EIC WORK PROGRAMME 2026

European Innovation Council

What's in it for researchers?

€362 million

Funding for cutting edge multidisciplinary research in breakthrough technologies [minimum 2 partners]

Research and development

EIC PATHFINDER:
€262 m total budget

Validation and commercialisation

EIC TRANSITION:
€100 m total budget

NEW SCHEME

EIC ADVANCED INNOVATION CHALLENGES

To support high-risk, demand-driven deep tech innovation with transformative potential especially in areas where there is extensive research but lack of commercial uptake.

2026	€6m	26.02.2026
2027	€25m	18.06.2027

- First stage grants up to €0.3m
- Follow-up grant up to €2.5m

million

PATHFINDER GRANTS up to **€4**

Supporting early stage research and development of future technologies.

FROM TRL 1-2 TO REACH TRL 3-4

million

TRANSITION GRANTS up to **€2.5**

Turning research results into innovation opportunities.

FROM TRL 3-4 TO REACH TRL 5-6

€50 000 BOOSTER GRANTS
for ongoing projects, commercialise results and collaborate with other projects.

million

EIC PATHFINDER OPEN
apply by 12.05.2026 **€166**

EIC PATHFINDER CHALLENGES
apply by 28.10.2026 **€96**

million

EIC TRANSITION OPEN
apply by 16.09.2026 **€100**

Interact with expert EIC Programme Managers and a community of Pathfinder projects, to **accelerate** research and **discover** innovation pathways.

Access leading advice and support to assess the innovation potential of research results

EIC PATHFINDER OPEN

The EIC Pathfinder Open is for entities with proposals that don't match any of the EIC Pathfinder Challenge topics. It is open to proposals in any field of technological breakthroughs.

INDICATIVE BUDGET

€166 m

EIC PATHFINDER CHALLENGES

1

Advanced Materials for Miniaturised Energy Harvesting Systems

To develop new materials and miniaturised energy harvesting modules (solar / thermoelectric / piezoelectric etc.) that enable sensors / IoT devices to be self-powered, with much higher efficiency and less reliance on critical raw materials.

INDICATIVE BUDGET

€32 m

2

Biotechnology for Healthy Ageing

To translate ageing research into biotech or pharmaceutical interventions (and tools like biomarkers/NAMs) to prevent, delay, or reverse age-related diseases, aiming for proof-of-concept in vertebrate models and eventual clinical impact.

INDICATIVE BUDGET

€32 m

3

DeepRAP: Deep Reasoning, Abstraction & Planning towards trustworthy Cognitive AI Systems

To push AI beyond current deep learning: combine symbolic/neuro-symbolic methods to improve reasoning, abstraction, and planning, making AI systems more robust, explainable, and trustworthy for real-world tasks.

INDICATIVE BUDGET

€32 m

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