



What are the main elements?

Budget: €1.4 bn

5 main funding schemes

million

◀ €262

Funding for early-stage technology research and development

max

GRANTS PER PROJECT

◀ €4

Open: apply by 12.05.2026

◀ €166

Challenges: apply by 28.10.2026

◀ €96

FROM TRL 1-2 TO REACH TRL 3-4

million

◀ €100

Funding for technology validation and commercialisation

max

GRANTS PER PROJECT

◀ €2.5

Open: apply by 16.09.2026

FROM TRL 3-4 TO REACH TRL 5-6

million

◀ €634

Funding for commercialisation and scale-up

OPEN

◀ €414

CHALLENGES

◀ €220

Batches

7.01.2026 | 4.03.2026 | 6.05.2026 | 8.07.2026 | 2.09.2026 | 4.11.2026

GRANTS PER COMPANY

◀ max €2.5

EQUITY INVESTMENT PER COMPANY

◀ max €10

FROM TRL 6 TO TRL 9

million

◀ €300

Equity investments to catalyse larger investments rounds of €50 million or above to companies with pre-commitments from investors

INVESTMENT

◀ max €30

Open: batches

11.02.2026 | 6.05.2026 | 9.09.2026 | 25.11.2026

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

* The total budget consists of the programme parts highlighted in the factsheet, along with several other actions, bringing the total budget to €1.4 billion.

BUSINESS ACCELERATION SERVICES

For all EIC awardees, as well as selected applicants:

- Access to **coaches, mentors, expertise** and **training**
- **Access to global partners:** leading corporates, investors, procurers, distributors, clients
- Access to **innovation ecosystem and peers**
- **Support** to test EIC innovations for potential clients

APPLY NOW

eic.ec.europa.eu



Main novelties

Launch of an ARPA-like pilot programme - **EIC Advanced Innovation Challenges** [2026–2027].

Simplified and faster Accelerator evaluation process, with more frequent calls and enhanced due diligence to speed up investments.

Support to **Start-up and Scale-up Strategy**, including strengthened **Business Acceleration Services** for internationalisation and corporate engagement.

Other improvements

Increased maximum grant for Pathfinder projects (up to €4 million) to boost impact.

Broader access to EIC Transition: now open to results from Horizon research infrastructures programme, alongside EIC Pathfinder, ERC Proof of Concept, and Horizon Europe Pillar II projects.

Continuation of **EIC STEP Scale-up call** for equity investments to catalyse larger investments rounds of €50 million or above to companies with pre-commitments from investors.

Launch of a **Gender & Diversity Innovation Index**, building on successful pilot studies.

Relaunch of the Plug-in scheme for certified national/regional programmes