

Webinar on EIC Pre-Accelerator for Widening Countries



Latvian Council of Science

**Tue. 25 Feb
10:00 – 11:30 CET**

ONLINE

FREE



Andrii Shekhirev
Biocatalyst
Foundation



Marija Plotniece,
Latvian Council of
Science



Carolina Aragonese
Euro-Funding



Marie Latour
Euro-Funding

Agenda

10:00 - 10:05 | Welcome & Introduction, Marie Latour, EU Affairs Director, Euro-Funding

10:05 - 10:15 | Insights from our Partners

- Marija Plotniece, EIC NCP, Latvian Council of Science,
- Andrii Shekhirev, Biocatalyst Foundation, co-founder

10:15 - 10:45 | Understanding Deep Tech & EIC Funding Instruments, Carolina Aragoneses, Technical Manager, Euro-Funding

- Deep Tech & Readiness Levels: How to assess and advance your technology readiness
- EIC Pre-Accelerator Programme: Objectives, eligibility, funding, and expected outcomes
- EIC Accelerator Programme: Key funding opportunities for scaling up deep-tech startups

10:45 - 10:55 | The Role of Innovation Consultants , instruments that support our work - Marie Latour, EU Affairs Director, Euro-Funding EU projects

10:55 - 11:30 | Q&A Session

11:30 | End

APVĀRSNIS EIROPA

#NKP



@apvarsnis



@Apvārsnis EU Latvijas Nacionālais
kontaktpunkts - HE NCP LV



Latvijas Zinātnes
padome

<https://www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/apvarsnis-eiropa>

Marija Plotniece

Nacionālā kontaktpunkta
vecākā eksperte

marija.plotniece@lzp.gov.lv

Events

24. maijs

Datums
24. maijs, 2024

Laiks
9.00–14.00

Atrašanās vieta
Rīga, Vaiņodes iela, 1. "Latvijas valsts meži"

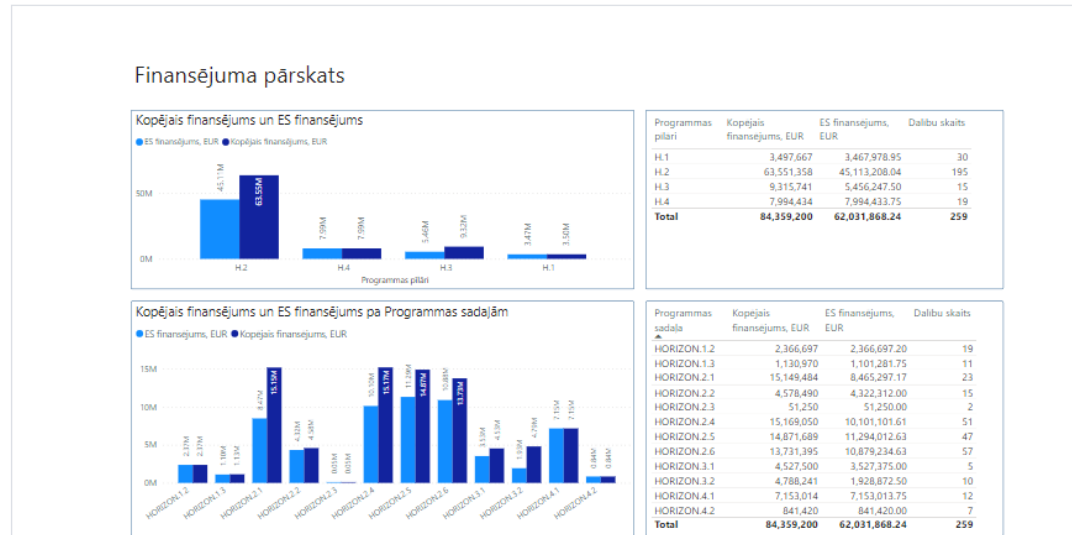


CBE JU informācijas diena, 24. maijā
NKP informē Jūs par CBE JU informācijas dienu, kas notiks 2024. gada 24. maijā, Rīgā. Norises vieta: Rīga, "Latvijas..."

[Informācijas diena](#)

Statistics

Latvijas dalība programmā Apvārsnis Eiropa (dati uz 31.01.2024.) [↗](#)



Presentation files and video recordings

Pasākumu informatīvie materiāli

Publicēts: 17.03.2023.

2024. gada Apvārsnis Eiropa informatīvie pasākumi [↗](#)

2023.gada Apvārsnis Eiropa informatīvie pasākumi [↗](#)

News

Aktualitātes

Meklēt aktualitāti

Kategorija

Datums no

Datums līdz

Apvārsnis Eiropa [✕](#)

[✕](#) Notīrīt filtrus



Latvijas Zinātnes padome aicina izmantot iespēju un pieteikties Apvārsnis Eiropa projektu pieteikumu priekšpārbaudei

Latvijas Zinātnes padome (LZP) kopā ar WIDERA NET projekta partneriem piedāvā iespēju izmantot ekspertu datu bāzi, lai iesniegtu projekta pieteikumus priekšpārbaudei. Iespēju var izmantot...

26.02.2024.

[Apvārsnis Eiropa](#)



Latvijas Zinātnes
padome

TO RECEIVE INFORMATION

To receive information about Horizon Europe, please fill in the form:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdn-gzfe7nVfRFKL0HP5ec0Pv2U44PegySLUe0m8evdFO_5iw/viewform

- By joining the mailing list, you will receive information about Horizon Europe calls, events and available support mechanisms.
- You can opt out of receiving information at any time by marking "I do not want to receive further information about Horizon Europe" in the survey.



Latvijas Zinātnes
padome

<https://www.lzp.gov.lv/lv/apvarsnis-eiropa>



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/nkplv/>



@ Apvārsnis EU Latvijas Nacionālais
kontaktpunkts - HE NCP LV

If you have any questions please contact:

Egita Aizsilniece-Ibema

LIAA representative, NCP EIC & EIT

Latvian office for Innovation & Technology in Brussels –
Lat.tech

Mob. +32 (0)455 10 12 74, +371 29331162,

e-mail: egita.aizsilniece-ibema@liaa.gov

Marija Plotniece

Senior expert | Horizon Europe RI, EIC, EIE, EIT

Latvian Council of Science, Smilsu street 8, Riga, LV-1050

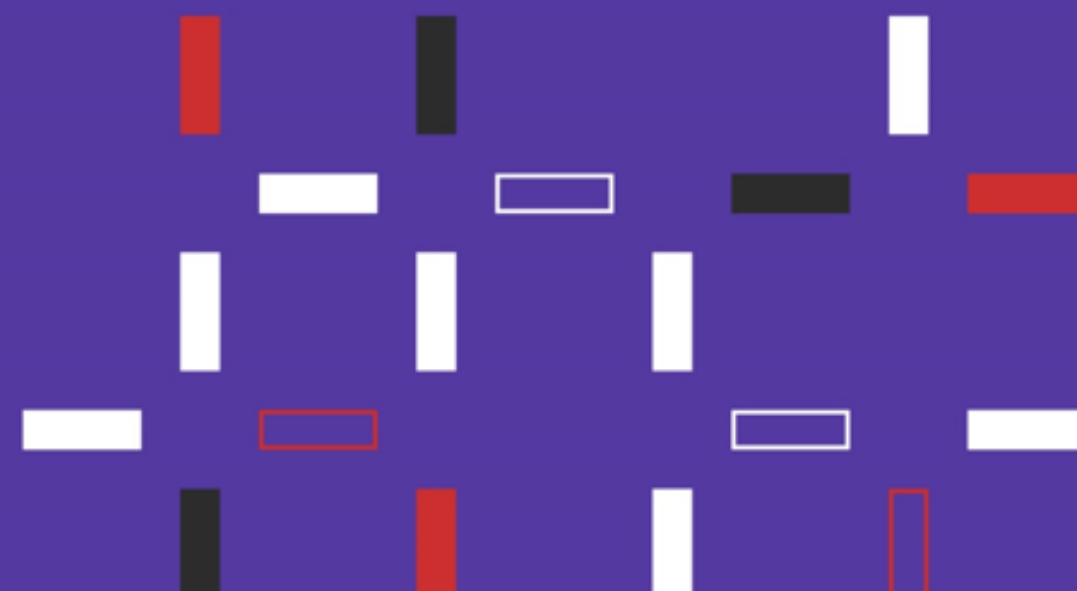
phone: +371 29966535, e-mail: marija.plotniece@lzp.gov.lv

