

Information session – Biotechnology IPCEIs

Q&A

Q: Could you explain how collaboration between participating countries is implemented within an IPCEI, what happens when a company's innovation aligns more with another country's defined project scope?

A: The content of the IPCEIs is defined jointly by all participating Member States, ensuring consistency across all countries. The company must apply for IPCEI funding in the Member State where the project is carried out. Each country will be selecting the projects and making the possible funding decisions by their own judgement.

It is mandatory to collaborate with other participating companies (cross-border). The companies themselves arrange the forms of cooperation, and matchmaking events help facilitate the creation of partnerships. The aim of the cooperation is to establish a European value network on Biotechnologies.

Q: What is the monetary value of the investments expected?

A: There is no fixed required investment value for an IPCEI. Companies' individual projects can range from tens to hundreds of millions of euros.

Q: It has been noted on the funding gap template guidance sheet, that if the project's net present value (NPV) is negative, the project is characterized by a funding gap. As the total discounted aid requested should be less or equal to the funding gap of the project, does this mean that the projects should aim for 0 € NPV? (Assuming no counterfactual scenario) What is the maximum allowed NPV when also considering the impact of IPCEI aid?

A: The project's NPV without aid must be negative (demonstrating a funding gap), and with aid, the NPV should be zero or slightly negative. Projects should include a mass production phase with revenues.

Q: What is the maximum length of the RDI phase and maximum length of the FID phase? What factors impact the length of these? If company makes an FID project, is it necessary also to input data for the mass production (MP) phase at later part of the project? or is it OK to have the FID phase last the entire lifetime of a first industrial plant investment e.g. 15 years?

A: Companies are expected to include a mass production phase in their IPCEI projects which covers the entire or a substantial part of the lifecycle of the product (or service) developed under the IPCEI project. In general, products developed under an IPCEI project are expected to be commercialized (during the mass production phase) and thus generate revenues to partially cover investments and costs during the research, development & innovation (RDI) phase and the first industrial deployment (FID) phase.

Those revenues must be included in the funding gap calculation. The economic viability of projects without mass production phase or with no or marginal revenues will be questioned, which can lead to the refusal of a project.

The length of the phases depends on the expected or typical development time and lifetime of product and is often based on the project company's historical experience. The end of one project phase (e.g. RDI phase) and start of the next project phase (e.g. FID phase) is to be defined on the basis of specific pre-set key performance indicators (KPIs) that must be achieved (e.g. reaching a certain yield or production volume). Short overlaps between project phases are possible but should be duly explained.

The FID phase takes place before mass production starts and the two phases should be clearly distinguished to ensure a correct calculation of eligible costs (with the mass production phase characterized by high and rising production volumes and substantial revenues).

Q: What is the timing of the aid payments? What is the proportional size of a possible advance payment, and according to what schedule are the aid amounts paid out, when the project is an FID (First Industrial Deployment) project?

A: Grants are paid afterwards like in normal Business Finland projects. For loans an advance payment is possible.

Q: What is the share of co-financing?

A: There is no standard percentage for co-financing. General rule is that if co-financing rate is low, additional commitments might be needed, such as spillover activities. However, some co-financing is generally expected.

Q: Will IPCEI biotechnology also start with "aiehaku"? What kind of templates are expected, is this call for expression of interest? How far "developed" should the Project Portfolio and Funding Gap calculation be when submitting for the initial call (Summer 2026)? Is there much flexibility to adjust and add information post-matchmaking and later on?

A: This is official call for projects proposal, not a call for expression of interest. Application documents should be filled as completely as possible. Templates are available [Guidance & Templates - Competition Policy - European Commission](#) and there will also be link to the templates in the call text. Direct participant is required to fill both project portfolio and funding gap templates. Associated partners need to fill the project portfolio template only.

There is possibility to modify and adjust the application templates during the process after submission since some elements, such as cross-border collaborations, may not be filled completely before the call closes since the match-making event takes place in the end of the year.

Q: Is IPCEI funding also for SMEs?

A: Yes, it is also for SMEs. In previous two IPCEIs, more than 60% of the applicants were SMEs. Examples of successful Finnish SME applicants are [Solarfood](#) and [P2X](#)

More information on IPCEI guidance can be found at the EU Commission website

[IPCEI - Competition Policy - European Commission](#)