

European Innovation Council

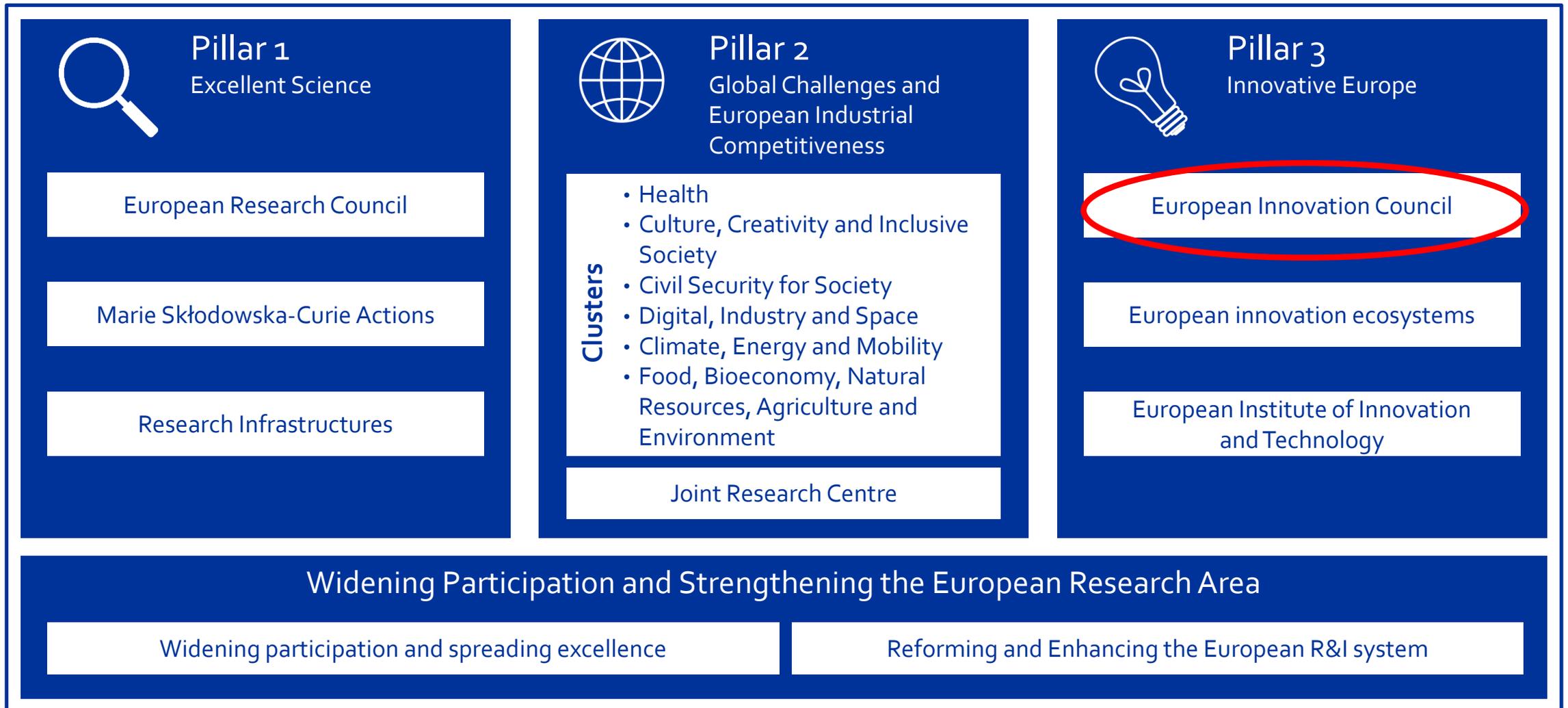
Vinkkejä EIC Pathfinder ja Transition -hakijoille, työohjelma 2021

Tips for the
EIC Pathfinder and Transition applicants,
EIC work programme 2021

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— EU:N TUTKIMUS- JA INNOVAATIO-OHJELMA —

Horizon Europe 2021 – 2027: Structure



| | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Pathfinder | Transition | Accelerator |
| Bottom up | Bottom up | Bottom up |
| Challenges | Challenges | Challenges |