**BALTIC
INNOVATORS HUB**

EIC Opportunities & Events



European
Innovation
Council



[I am visually impaired](#)

[Agenda](#)

[Speakers](#)

[Practical info](#)

[Startup Demo](#)

[B2B & Expo](#)

[Archive](#)

Save The Date

15 – 16 MAY

2025



Investment and
Development
Agency of Latvia

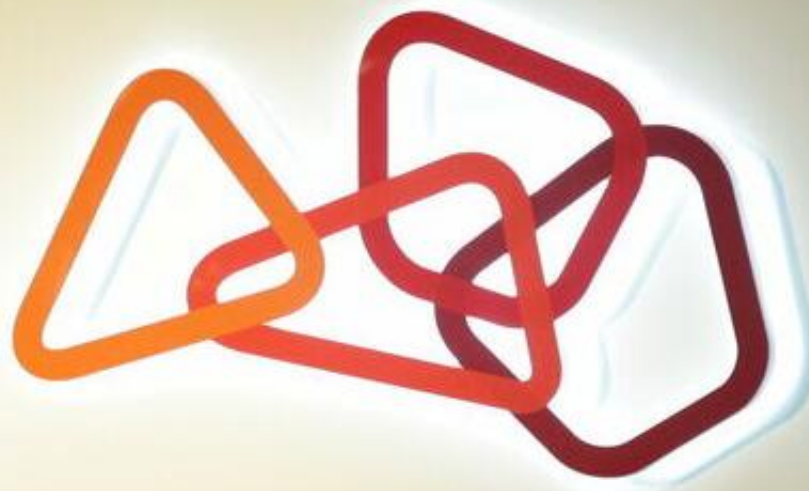
MISSION
Latvia

> [Registration TBA](#)

[f](#) #deeptechatelier

5.03.2025 || 10:00 – 14:00
Horizon Europe: From Idea to Impact

Imt



<https://forms.gle/8mnVpzSW2CYxkvPu8>



Funding opportunities for early-stage deep tech startups

Widening countries

Carolina Aragoneses

Technical Manager, EU Funding Unit

Understanding the struggles of widening countries in EU Funding

Widening countries

Lower levels of participation in EU research and innovation programs

15 countries: Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Greece, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia

Associate countries* with equivalent characteristics in terms of R&I performance and **outermost countries****

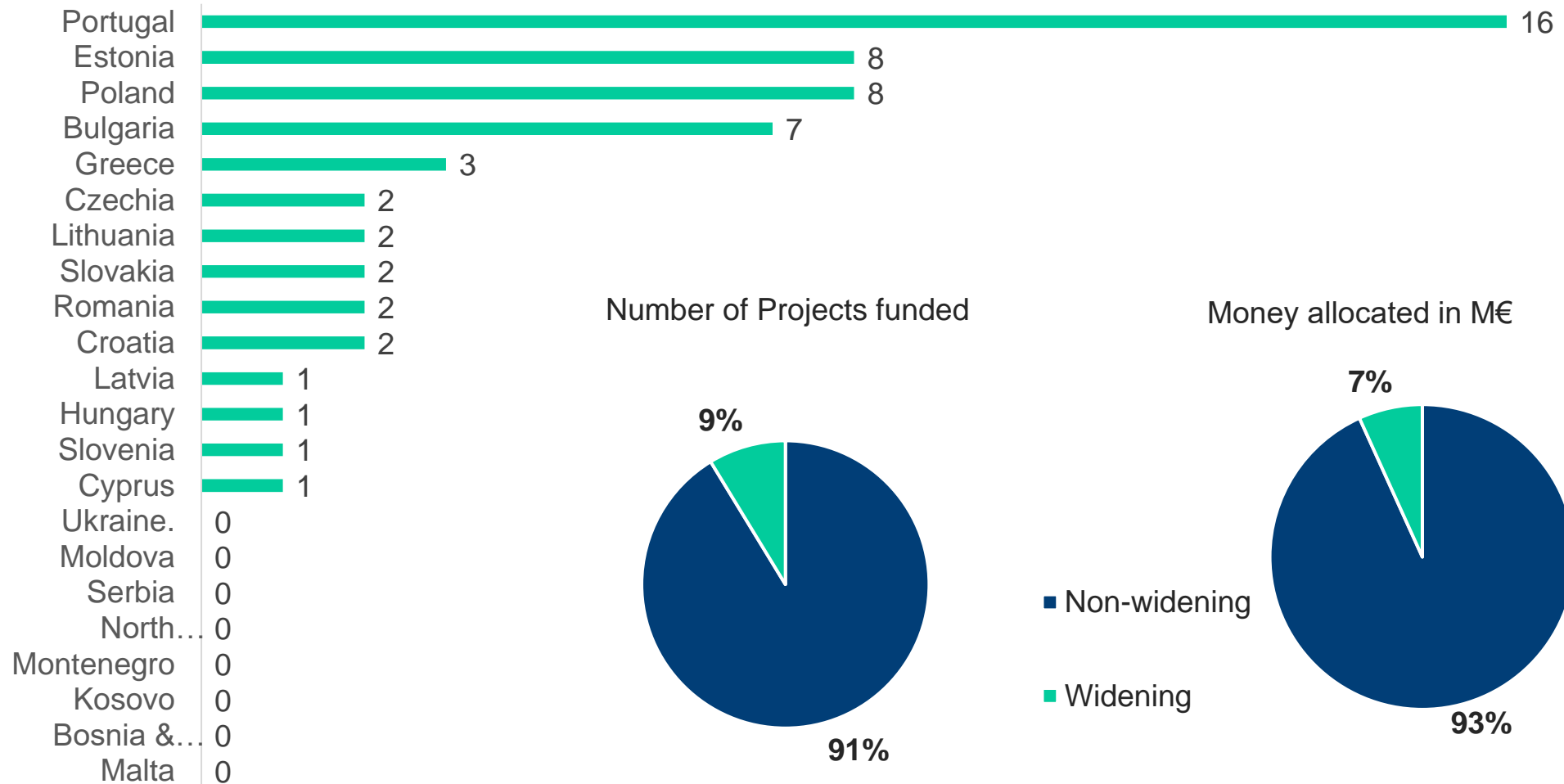


***Associated Countries:** Albania, Armenia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, the Faroe Islands, Georgia, Kosovo, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, and Morocco.

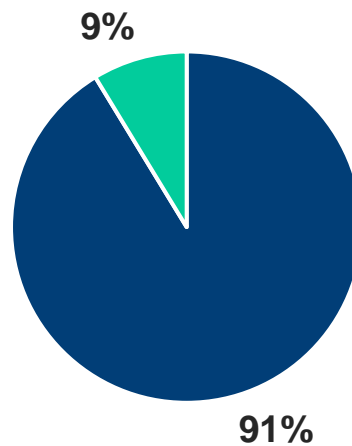
****The Outermost Regions:** Guadeloupe, French Guiana, Réunion, Martinique, Mayotte and Saint-Martin (France), the Azores and Madeira (Portugal), and the Canary Islands (Spain).

Widening countries lag behind Europe's Innovation leaders

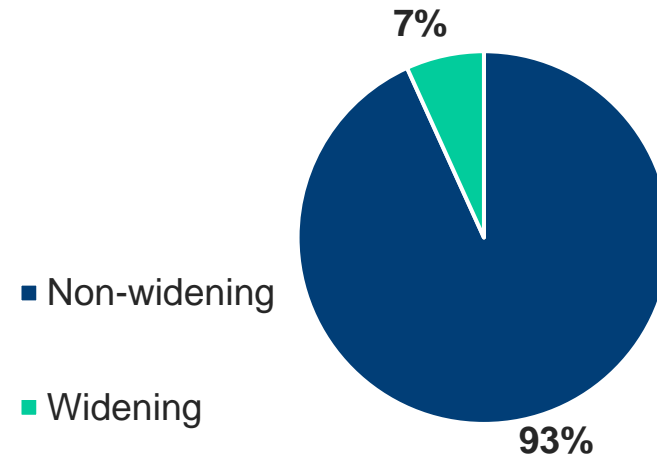
Number of EIC Accelerator projects funded in Widening countries 2021-24



Number of Projects funded



Money allocated in M€



Driving R&I equality across EU

| **WIDERA** (Widening participation and strengthening the European research area)

The aim is to reduce the existing difference between R&I leading and lagging countries so that the EU can progress as a whole

| **EIC Working Group** ('Improving Participation of Innovators from Member States Widening Countries')

To advise the EC on strategies and initiatives that could be used to increase the number of applications and success rates for innovators in widening countries.

