



Backing visionary entrepreneurs

European Innovation Council: Support for Deep-
Tech Researchers and Innovators

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What's holding back EUROPEAN INNOVATION?



PERFORMANCE

- Strong research performance not translated into innovation
- Lack of breakthrough / disruptive innovations that create new markets



FUNDING & INVESTMENT

- Financing gaps “valleys of death” in Transition from lab to enterprise and scaling up for high-risk innovative start-ups



ECOSYSTEM

- Many national & local ecosystems, but fragmented at European level
- Need to include all regions and all talent (especially female)



EIC budget 2021 – 2027 = EUR 10 billion



EIC PRIZES

- Women innovators
- Capital of innovation



EIC ACCELERATOR SERVICES

- Mentors, coaches
- Global partners
- Innovation ecosystems
- EIC Community Platform



SEAL OF EXCELLENCE

Fast track to other funding



EIC STEP

Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform

- Co-investments up to **€30 million**
- Digital, deep tech, biotech, clean tech

EIC ACCELERATOR

- For single companies
- Grants up to **€2.5 million**
- Equity up to **€10 million**
- To enter the market & scale-up (TRL 6-9)



EIC PROGRAMME MANAGERS

- In-house leading experts
- Identifying potential challenges in **emerging deep tech areas**
- Pro-actively managing EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator portfolios



EIC PATHFINDER

- For consortia
- Grants up to **€4 million**
- To research technology breakthroughs (TRL 1-4)



EIC TRANSITION

- For consortia & single companies
- Grants up to **€2.5 million**
- To develop business cases
- (TRL 4-6)



EIC main instruments in the WP 2025



OPEN – to support projects in any field of science, technology or application without predefined priorities ('bottom-up')

CHALLENGES – to support projects with predefined thematic areas with the aim to achieve specific objectives for each Challenge



Focus on EIC Accelerator

**EIC Accelerator budget
2021-2027 – EUR 7 billion**

- **EUR 3.5 – grants**
- **EUR 3.5 – equities**

EIC Accelerator is the biggest European public investor in deep-tech



Grant component

- maximum of less than **€ 2.5 million**
- eligible costs are reimbursed up to a maximum of **70%**
- small mid-caps are not eligible for a grant only



Investment component

- € 0.5 million and **maximum € 10 million**
- usually in the form of direct **equity** or quasi-equity
- **minority ownership** (maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company)
- **“patient capital” principle** (7-10 years perspective on average, max 15 years)



EIC Accelerator – funding options

Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Grant & Investment

If you need support for development (TRL 6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9)

Investment Only

If you are looking to fill the funding gap for rapid scale-up of your high-risk innovation and you don't need a grant

What are we looking for?



Start-ups and SMEs from Member State or Associated Country seeking to **scale-up** high impact innovations with the **potential to create new markets** or disrupt existing one

Innovation building on **scientific discovery** or technological breakthroughs („**deep tech**“)

Innovations where **significant funding** is needed over a **long timeframe** and are **too risky** for private investors alone



EIC Accelerator challenges

ACCELERATOR CHALLENGES



Acceleration of advanced materials development and upscaling along the value chain

€ 50 million



Biotechnology driven low emission food and feed production systems

€ 50 million



GenAI4EU: Creating European Champions in Generative AI

€ 50 million



Innovative in-space servicing, operations, robotics and technologies for resilient EU space infrastructure

€ 50 million



Breakthrough innovations for future mobility

€ 50 million

Indicative call budget

€ 250 million

Infoday on Accelerator Challenges with Programme Managers on 6/11/2024.

