

European Innovation Council (EIC) - Pathfinder & Transition

The EIC aims at identifying and supporting breakthrough technologies and game-changing innovations with the potential to scale up internationally and become market leaders. The funding and support is organised into three main funding schemes:

- **Pathfinder** (ex FET Open/Proactive): early-stage research to develop the scientific basis of breakthrough technologies by a multidisciplinary/sectorial consortium.
- **Transition**: to validate technologies and develop market readiness of most potential research findings – open only to selected H2020 and Horizon Europe projects.
- **Accelerator** (ex SME Instrument): finalize the deep-tech technology, commercialisation and scale-up (mainly start-ups and SMEs)



Funding mainly through bottom-up schemes – Open Calls

All instruments also contribute to thematic priorities: – Challenge Calls

Pathfinder (Open / Challenges)

To realise an ambitious vision for radically new technology, with potential to create new markets and/or to address global challenges. Pathfinder supports early-stage development of such future technologies, based on high-risk/high-gain science-towards-technology breakthrough research (including ‘deep-tech’). Funded Pathfinder projects are also eligible to: a) apply for additional EIC booster grants of up to 50 kEur, b) apply to Transition activities, c) apply via Fast track scheme to Accelerator.

Programme manager oversees a specific EIC Pathfinder Challenge and actively steers the portfolio towards the goals of each Challenge, projects are expected to participate.

Transition (Open / Challenges)

Have you identified eligible EU project results that could be the basis for ground-breaking innovations and new businesses? Transition funds innovation activities that go beyond the experimental proof of principle in laboratory. It supports both the maturation and validation of your novel technology in the lab and in relevant application environments as well as the development of a business case and business model towards the innovation’s future commercialisation.

Online Sources of Information:

<https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/home>

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en

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Calls under the [EIC work programme 2025](#):

[EIC Pathfinder Open](#)

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. This call is open for collaborative research. Proposal submitted by the coordinator, on behalf of a consortium that includes at least three independent legal entities, each one established in a different Member State or Associated Country and with at least one of them established in a Member State.

Funding: up to 3 MEUR per project proposal (or more if duly justified). Call deadline: 21.5.2025

[GUIDE \(Annotated template\)](#)

[EIC Pathfinder Challenges](#)

Build on new, cutting-edge directions in science and technology to disrupt a field and a market or create new opportunities by realising innovative technological solutions grounded in high-risk/high-gain research and development. The Pathfinder Challenges support collaborative research and innovation from consortia or applications from single legal entities (unless stated otherwise in the WP). In case of a consortium your proposal must be submitted by the coordinator on behalf of the consortium that includes at least two independent legal entities. The specific challenges that are typically steered by an [EIC Programme Manager](#). A more detailed [Challenge guide](#) is published when the call opens you are strongly recommended to read it before applying.

Challenges 2025 (links to guides below):

1. [Biotech for Climate Resilient Crops and Plant-Based Biomanufacturing](#)
2. [Generative-AI based Agents to Revolutionize Medical Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer](#)
3. [Towards autonomous robot collectives delivering collaborative tasks in dynamic unstructured construction environments](#)
4. [Waste-to-value devices: Circular production of renewable fuels, chemicals and materials](#)

Funding: up to 4 MEUR per project proposal (or more if duly justified). Call deadline: 29.10.2025

[GUIDE \(Annotated template\)](#)

EIC TRANSITION

Innovation activities that go beyond the experimental proof of principle in laboratory. Proposed activities must include further technology development on the results achieved in a previous project and follow user-centric methodologies to increase chances of the innovation's future success in the market. Transition funding is a scheme, restricted to applications based on results generated by eligible EU funding (please see pages 53-54 in the 2025 WP).

EIC Transition Open – new eligibility criteria

Eligible: EIC Pathfinder projects (also Horizon 2020 FET-Open, FET-Proactive and FET Flagships calls), ERC PoC, Horizon 2020 RIAs (Pillar II) and European Defence Fund (EDF). Research and Innovation Actions directly funded under Horizon 2020 Societal challenges and Leadership in Industrial Technologies and under Europe pillar II. **See details in the 2025 Work Programme.** Note If you receive an invitation to an interview on the 2nd stage of the evaluation, contact the NCPs for personal sparring.

Funding: up to 2.5 MEUR per project proposal (larger if justified). Call deadline: 17.9.2025

[Guide \(Annotated template\)](#)

EIC Transition Challenges

No calls 2025

Funding: up to 2.5 MEUR per project proposal (larger if justified). Call deadline: No calls 2025