Issues: Weaker innovation ecosystem | Limited VC investments | Limited experience with EU Funds

Actions: 15% of funding across all EIC Instruments | EIC Pre-Accelerator 20M€ in 2025

What is deep tech?

DISRUPTIVE TECHNOLOGY



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES

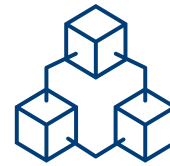


Artificial intelligence

Blockchain

Big data

Machine learning



Algorithmics

IoT

Digital Health

Adv Manufacturing

Agrotech

Foodtech

Robotics

INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGIES



Biotech

Quantum computing

Advanced material science

Nanotechnologies

Photonics and electronics

What is deep tech?

INCREMENTAL INNOVATION

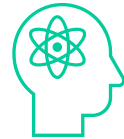
Explore existing technologies
Improve market competitiveness

Low IP profile

Innovators

Medium term development

Low risk



DISRUPTIVE INNOVATION

Develop new technologies
Create new markets or disrupt existing ones

High IP profile (patents)

Scientific advances and discoveries

Long term development

High risk

Are you a deep tech company?

“Deep tech is technology that is **based on cutting-edge scientific advances and discoveries** and is characterised by the need to stay at the technological forefront by constant interaction with new ideas and results from the lab. Deep tech innovations are understood to have the potential to deliver **transformative solutions**, rooted in **cutting-edge science, technology and engineering**, including innovation that combines advances in the physical, biological, and digital spheres. Deep tech is distinct from ‘high tech’ which tends to refer only to R&D intensity”

Deep tech

Developing **graphene-based superconductors** for ultra-efficient energy transmission

Developing a **new AI model** that mimics human reasoning to solve complex scientific problems

Developing **AI-driven molecular modeling** to design personalized drugs based on a patient’s genetic profile

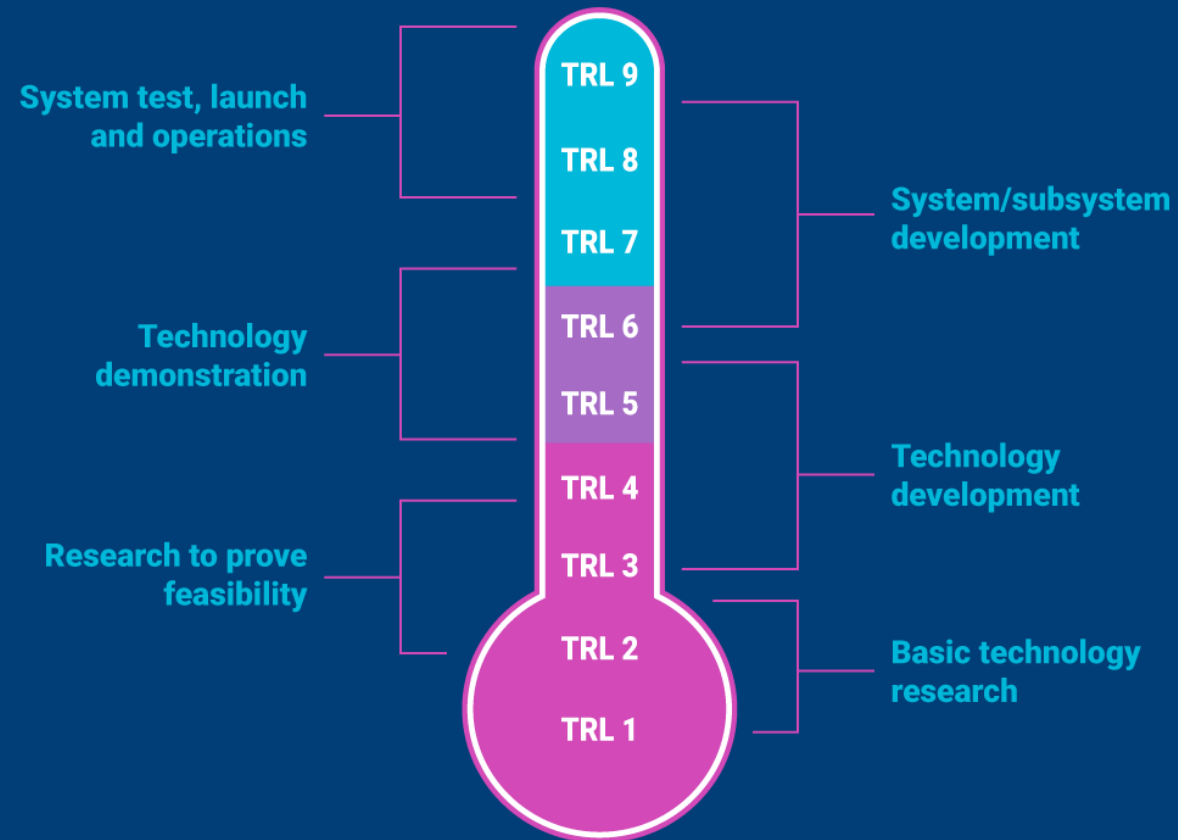
Not deep tech

Creating a **new type of eco-friendly packaging** using existing biodegradable materials

Launching a **solar panel installation company** that uses existing photovoltaic technology

Creating a **chatbot for customer support** using existing AI frameworks

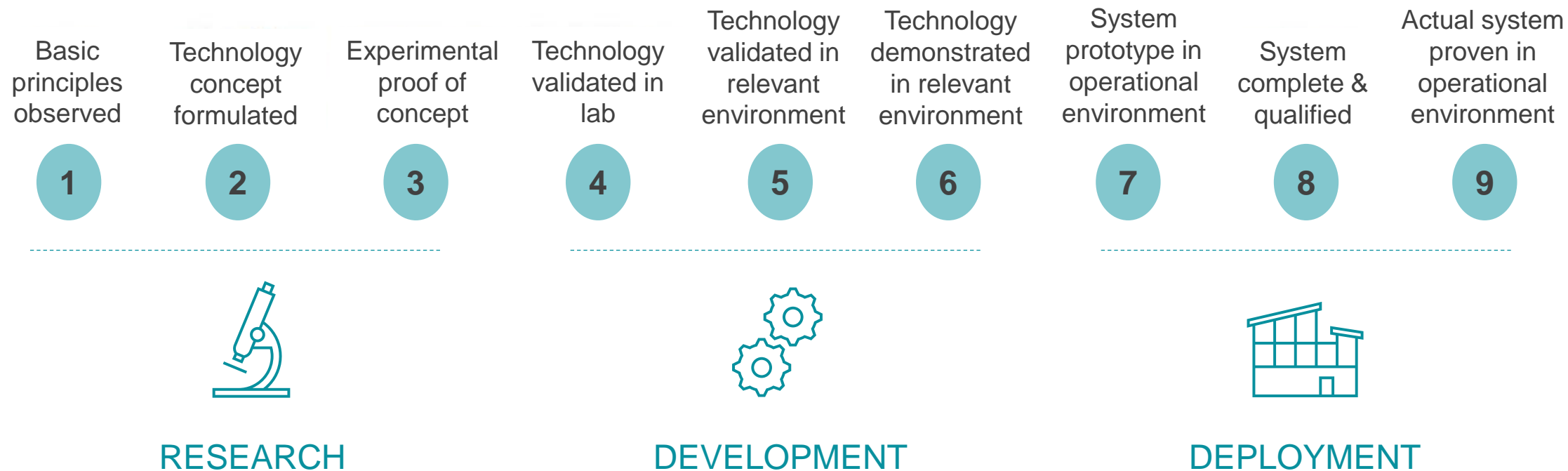
Understanding TRL



Technology readiness level (TRL)

- TRL is a **scale** used to assess the maturity of a technology, ranging from early-stage research to full commercial deployment.
- TRL enables applicants to align with the expectations of the EC in the different HE funding instruments and be **eligible to apply**
- There are **9 TRL Levels** (TRL1-9)