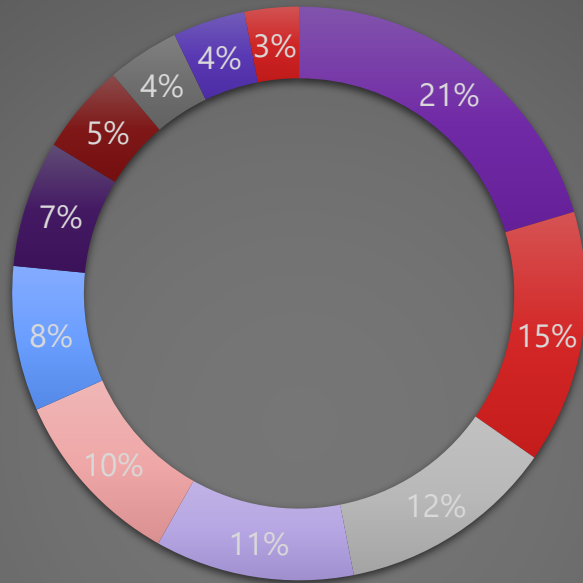
EIC Accelerator Open Indicative budget
€ 384 million

EIC Accelerator funding in Germany

- from 2021 until now



Technologies



- **90 projects out of 632 = 14% of EIC funded companies**
- The total requested budget of 90 projects is **EUR 565 millions**. The EIC Fund has disbursed **30 investments in 24 companies with a total of EUR 105 millions**.
- **10 companies with the biggest tickets are :**
Codasip, eNote, Infinite roots, ITHERA MEDICAL, Nuventura, Reverion, STABL Energy, ReActive Robotics, Farmlnsect, ConstellR