- A balance between continuity and novelty
- With increased ambition and specific legal base
- Implemented by EIC and SME Executive Agency (EISMEA)
- Supported by EIC Advisory board, expert groups, Programme Managers and Business Acceleration Services

European Innovation Council, EIC

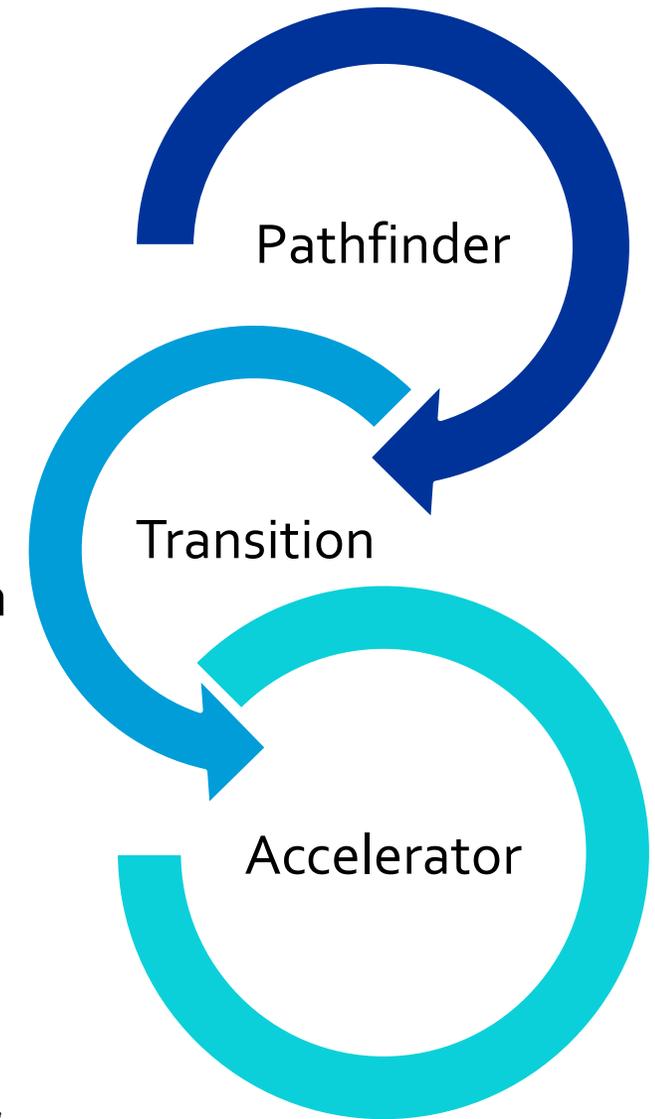
Support to the full innovation cycle from **research and development** to **rapid scale** up of innovative technologies and companies (mainly start-ups and SMEs) at international level.

[EIC Pilot \(2018-2020\) Impact Report](#)

- **Pathfinder** (ex FET Open/Proactive): early-stage research of breakthrough technologies by a multidisciplinary/sectorial consortium
- **Transition**: to develop market readiness of most potential research findings – open only to Pathfinder or ERC PoC projects
- **Accelerator** (ex SME Instrument): finalize the deep-tech technology, commercialisation and scale-up by single innovative SMEs

Funding mainly through **bottom-up schemes** – *Open Calls*

All instruments also contribute to **thematic priorities**: – *Challenge Calls*



Who should apply?

- Organisations active in research and development of breakthrough future technologies in multidisciplinary collaboration (Pathfinder & Transition)
 - Typical participants are Universities and Research Organisations, but SMEs and large companies also participate
- SMEs developing breakthrough, market-creating technologies / innovations which are not yet mature enough to attract sufficient private funding

A close-up, low-angle shot of a microscope objective lens. The lens is metallic and has a textured, knurled ring. The numbers '100/1.25' and '160/0' are engraved on the lens. The background is dark blue with out-of-focus light spots.