Technology readiness level (TRL)



HELP

TRL assessment tool: <https://horizoneuropencportal.eu/store/trl-assessment>

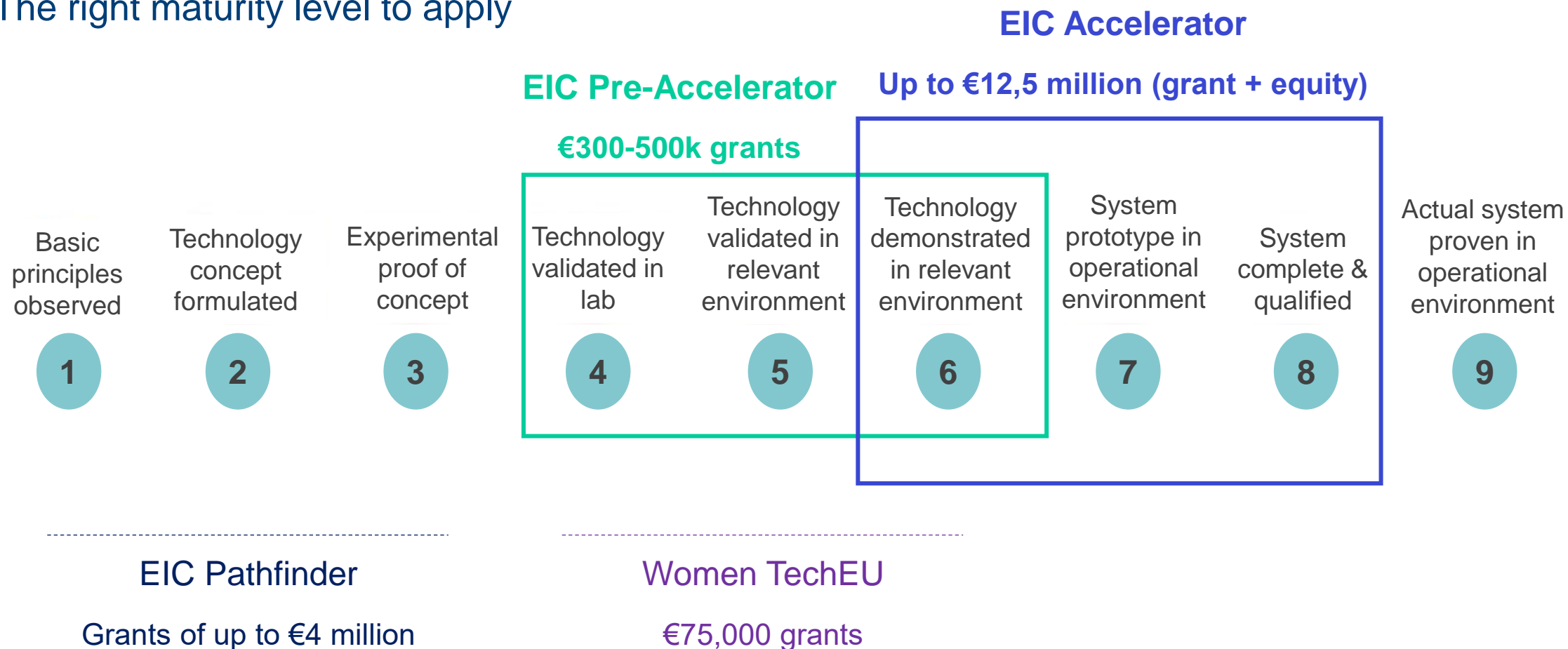
Technology readiness level (TRL)

Some examples

What is your solution?	TRL 3	TRL 4	TRL 5	TRL 6	TRL 7	TRL 8	TRL 9
A Product that is manufactured	Analytical studies on separate elements of the technology. Laboratory based trials that show the feasibility of the predictions.	Basic technological components integrated together to show that they work together. At this point, durability is not yet important.	Basic technological components integrated within realistic context under a fully controlled environment in or outside the lab.	A functional version of the product working on a realistic environment able to draw conclusions on the technical and operational capabilities of the product.	A manufacturable version of the product working on an environment which addresses all the operational requirements for the product.	Product in its final form working in full mode under expected conditions and periods.	Product in its final form under full commercial deployment.
A software	Initial script & functions to solve the desired problem.	Alpha version of the software tested internally (both functionalities and process) by the development team.	Alpha version of the software functionalities tested by outsiders of the development team.	Beta version of the software functionalities tested by selected end-user under a control mode.	Beta version of the software functionalities widely open to end-users.	Stable version of the software available for the market.	Stable version of the software available for the market in full business plan conditions.
A drug	Initial proof of concept demonstrated with a limited number of in vitro & in vivo models.	Proof of concept and safety of the candidate is demonstrated in a laboratory or animal model.	Pre-clinical studies including GLP animal safety & toxicity to support the Investigational New Drug (IND) application or similar EU process.	Phase 1 clinical trials completed to proceed with Phase 2 clinical trials. If it is the case, Investigational New Drug application submitted and reviewed.	Phase 2 clinical trial completed & Phase 3 plan is approved.	Phase 3 clinical trial completed. Regulatory body approves IND application.	Drug available for the market.

At what stage of development is your innovation?

The right maturity level to apply



EIC funding opportunities for startups and SMEs

European
Innovation
Council

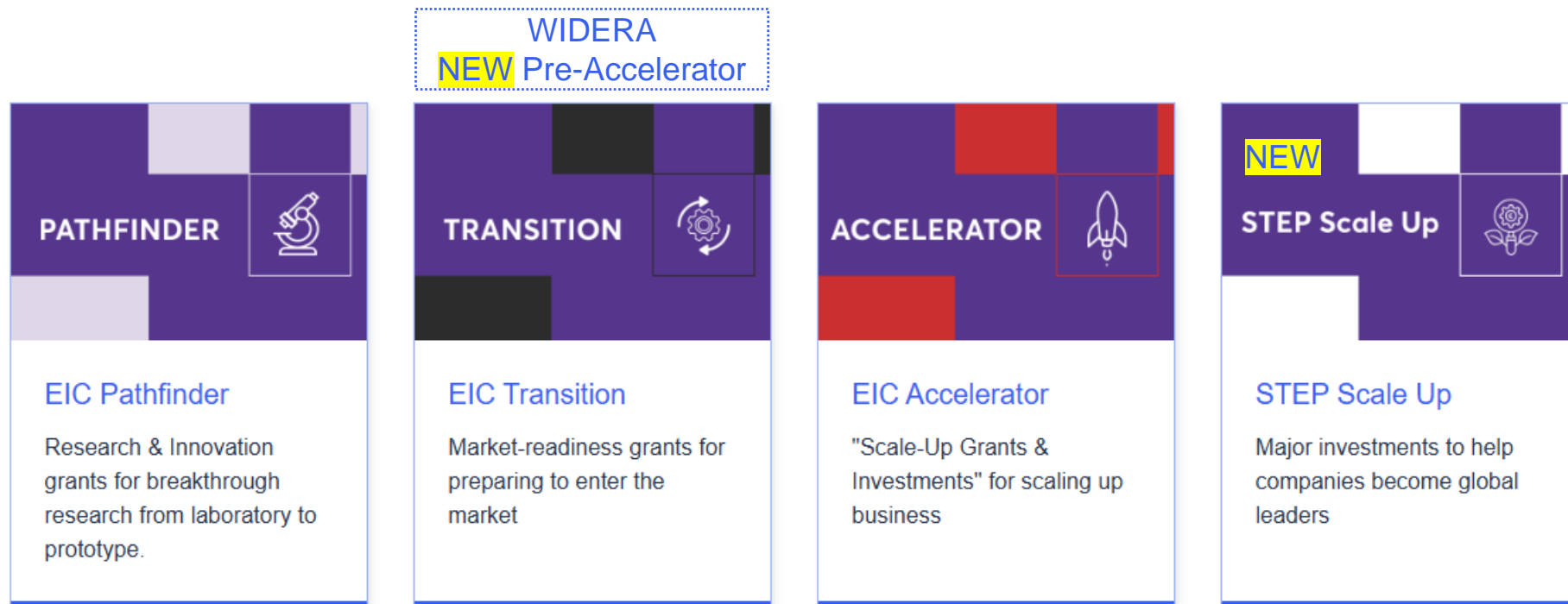


European Innovation Council (EIC) established by the European Commission, under the Horizon Europe programme (2021-27)

About the European Innovation Council (EIC)

Support **game-changing innovations** throughout the lifecycle from early-stage research, to proof of concept, technology transfer, and the financing and scale-up of start-ups and SMEs.