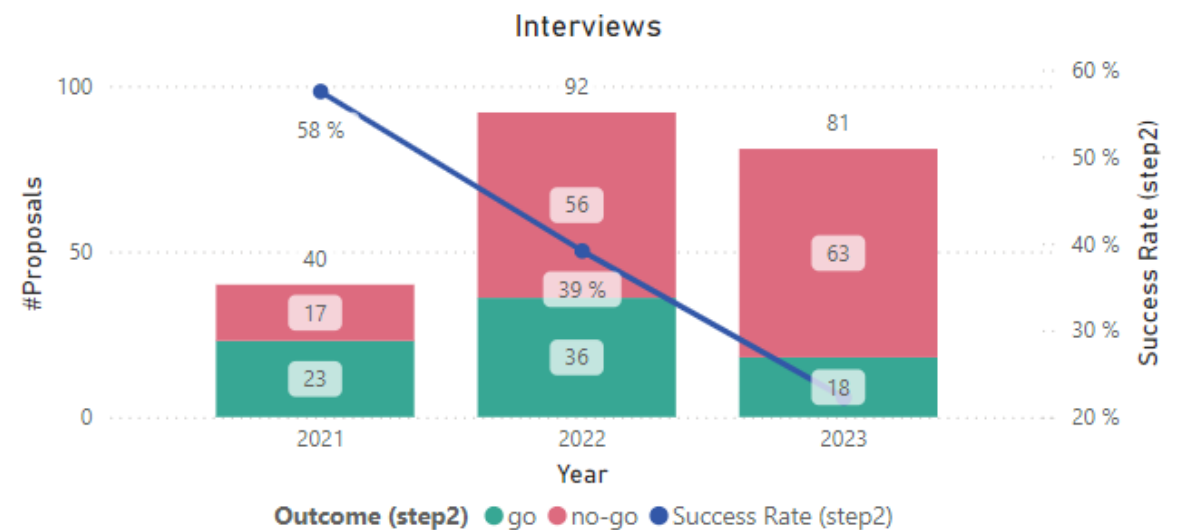
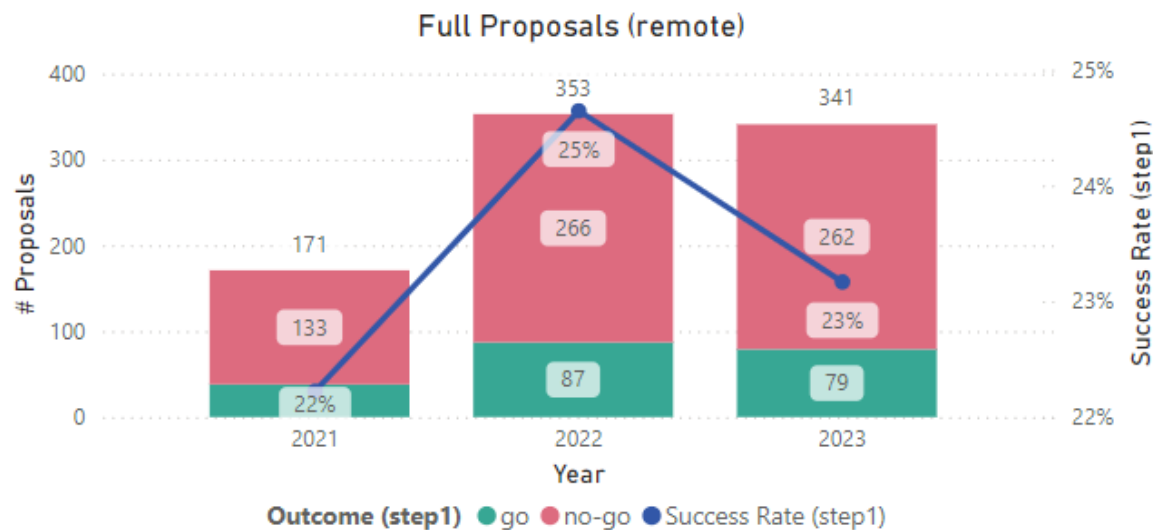
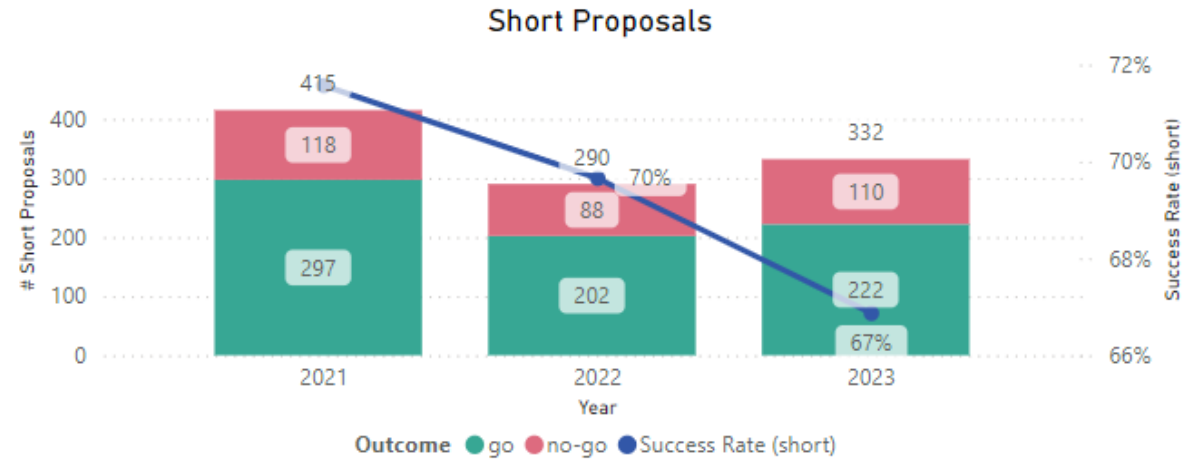
EIC Accelerator – applications from Germany (2021 -2023)



* excluding inadmissible & withdrawn, comparisons for EU, EU Widening & Associated countries

Germany

	Eligible Submissions	Successful Submissions	Success Rate (per step)
Short Proposals	1K	721	70%
Full Proposals (remote)	865	204	24%
Full Proposals (interview)	213	77	36%
Success Rate (steps 2-3)	9%		





What is EIC STEP Scale up call?

What is STEP?