EIC Pathfinder

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

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Pathfinder Open 1/2

- **Early-stage** interdisciplinary research and development of **new** technology discoveries from any field – **bottom-up approach**
- To achieve the 'proof of principle' and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technology (TRL 1-3)
- Consortium of **min. 3 partners from 3** different eligible EU/AC **countries**
- Proposal max **17 A4 pages**
- EU grants (indicative) up to **3M€** (100%), 2021 call budget 170 M€
- 1-step submission, evaluation: 1) 4 external experts, 2) panel
- Call DL: **19/5/2021** (tbc)

Pathfinder Open 2/2

Gate Keepers:

- Convincing long-term vision of a radically new deep-tech
- Concrete, novel and ambitious science-towards-technology breakthrough
- High-risk/high-gain research approach and methodology

Evaluation:

- Excellence, Impact, and Quality
- Remote evaluation -> rebuttal (7 days) -> evaluation committee
- Outcome of call 5 months from call DL

Pathfinder Challenge 1/2

- Early stage research and development of **new** technology discoveries in **thematically predefined areas** (Health & Biotech; Digital & AI; Climate, Environment and Energy) and portfolio actions
- To achieve the proof of principle and validate the scientific basis of breakthrough technology (TRL 1-4)

- **Single legal entity** or **consortium of min. 2 partners** from 2 different MS/AC
- Proposal **max 25 A4** pages
- EU grants (indicative) up to **4M€**, 2021 call budget 134 M€
- 1-step submission, evaluation : 1) 4 external experts, 2) panel (taking into account the score and portfolio aspects)
- Call DL: **27/10/2021** (tbc)

Pathfinder Challenge 2/2

Challenges wp 2021:

1. Awareness inside: “awareness applicable to systems other than human”
2. Tools to measure & stimulate activity in brain tissue
3. Emerging Technologies in Cell & Gene Therapy
4. Novel routes to green hydrogen production
5. Engineered living materials

- ❖ Specific objectives of the challenge explained in the **Pathfinder Challenge Guide available after call opening** on the EIC website and [EU Funding & Tender portal](#)
- ❖ Principle ‘do no significant harm’ (Green Deal)

Evaluation Criteria, Pathfinder Open

- **Excellence (Threshold: 4/5, weight 60 %)**
 - Long-term vision; Science-towards-technology breakthrough; Objectives; Interdisciplinarity
- **Impact (Threshold: 3.5/5, weight 20 %)**
 - Innovation potential; Communication and Dissemination
- **Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Threshold 3/5, weight 20 %)**
 - Quality of the applicant/consortium; Work plan; Allocation of resources

Evaluation Criteria, Pathfinder Challenge

- **Excellence (Threshold: 4/5, weight 60 %)**
 - Relevance to the Challenge; Novelty; Plausibility of methodology
- **Impact (Threshold: 3.5/5, weight 20 %)**
 - Potential Impact; Innovation potential; Communication and Dissemination
- **Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Threshold 3/5, weight 20 %)**
 - Quality of the applicant/consortium [depends if mono or multi-beneficiaries]; Work plan; Allocation of resources

Novelties of Pathfinder Open & Challenge 1/2

All projects are eligible to apply for

- Up to **50 000 € additional grant** for complementary activities to explore potential pathways to commercialisation or portfolio activities:
 - see details from **Annex 6**
 - replacing H2020 FET Innovation Launchpad, no open calls
 - possible at any stage of a project implementation
 - not for research or activities that were already foreseen in the original project
- Transition funding (see the next part)
- Accelerator funding via the Fast-Track scheme
 - straight access to the 2-stage of evaluation (full proposal)
 - details given in **Annex 4**

Novelties of Pathfinder Open & Challenge 2/2

- **Proactive approach** of project and programme management **to develop business and technology-based visions**
- **Programme Managers (PMs)**: to identify, develop and implement such visions and to nurture potential market-creating innovation
- **Portfolio activities** are identified and developed by PMs in consultation with the beneficiaries of the actions in the Portfolio
- EIC funding for Pathfinder will apply provisions to ensure **open access to scientific publications** and **promote the uptake of results (Annex 7)**
- All projects must comply with the 'do no significant harm' principle of the [EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy](#) (Green Deal)

EIC Transition

'for transforming research results into
innovation opportunities'

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Transition Open & Challenge 1/4

- **To validate** and demonstrate **technology in application-relevant environment** (from TRL 3 to TRL 6) and **develop market readiness**
- To respond to the following questions:
 - ❖ Have you identified Pathfinder, FET or ERC Proof of Concept project results that could be the basis for ground-breaking innovations and new businesses?
 - ❖ Is this novel technology ready for the next steps towards its maturation and validation in some specific applications?
 - ❖ Do you envisage building a motivated and diverse entrepreneur-lead team to develop the idea and increase its market readiness?