€10.1 billion budget (2021-27) | EU-27 Member States + 16 AC*



About the European Innovation Council (EIC)

What is looking for?

Highly disruptive

Innovations building on scientific discovery, radical thinking or technological breakthroughs (“**deep-tech**”)

High impact

Early-stage start-ups and SMEs seeking to scale up innovations with the potential to **create new markets or disrupt existing ones**, in line with EU strategic priorities

High risk

Struggle to attract financing because the **technology and investment risks are too high**

Significant funding is needed over a long timeframe and is too risky for private investors alone



Backing visionary
entrepreneurs

European
Innovation
Council

NEW

EIC Pre-Accelerator

EIC Pre-Accelerator

| Who can apply?

Early-stage deep-tech startups and SMEs in HE widening countries which

- Have high-impact innovation technology, product, service, or business model that could create new markets or disrupt existing ones, and
- Have the ambition and commitments to scale up

Applicants must demonstrate that they:

1. Have developed technology validated in the lab level (at least **TRL 4**)
2. Possess the necessary **Intellectual Property Rights** to ensure FTO and adequate protection of the idea
3. Have a clear vision on the intended pathway and route to market. This includes specific **milestones** and concrete and **verifiable KPIs** to assess progress towards the market.

EIC Pre-Accelerator

| What support can you receive?

Requested grant must be used for:

- The **maturation and validation** of novel technologies beyond proof of concept to viable demonstrators of the technology in the intended field of application (from TRL4 up to TRL6)
- Addressing the **investor and market readiness** towards commercialisation and deployment (market research, value proposition, business case and business model, prospects for growth, intellectual property protection, competitor analysis etc.) and if relevant, aspects of regulation, certification and standardisation, aimed at getting both the technology and the business idea investment ready

EU contribution

€300 – €500k (grants)

70% funding rate of the total eligible costs

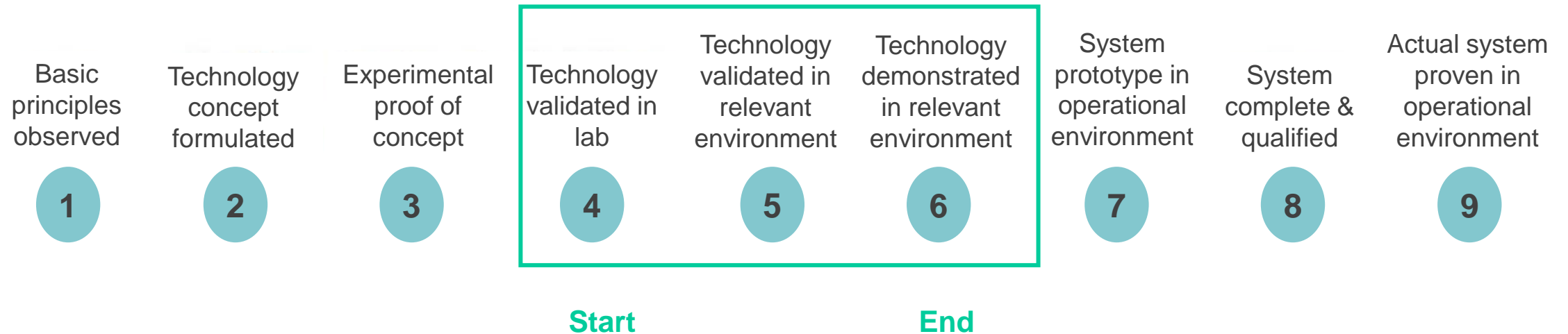
30% co-funding to be financed by the beneficiary through own resources

Project duration up to 2 years

Indicative budget €20 million in 2025 (40-60 projects)

EIC Pre-Accelerator

| Expected outcome at the end of the project



- ✓ Demonstrate that the technology has **at least completed TRL 5**
- ✓ Be ready to apply for **EIC Accelerator**
- ✓ Seek other investors or **sources of funding**

EIC Pre-Accelerator

| Evaluation process and deadlines

- Single stage evaluation
- The proposals will be evaluated by 3 independent EIC evaluators following the award criteria for EIC Transition Open
- Beneficiaries can benefit from EIC Business Acceleration services

Fast track scheme: direct access to EIC Accelerator Step 2



Indicative deadlines

- Call open **May 2025**
- Deadline **Nov 2025**

Women TechEU



Women TechEU

“Women TechEU aims to empower and support **women entrepreneurs in the deep tech** landscape focus on digital, green and social transition by providing financial support and mentoring services”



< 2% investment to female-led deep tech startups

Funding and support

EUR 75 000 (non-dilutive)

Coaching and mentoring services

Women TechEU

| Who can apply?

- Deep tech start-ups (SMEs) **founded, or co-founded, by women** holding a top management position (CEO, CTO or equivalent)
- Hold at least **25%** of the shares
- Registered for at least **six months and a maximum of eight years**
- **Early-stage**, before reaching high fidelity MVP (TRL3-6)
- Having raised **less than 1M€ in equity**



Deadlines

- **17 March 2025**
- Sept 2025 (TBC)

40 Winners per call



| Application and evaluation process



Online application form



Investor Pitch deck (pdf)



3-minute video (online link)

Project duration

6 months

Activities to be funded

Accelerate the development, growth and sustainability of your business:

Business plan, growth strategy, certifications, IP strategy

Fast track scheme: direct access to EIC Accelerator Step 2

EIC Accelerator

ACCELERATOR



EIC Accelerator

| Who can apply?

Applicants from EU Member States and countries associated to the Horizon Europe programme

- **Single startup or SME** (including spin-outs)
- **Small mid-cap** (up to 499 employees)
- Natural person or legal entity intending to establish (or invest) an SME or small mid-cap in a Member State or Associated Country

Applicants must demonstrate that:

1. Technology is validated in a relevant environment (at least TRL 5 completed). The innovation should be at **TRL6**.
2. Possess the necessary **Intellectual Property Rights** to ensure FTO and adequate protection of the idea
3. Have a **well-defined business plan and go-to-market strategy**. This includes early market traction.

EIC Accelerator

| What support can you receive?

GRANT up to €2.5 million

Funding rate 70%

Innovation activities (TRL6-8): prototyping, demonstrating, piloting, testing and validation.

To be completed within 24 months

EQUITY up to €10 million

For **full-scale operations, market deployment and scaleup**

Qualified investor to co-invest with the EC (1:1)

Max. 25% of the voting shares of the company

Various investment scenarios (“Buckets”)

Types of funding

- **BLENDED FINANCE**

Grant + Equity

- **GRANT ONLY**

Innovation activities only.
Evidence to finance the deployment and scaling up of the innovation

- **EQUITY ONLY**

Open to any company

EIC Accelerator

| Call options 2025

EIC Accelerator OPEN | overall budget: €384 million

Innovations in **any field of technology** that cut across different scientific, technological, sectoral and application fields or represent novel combinations