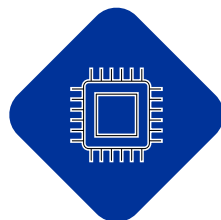
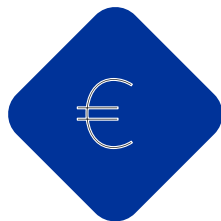


- The Strategic Technologies for Europe Platform (STEP) Regulation was adopted in February 2024
- It identifies three main strategic technology areas:
 - **Digital and deep tech**
 - **Clean tech**
 - **Biotech**
- It aims to bring major new technologies to Single Market and avoid technology dependencies on other regions
- It is implemented in a coordinated way across 11 EU programmes (including Horizon Europe/ EIC) and through Structural Funds (ERDF)

Main elements for EIC STEP Scale up



- **Budget €300m** (2025), expected to be €900m (2025-27)
- **Equity only** support
- **Larger tickets** (EUR 10m-30m)
- Catalyze **rounds of €50-150m**



STEP Sovereignty Seal
(if fulfill necessary conditions)

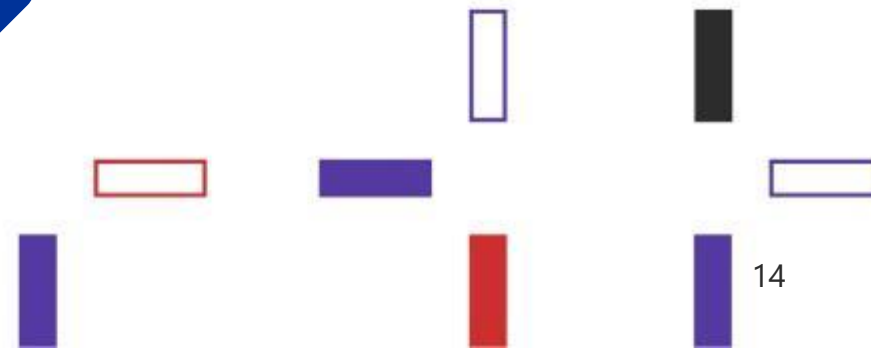


EIC STEP Scale up Call



Pre-commitment from investors required (min 30%)
Facilitated **access to Invest EU Venture Debt**

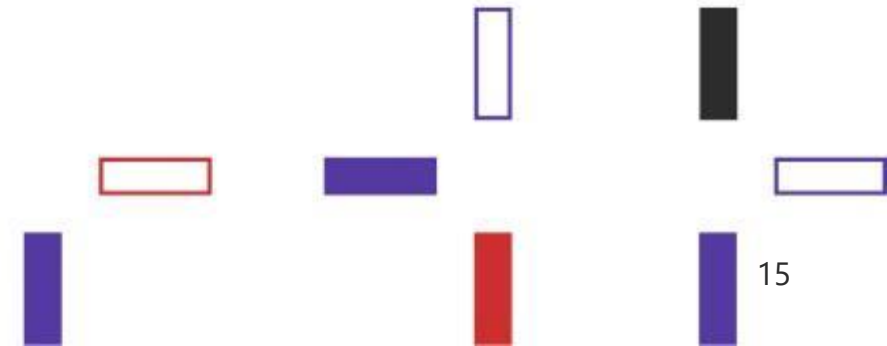
Evaluation/ award criteria include specific STEP conditions





Target companies/applicants:

- **Developing strategic technologies** within scope of already secured initial funding rounds and **aiming to raise major funding round** (e.g., EUR 50-150 million) to scale up and become a global leader
- Commercialising and scaling the technology/innovation **represents significant risks** which cannot be financed from market investors along
- Incl. companies with **existing EIC support**/ already in the EIC Fund portfolio and companies with **no previous EIC Support**



- **Manages the EIC investment** in startups & SMEs selected by EIC Accelerator.
- The EIC Fund is a **venture capital fund** established in June 2020 by the European Commission.
- The Fund started operations under the **EIC Pilot** phase, €2.3 billion investments approved, **€957 million already invested** (€530 million HE + €427 million H2020-pilot) in **251 companies** (135 from HE +116 from H2020-pilot)
- For Horizon Europe, the Commission has **restructured** the EIC Fund :
 - The main novelty is the appointment of an **external fund manager** that makes investment/divestment decisions and portfolio management.
 - The EIB is the investment **advisor** to the EIC Fund.



Thank you!

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