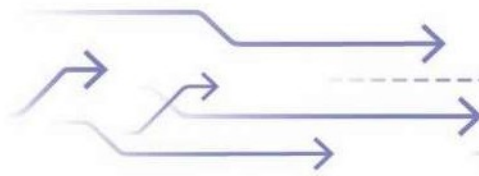
A session may include joint activities for EEN advisors and companies, as well as separate modules tailored to the needs of each target group.

The proposed session must provide clear added value and respond to identified capacity-building needs.

5.2 Indicative training content

The training programme may cover:

- introduction to the European Innovation Council;



- objectives and structure of the EIC Accelerator;
- profile of companies targeted by the EIC Accelerator;
- technological maturity and deep-tech characteristics;
- innovation, market potential and scale-up ambition;
- eligibility and admissibility requirements;
- the EIC Accelerator application and evaluation process;
- short proposal and full proposal stages;
- preparation for the online interview with the technology expert following the full proposal submission;
- preparation for the face-to-face interview with the EIC Jury;
- common weaknesses and reasons for unsuccessful applications;
- the role of EEN advisors in identifying and supporting potential applicants;
- cooperation among EEN organisations;
- EEN2EIC services available to applicants and beneficiaries;
- practical use of the EEN2EIC Investment Readiness Toolkit to help EEN advisors identify companies' strengths, gaps and priority actions when supporting potential EIC Accelerator applicants;
- support for women-led companies and companies from Horizon Europe Widening Countries;
- presentation and discussion of practical cases;
- national, regional or organisational approaches to supporting EIC Accelerator applicants;
- relevant updates or changes to the EIC Accelerator programme and application process.
-

The final programme will be agreed with the EEN2EIC Coordination Office and may be adapted to the experience, needs and profile of participants.

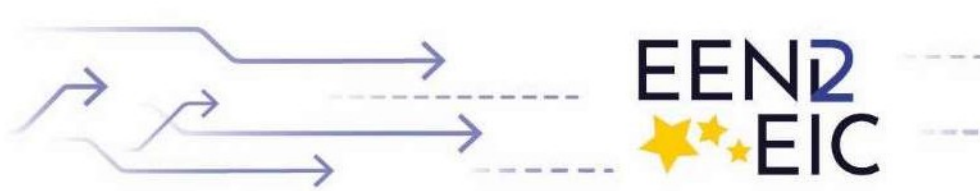
Information provided during the session must be based on the applicable EIC Work Programme and the official guidance available at the time of implementation.

5.3 Interactive and practical training components

Each session must include interactive and practical components.

These may include:

- practical cases from EEN organisations;
- lessons learned from supporting EIC Accelerator applicants;
- discussion of country-specific or regional barriers and challenges;
- practical exercises;
- facilitated discussions among EEN advisors;
- testimonials from companies, beneficiaries or experienced applicants;



- discussion of possible follow-up activities;
- lessons learned from previous capacity-building and company-support activities.

The session must go beyond general awareness raising and provide practical learning opportunities for the participants.

5.4 Eligible activities

Eligible activities under the voucher may include:

- development and adaptation of the session agenda;
- coordination with the EEN2EIC consortium and invited experts;
- identification and engagement of speakers;
- promotion and communication activities;
- recruitment and registration of participants;
- venue rental and local logistical arrangements;
- technical support for online or hybrid participation;
- preparation or adaptation of training materials;
- delivery of presentations, workshops, case discussions and practical exercises;
- identification and preliminary profiling of potential EIC Accelerator applicants;
- collection of participant feedback;
- preparation of the activity report;
- communication and dissemination of the results.

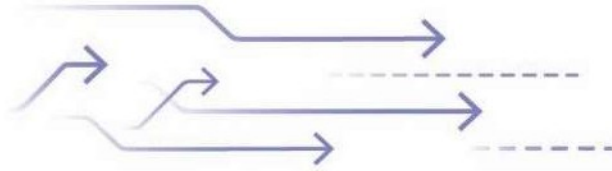
The session must be communicated in advance and formally authorised by the EEN2EIC consortium before implementation.

Activities implemented before formal authorisation will not be eligible for financial support.

5.5 Target companies

Participating companies should normally be highly innovative SMEs, startups or scale-ups with:

- a potentially breakthrough or deep-tech innovation;
- an ambition to develop and scale internationally;
- a technology maturity and development pathway potentially relevant to the EIC Accelerator;



- significant market potential;
- a need for substantial funding to support development and scale-up.

Particular attention should be given to:

- women-led companies;
- companies established in Horizon Europe Widening Countries;
- companies with the potential to become future EIC Accelerator applicants;
- companies not previously reached through EEN2EIC capacity-building activities;
- companies that may benefit from additional EEN2EIC support services.