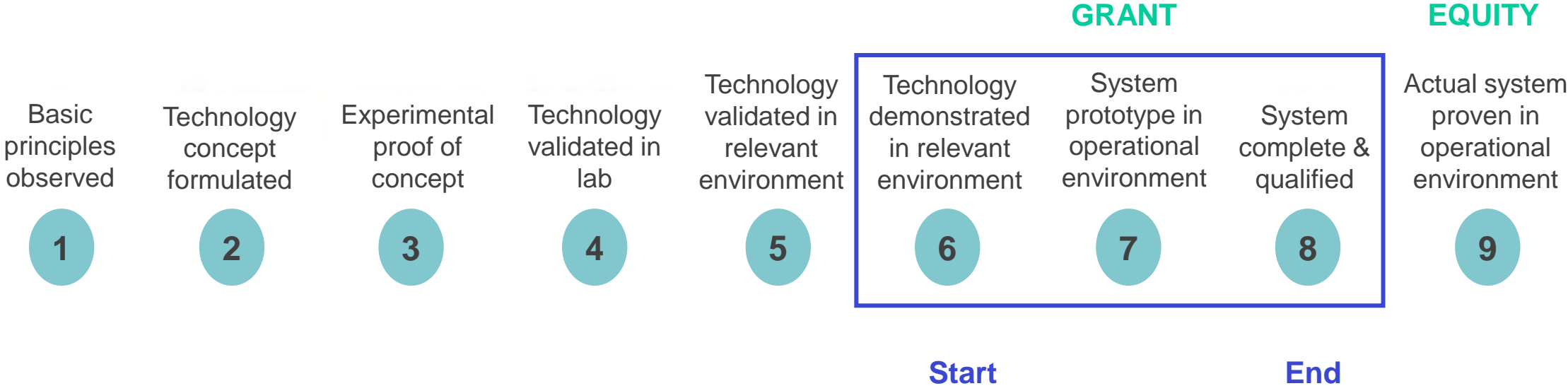
EIC Accelerator CHALLENGES | overall budget: €250 million

Innovations in areas of strategic relevance in line with **2025 EU priorities**

- Acceleration of **advanced materials** development and upscaling along the value chain
- Biotechnology driven low emission **food and feed production systems**
- **GenAI4EU**: creating European champions in generative AI
- Innovative in-space servicing, operations, robotics and technologies for resilient **EU space infrastructure**
- Breakthrough innovations for **future mobility**

EIC Accelerator

Expected outcome at the end of the project



- ✓ **Market-ready innovation**, with a commercially viable product or technology
- ✓ **Scaling up potential**. Ready to enter the market (TRL 9) with an ambitious growth plan
- ✓ **Follow on investment**

