## **EIC WORK PROGRAMME 2026**



### What are the main elements?

Budget: €1.4 bn

# 5 main funding schemes

million

€262

max

€4

€166

€96

**EIC PATHFINDER** 

Funding for early-stage technology research and development

**GRANTS PER PROJECT** 

Open: apply by 12.05.2026

Challenges: apply by 28.10.2026

FROM TRL 1-2 TO REACH TRL 3-4

**EIC TRANSITION** 

€100

max

€2.5

million

Funding for technology validation and commercialisation

**GRANTS PER PROJECT** 

Open: apply by 16.09.2026

FROM TRL 3-4 TO REACH TRL 5-6

million

max

**EIC ACCELERATOR** €634

Funding for commercialisation and scale-up

€414 **OPEN** 

€220 **CHALLENGES** 

**Batches** 

**NEW SCHEM** 

7.01.2026 | 4.03.2026 | 6.05.2026 | 8.07.2026 | 2.09.2026 | 4.11.2026

**EQUITY INVESTMENT PER COMPANY** 

€2.5 **GRANTS PER COMPANY** 

> max €10

> > FROM TRL 6 TO TRL 9

**STEP SCALE-UP** 

€300

million

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

**INVESTMENT** 

max €30

**Open:** batches

11.02.2026 | 6.05.2026 | 9.09.2026 | 25.11.2026

### **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**

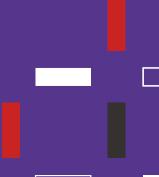
For all EIC awardees, as well as selected applicants:

- 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



### **EIC WORK PROGRAMME 2026**



### **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