6. EVALUATION AND ALLOCATION

Applications will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

| Criterion | Minimum score | Minimum Threshold |
|---|---------------|-------------------|
| Relevance | 5 | 3 |
| Implementation capacity | 5 | 3 |
| Expected impact and added value | 5 | 3 |
| Minimum Threshold: 9 points Maximum Score: 15 points | | |

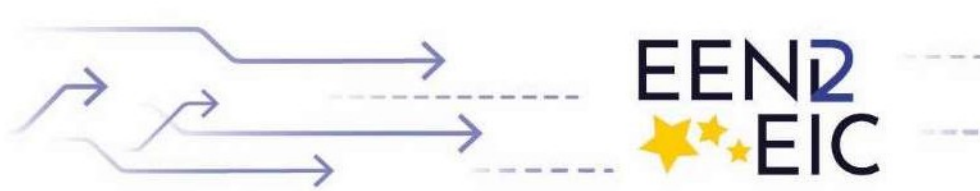
Applications must obtain:

- at least 3 points under each criterion; and
- at least 9 points overall.

The evaluation will consider:

- experience and expertise;
- quality and feasibility of the proposed activities;
- capacity to support the required number of companies;
- capacity to reach and engage the target companies;
- expected impact;
- contribution to EEN2EIC priorities.

Applications will be assessed by the EEN2EIC Evaluation Committee.



6.1 Relevance

The evaluation will consider:

- consistency of the proposal with the objectives of Call 5;
- relevance of the proposed target groups;
- identified national or regional training needs;
- complementarity with previous EEN2EIC capacity-building activities;
- relevance of the proposed content and format;
- contribution to the priorities of the EEN2EIC project.

6.2 Implementation capacity

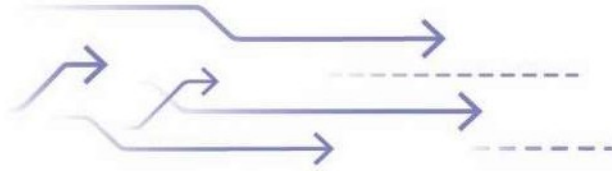
The evaluation will consider:

- experience of the applicant in supporting innovative SMEs and startups;
- experience in organising training, capacity-building or company-oriented events;
- qualifications and experience of the staff involved;
- quality and feasibility of the proposed implementation approach;
- capacity to recruit relevant participants;
- capacity to engage EEN advisors from across the country;
- capacity to cooperate with other EEN organisations;
- proposed implementation timeline.

6.3 Expected impact and added value

The evaluation will consider:

- expected relevance of participating EEN advisors;
- expected relevance of participating companies;
- capacity to involve women-led companies;
- capacity to reach participants not previously covered by EEN2EIC capacity-building activities;
- contribution to improving EIC Accelerator support capacity;



- potential for follow-up cooperation and support to participating companies;
- geographical reach;
- additional value compared with previous capacity-building activities.

6.4 Allocation principles

Where more than one application is received from the same country, the EEN2EIC consortium may invite the applicants to coordinate at national level and converge on a single proposal.

Where no agreement is reached, the EEN2EIC consortium may prioritise the application taking into account:

- the number of EIC Accelerator applications previously supported by the applicant organisation within the EEN2EIC project;
- the results and geographical coverage of capacity-building activities already implemented in the country;
- the added value of organising the proposed additional session;
- the capacity to engage EEN advisors from different organisations and regions of the country;
- compliance with the cumulative EUR 60,000 FSTP ceiling.
- The EEN2EIC consortium may authorise all or part of the activities proposed in an application.

7 APPLICATION PROCEDURE

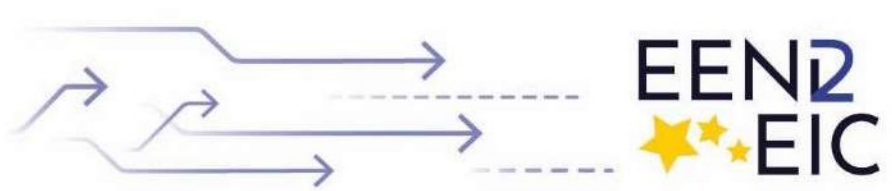
Applications must be submitted via the online form:

- **Application form:** [Link](#)

Applications must be submitted no later than **7 September 2026 at 17:00 CEST (Brussels time)**.

Before submitting an application, EEN organisations operating in the same country are strongly encouraged to coordinate internally at national EEN level and agree on a single proposal.

Applications must be submitted in English.



8 EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Eligible applications will be evaluated by the EEN2EIC Evaluation Committee, composed of representatives of the project consortium and, where necessary, supplemented by members of the Advisory Board or other experts without conflicts of interest.

The Committee will assess applications according to the criteria and allocation principles set out in this Call.

Selected applicants will be contacted directly by email and invited to agree on the implementation arrangements and sign the relevant sub-grant agreement.

The EEN2EIC consortium may request clarifications or adjustments to the proposed session before final approval.