EIC Accelerator

Application and evaluation process



Proposal + Annexes



Pitch deck



3-minute video

Resub rule: up to 3 unsuccessful applications

STEP 1: SHORT PROPOSAL

Continuous process



STEP 2: FULL PROPOSAL

12 March 2025

1 October 2025

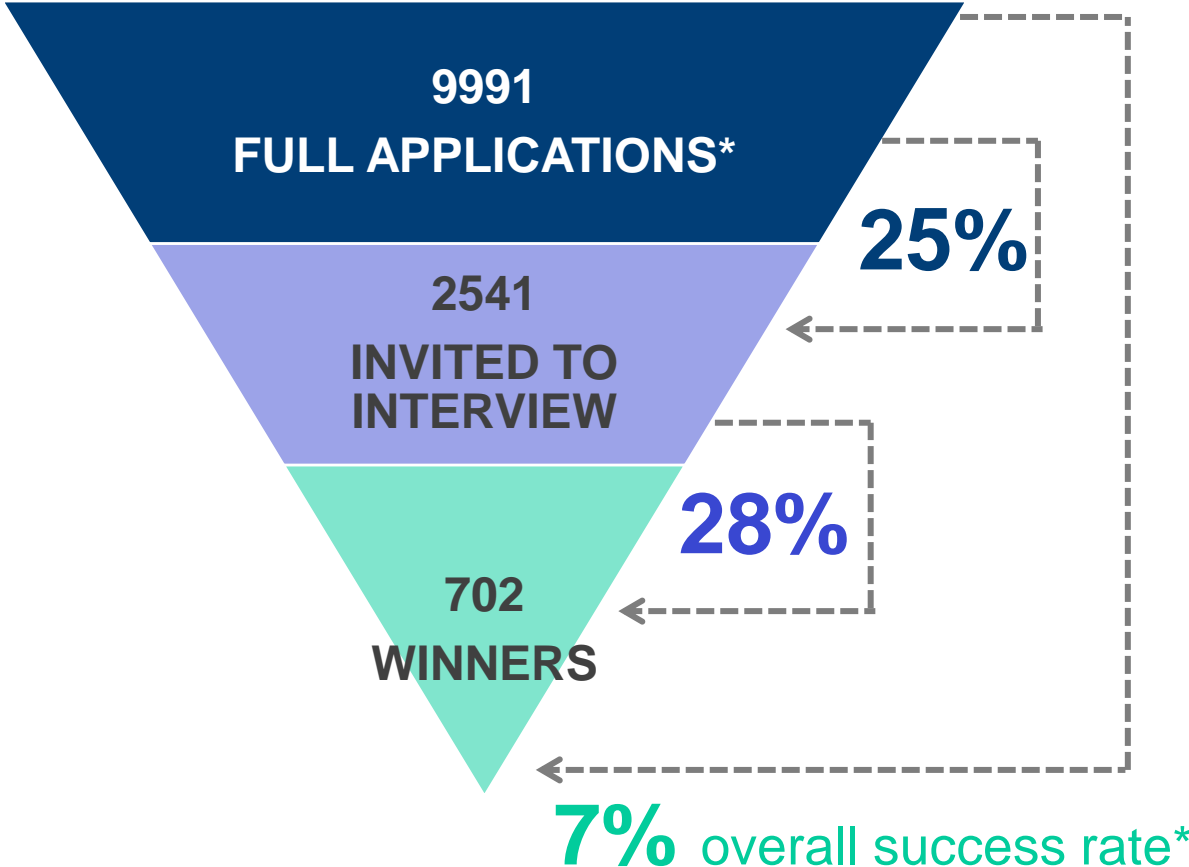


STEP 3: INTERVIEW

January 2026

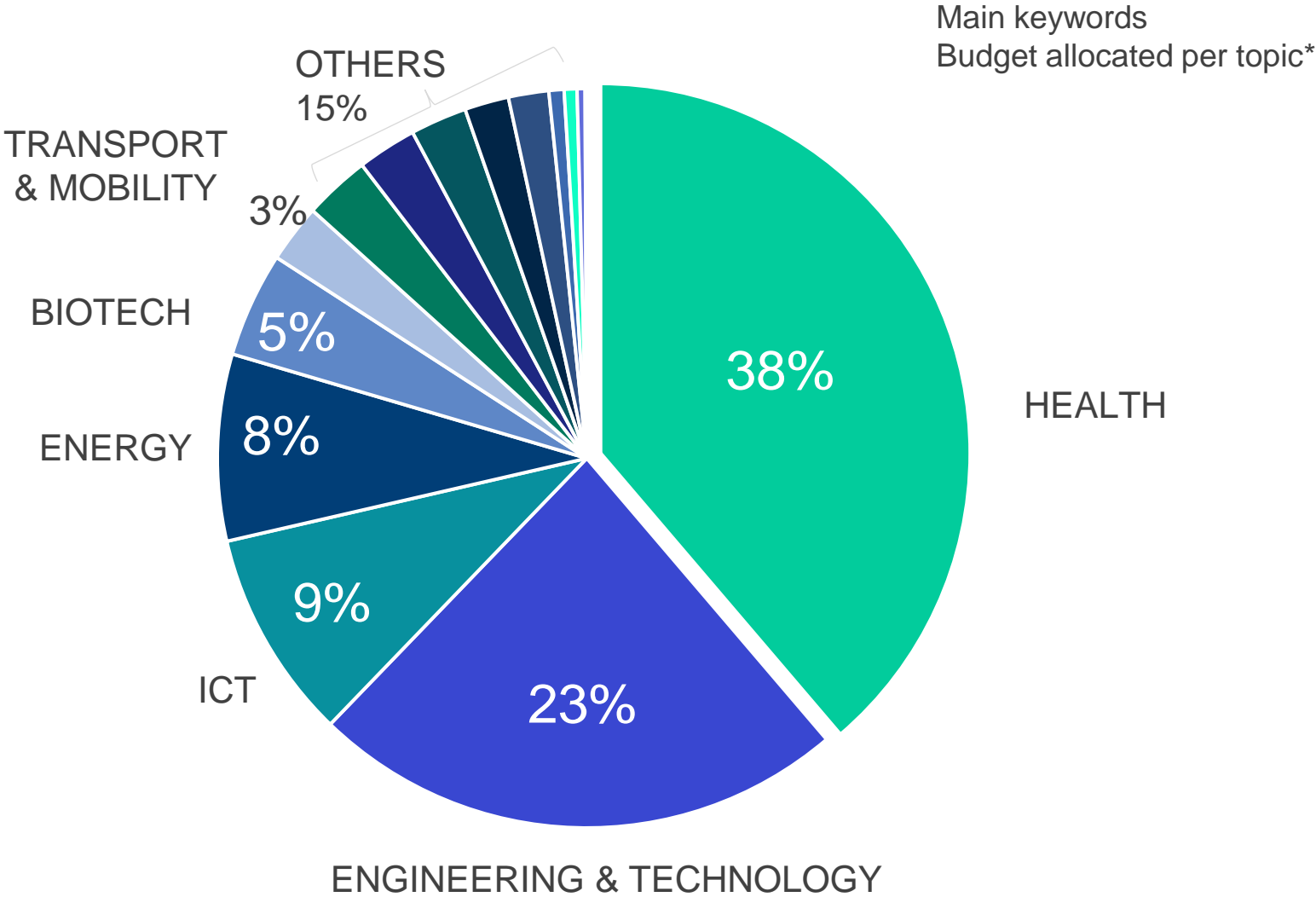
EIC Accelerator

Statistics



EIC Accelerator

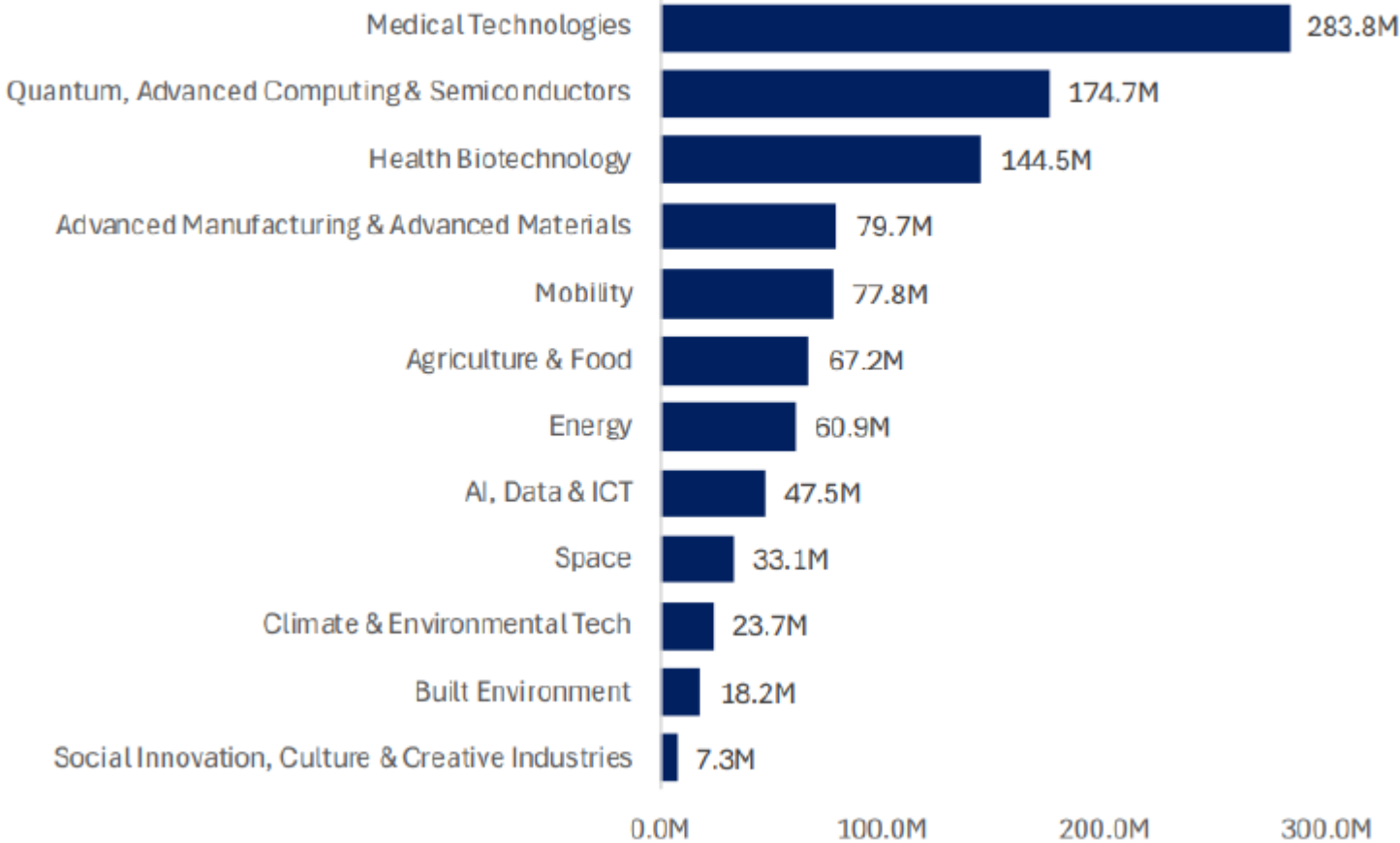
Statistics



EIC Accelerator

Statistics

Sector Allocation by Invested Amount



Final recommendations

- ✓ Check **eligibility criteria and expected outcomes** – Ensure your project aligns with the call requirements and impact goals
- ✓ Engage with **National Contact Points (NCPs)** and key experts – Leverage their insights to improve your proposal
- ✓ Seek **national or regional pre-financing** – Explore funding options to support proposal preparation
- ✓ Secure **co-financing and investment early** – Strengthen financial sustainability and investor confidence
- ✓ Demonstrate **market readiness** – Show a clear path to commercialisation and scaling

Agenda

10:00 - 10:05 | Welcome & Introduction, Marie Latour, EU Affairs Director, Euro-Funding

10:05 - 10:15 | Insights from our Partners

- Marija Plotniece, EIC NCP, Latvian Council of Science,
- Andrii Shekhirev, Biocatalyst Foundation, co-founder

10:15 - 10:45 | Understanding Deep Tech & EIC Funding Instruments, Carolina Aragoneses, Technical Manager, Euro-Funding

- Deep Tech & Readiness Levels: How to assess and advance your technology readiness
- EIC Pre-Accelerator Programme: Objectives, eligibility, funding, and expected outcomes
- EIC Accelerator Programme: Key funding opportunities for scaling up deep-tech startups

10:45 - 10:55 | The Role of Innovation Consultants , instruments that support our work - Marie Latour, EU Affairs Director, Euro-Funding EU projects

10:55 - 11:30 | Q&A Session

11:30 | End



The Role of Innovation Consultants, instruments that support our work

Marie Latour

**EU Affairs Director, Euro-
Funding EU projects**

Who we are

We improve the bottom line through the optimisation of technical taxes, securing public funding, and providing sustainability consultancy with a 360-degree vision.



+10 offices

Who work with the entire business network: large companies and industrial groups, SMEs, startups, technology centres, universities, etc.

Highest level of specialization in our teams

Organised by sectors and technologies with a team of PhDs.