Transition Open and Challenge 2/4

- Funding up to **2,5 M€** (both Open & Challenge) for 3 yrs
- Indicative 2021 call budgets 61 M€ (Open) and 41 M€
- Proposal **max 25 A4 pages**
- Call deadline: **22/9/2021** (1-step)
- Applications **must build on results from eligible Pathfinder, H2020 FET** (including Flagships and their ERA-NET Cofund calls) **or ERC Proof of Concept projects**
 - Applicant does not need to be the Principal Investigator/ partner of the original project, but an entity owning the IP of results in question (agreement to be provided)
 - **Single legal entity** as 'mono-beneficiary' (SMEs, spin-offs, start-ups, research organisations, universities) **or**
 - **Small consortium** with 2-5 beneficiaries (universities, research organisations, SMEs or larger companies, user/customer organisations or potential end-users)
 - Ongoing projects 12 months from start or finished projects within 24 months of the completion to the call deadline

Transition Open and Challenge 3/4

Challenges 2021:

1. **Medical Technology and Devices: from Lab to Patient**

Any technology addressing important health needs in the direct clinical treatment and care of patients

- a) To perform the necessary R&D to advance from an existing proof-of-principle technology to a mature version ready to initiate clinical evaluation.
- b) To develop an exploitation strategy, qualitatively and quantitatively outlining the proposed path to patient and describing an investable proposition.

2. **Energy harvesting and storage technologies**

- Technologies for efficient, low cost, sustainable, compact and flexible energy harvesting, conversion and storage
- Special conditions: sustainability and Green Deal targets
- To address at least one of the given three aims

Transition Open and Challenge 4/4

Funded Transition projects are eligible to:

- Apply for **up to 50 000 € additional grant** possible to undertake portfolio activities (Annex 6) – see above slide 13 for Pathfinder
- Submit an **Accelerator proposal via the Fast-Track** scheme (Annex 4)
- IPR issues are explained in **Annex 7**
 - IP generated by the Transition project is expected to be formally protected: IP rights allow also their owners to shape the way they wish to share the results with other entities.

Evaluation process, Transition

Evaluation & Time to grant (indicative):

1. First phase evaluation by EIC expert evaluators (cf. Pathfinder)
 - Feedback (ESR) 9 weeks after the call deadline
 2. If successful, invitation* (of max 5 persons mentioned in the proposal) for a face-to-face **interview** in front of EIC jury (max 6 persons)
 - Cf. Accelerator, but experts from both academia & industry
 - Result of the interview 17 weeks after the call deadline
- grant agreement will be signed within 6 months from the call deadline
- individual SMEs not funded but meeting all evaluation criteria may be awarded a Seal of Excellence quality label (to help gain funding from other sources)

*) Starting with the highest scoring proposal and in descending order, and if within a maximum number of applications ranked by overall score

Evaluation Criteria, Transition

- **Excellence (Threshold: 4/5)**
 - Technological breakthrough ; Technology feasibility; Objectives
- **Impact (Threshold: 4/5)**
 - Business and market fit; Economic and/or societal benefits; Entrepreneurship; Partnerships and investment-readiness
- **Quality and efficiency of the implementation (Threshold 3/5)**
 - Quality of the team ; Milestones and Work plan; Allocation of resources

Please, contact / Ota yhteyttä!

At your service/ Opastusta rahoitusmahdollisuuksista ja hauista:

National Contact Points for EIC Pathfinder ja Transition

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EIC committee expert

- Hannele Lahtinen, hannele.lahtine@aka.fi

Thank you – Kiitos!

Useful links:

[EIC web page](#)

[EU Funding & Tender portal](#)

www.horisonttieurooppa.fi

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