9 REPORTING AND PAYMENT

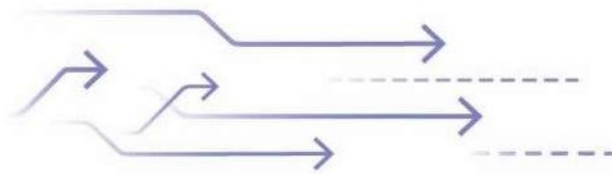
Each voucher will be paid as a lump sum following:

- satisfactory completion of the authorised session;
- submission and acceptance of the required report;
- provision of adequate evidence of implementation and participation.

The lump sum is linked to the completion of the activities and results defined in this Call and in the relevant sub-grant agreement. It is not calculated on the basis of the actual costs incurred by the beneficiary.

The report should include:

- final agenda;
- date, location and delivery format;
- description of the activities implemented;
- explanation of how the session responded to identified needs and complemented previous capacity-building activities;
- list of participating EEN organisations and advisors;
- list of participating companies;
- information on women-led companies and other relevant EEN2EIC target groups;
- list of speakers;
- summary of the training content and practical activities delivered;
- participant attendance evidence;
- participant feedback;
- communication and dissemination evidence;



- identification of promising potential EIC Accelerator applicants, where applicable;
- description of planned or completed follow-up activities;
- overall results, lessons learned and recommendations.

Personal data must be collected and reported in accordance with the applicable data-protection requirements and the instructions provided by the EEN2EIC consortium.

Detailed implementation, reporting and payment conditions will be set out in the sub-grant agreement and its annexes.

10 BUDGET AND DURATION

The total Financial Support to Third Parties budget of the EEN2EIC project amounts to EUR 3,671,480.00.

The lump-sum amount for each authorised additional EIC Accelerator training session is:

- **Training Session Voucher: EUR 8,000.**

Financial support is subject to the availability of the EEN2EIC project budget.

The cumulative Financial Support to Third Parties amount awarded to the same legal entity under the EEN2EIC project may not exceed EUR 60,000.

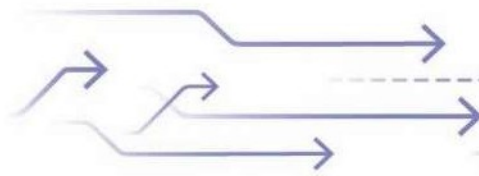
All sessions must be completed by **the 15th July 2027**

The EEN2EIC project will end on 31 August 2027.

11 EXCLUSION, CONFIDENTIALITY AND DATA PROTECTION

Applicants or participating organisations may be excluded where they:

- do not meet the eligibility requirements;
- provide false, incomplete or misleading information;
- exceed the cumulative EUR 60,000 FSTP ceiling;
- fail to comply with the conditions applicable to the voucher;
- implement the session without prior authorisation;
- are subject to an exclusion situation under applicable EU financial rules.



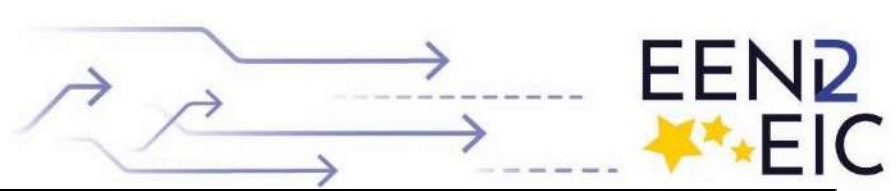
All information submitted under Call 5 will be treated in accordance with the applicable confidentiality requirements.

Personal data must be processed in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, the EEN2EIC data-protection framework and the instructions provided by the EEN2EIC consortium.

Applicants must ensure that participants are appropriately informed about the processing of their personal data and, where applicable, the use of photographs, recordings or testimonials.

12 CALL SUMMARY

| Item | Details |
|-----------------------------|---|
| Call title | Call 5 – Open Call for EEN Organisations in Horizon Europe Widening Countries Hosting Additional EIC Accelerator Training Sessions |
| Project | Horizon Europe – EEN2EIC (GA No. 101075818) |
| Publication date | 6 July 2026 |
| Deadline | 7 September 2026 – 17:00 CEST (Brussels time) |
| Type of call | Competitive open call with a single submission deadline |
| Who should apply | EEN organisations established in Horizon Europe Widening Countries, including Associated Countries with equivalent characteristics in terms of research and innovation performance. |
| National coordination | Each country is strongly encouraged to submit only one application, agreed internally at national EEN level |
| Application form | LINK |
| Available lump-sum vouchers | Training Session Voucher – EUR 8,000 |
| Purpose | Organisation of an additional EIC Accelerator training session |



| Item | Details |
|---------------------|--|
| Target participants | EEN advisors from the country and potential EIC Accelerator applicants |
| Contact | een2eic@apre.it |

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