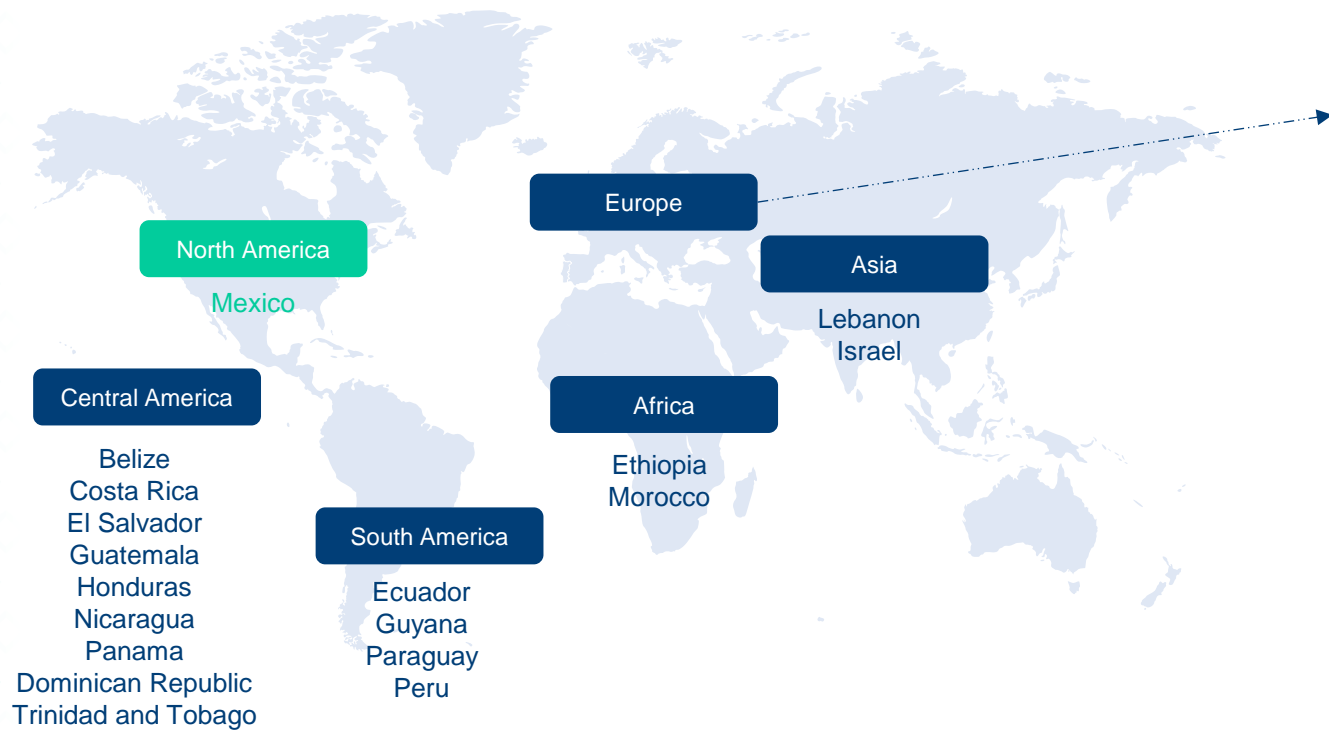


Extensive network of national and international partners aimed at promoting collaborative projects. Active participation in regulatory and normative matters.

+1.950M€

Managed in projects during the last year

Global presence



EUROPE

Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Slovenia, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, United Kingdom, Czech Republic, Sweden, and Turkey.

SPAIN

Barcelona, Bilbao, Madrid, Santiago de Compostela, Sevilla, and Valencia.

Public Funding Management | European Funds

Our strength lies in our high level of expertise and knowledge of the complex European funding ecosystem, enabling us to manage **the entire grant process**, from proposal submission to subsequent management. We tailor our services to meet the specific demands of our clients.



Monitoring and **identification** of European funding opportunities.



Project **idea analysis**, call selection, proposal writing, and submission.



Support in the **administrative** and financial management of projects.



Review and improvement of proposals.



Partner search for collaborative projects and consortiums.



Positioning and **visibility activities** at the European level.



Training in EU programmes



Communication and dissemination of project results.

Areas of Expertise

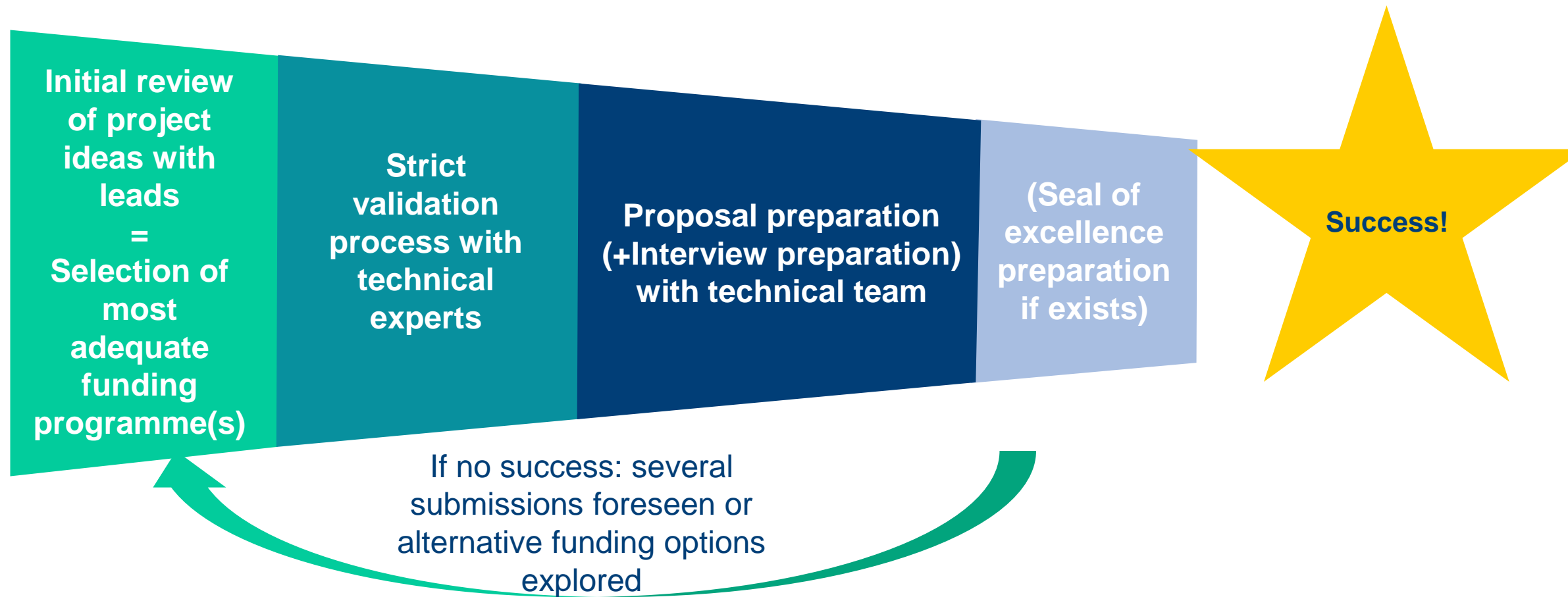
- Environment
- Energy
- Health
- Digital
- Food
- Infrastructure
- Decarbonisation
- Water
- Defence

We triple your chances of success in EU Programmes

x3



How do we do that?



Some countries provide support to help apply to EU Grants

Grant can cover your cost + cost of hiring experts

Poland: « Grant for eurogrant» funded by Polish Agency for Enterprise Development (PARP) :

POLISH GRANT FOR EUROGRANT for SMEs	If no specialised analyses* as part of the cost		With specialised analyses* as part of the cost		Type of instrument eligible
	PLN	€	PLN	€	
Single applicant	67.000,00 PLN	15.581,40 €	107.000,00 PLN	24.883,72 €	EIC (pre)-accelerator, IF LIFE,
Consortium coordinator/work package leader	50.840,00 PLN	11.823,26 €	90.840,00 PLN	21.125,58 €	HE Coll, IF, LIFE, CEF
Consortium member/partner	41.000,00 PLN	9.534,88 €	81.000,00 PLN	18.837,21 €	HE Coll.
POLISH GRANT FOR EUROGRANT for Scientific Units	If no specialised analyses* as part of the cost		With specialised analyses* as part of the cost		Type of instrument eligible
	PLN	€	PLN	€	
Single applicant	19.500,00 PLN	4.534,88 €	39.500,00 PLN	9.186,05 €	ERC , etc.
Consortium coordinator/work package leader	38.225,00 PLN	8.889,53 €	58.225,00 PLN	13.540,70 €	HE Coll, IF, LIFE, CEF
Consortium member/partner	27.500,00 PLN	6.395,35 €	47.500,00 PLN	11.046,51 €	HE Coll.

*Specialised analyses: documentation essential for industrial research and development work and for commercialization of the idea, e.g. costs of business, technological or feasibility analyses of the project.

Euro-funding adheres to the EIC Code of Conduct

Set of ethical guidelines and principles designed to govern the behavior and practices of stakeholders involved with the European Innovation Council.

Key aspects of the EIC Code of Conduct include:

1. Integrity and Ethical Standards
2. Transparency
3. Fairness and Impartiality
4. Confidentiality
5. Conflict of Interest Management
6. Social Responsibility
7. Accountability
8. Respect for Intellectual Property



Marie Latour

European Affairs Director

✉ mlatour@euro-funding.com

☎ +32 479 20 29 59

Agata Horwacik

Business Developer

✉ ahorwacik@euro-funding.com

☎ +34 652 702 474



Your P&L is our DNA

