EIC Pathfinder Challenges Applicants' Day 2022

5th July 2022



EIC Info Day 2022 Programme



09:30 AM - 09:35 AM CEST Welcome – <u>Keith Sequeira</u>, *Head of Unit, EISMEA*

09:35 AM - 10:30 AM CEST The EIC and EIC Pathfinder Challenges, how to apply and questions

Bart Van Caenegem, Head of Sector, EISMEA

Catherine Boulenger, Deputy Call Coordinator, EISMEA

10:30 AM - 11:30 AM CEST Break out sessions I

Break out session 1: Carbon dioxide and nitrogen management and valorisation - hosted by <u>Francesco Matteucci</u>

Break out session 2: Cardiogenomics - hosted by <u>lordanis Arzimanoglou</u>

Break out session 3: DNA-based digital data storage - hosted by Roumen Borissov

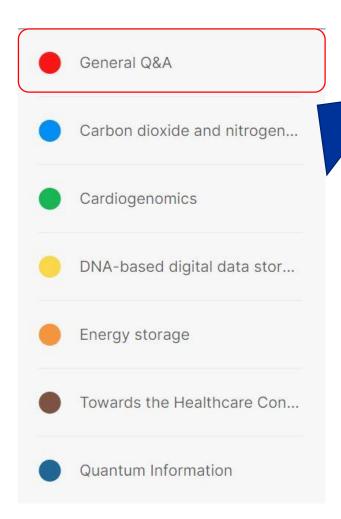
11:30 AM - 12:30 PM CEST Break out sessions II

Break out session 1: Mid to long term and systems integrated energy storage - hosted by <u>Antonio Marco Pantaleo</u>

Break out session 2: Towards the Healthcare Continuum: technologies to support a radical shift from episodic to continuous healthcare - hosted by Enrique Claverol-Tinture

Break out session 3: Alternative approaches to Quantum Information Processing, Communication, and Sensing - hosted by Samira Nik

Send us your questions by Sli.Do!



Join at slido.com #EICPathfinder



Join Sli.do #EICPathfinder and select the General Q&A Other 'rooms' are for the

Breakout sessions

What is the European Innovation Council?



Europe's most ambitious innovation initiative

- €10 billion programme to identify, develop and scale up breakthrough technologies and disruptive innovations in Europe
- **Unique** in the world to combine research on emerging technologies with Accelerator for startups, SMEs and scaleups
- EIC set to become **largest deep-tech investor** in Europe (over €3 billion)
- Enhances the European innovation ecosystem (partnerships with EIT, ERC, etc)
- Second Work Programme adopted 7 February 2022, €1.7 billion



EIC main instruments and characteristics

Pathfinder (TRL1-4)

- For consortia (and single entities)
- Early stage research on breakthrough technologies
- Grants up to €3/4 million

Transition (TRL 4-6)

- For consortia and single entities
- Technology maturation from proof of concept to validation
- Business & market readiness
- Grants up to €2.5 million

Accelerator (TRL 6-9)

- For individual SMEs
- Development & scale up of deep-tech/ disruptive innovations by startups/ SMEs
- Blended finance (grants up to €2.5 million; equity investment up to €15 million or above)

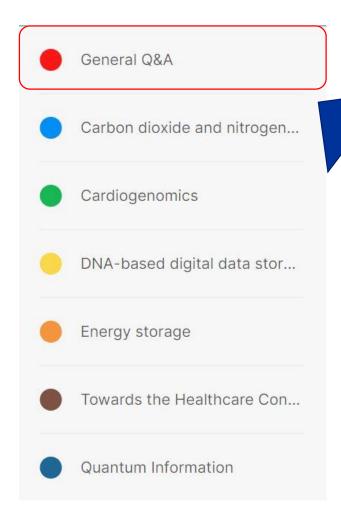
- Focus on breakthrough, market-creating, deep-tech
- Mainly bottom up complemented by targeted funding on strategic technologies/ challenges
- Steered by **EIC Board** of leading innovators (entrepreneurs, investors, researchers, ecosystem)
- Business Acceleration Services (coaches/ mentors, corporates, investors, ecosystem)
- Pro-active management (roadmaps, reviews, reorientations, etc) with EIC Programme Managers
- Fast track access to Accelerator for results from EIT, EIC Pathfinder, selected programmes





Accelerator - Open	Short applications - Apply any time all year round	~ €623m (grant & equity)
 Accelerator – Challenges Technologies for Open Strategic Autonomy (healthcare, critical raw materials, quantum, space, security etc) 	 Full applications – 3 cutoffs in 2022: 23 March 15 June 	~ €537m (grant & equity)
• Technologies for 'Fit for 55' (energy, buildings, mobility, land use, green digital, etc)	• 5 October	(9.2 2. 2.42),
Pathfinder - Open	Deadline: 4 May	~€183m
Pathfinder - Challenges Carbon dioxide & nitrogen management and valorisation; Mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage; Cardiogenomics; Healthcare continuum technologies; DNA-based digital data storage; Alternative quantum information processing, communication, and sensing	Deadline: 19 October	~€167m
Transition – Open	Apply any time all year round	~€70.5m
 Transition – Challenges Green digital devices for the future; Process and system integration of clean energy technologies; 	Full applications – 2 cutoffs in 2022: • 4 May • 28 September	~€60.5m
 RNA-based therapies and diagnostics for complex or rare genetic diseases 	20 30 ptc	_

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Join at slido.com #EICPathfinder



Join Sli.do #EICPathfinder and select the General Q&A



What is the EIC Pathfinder?



The EIC Pathfinder programme funds research to develop the scientific basis to underpin breakthrough technologies.

EIC Pathfinder Open



bottom-up approach with no predefined topics

EIC Pathfinder Challenges



top-down challenge-driven calls for tackling specific technology breakthroughs by portfolios of projects



EIC Pathfinder Challenges: Main features

- Build on new, cutting-edge directions in science and technology
- Disrupt a market or to create new opportunities by realising innovative technological solutions grounded in high-risk/highgain research and development;
- Establish **a portfolio of projects** for each Challenge that explore different perspectives, competing approaches or complementary aspects;

 □
- Proactively steered by EIC Programme Managers



Expected project outcomes

- Expected outcomes specifically defined for each challenge
- Top-level scientific publications as well as an adequate formal protection of the generated intellectual property
- Involve and empower key actors with potential to become future leaders in their field, e.g.:
 - excellent early-career researchers
 - promising high-tech SMEs, including start-ups
- **Empower female researchers**, achieve gender balance among work package leaders.



Work Programme

- Scope of the Challenge
- Specific Objectives
- Expected Outcomes and Impacts
- Specific conditions

To be read in conjunction with the Challenge Guide



Challenge guide

- Provides background to the Challenge and references
- Explains the goal of portfolio building
- Defines the categories to be used in portfolio building
- Specifies the portfolio considerations to be applied in building the portfolio in order to address the challenge as a whole to the maximum extent in order to create the maximum impact



Challenge guide: Categories

- For each Challenge a set of categories to be used in portfolio building, such as e.g.:
 - Technologies to be utilised with each specific pros and cons
 - Platforms for the main developments
 - Specific applications
 - Building blocks that together compose the overall complete outcome (e.g. building a spacecraft)
- Each proposal can be mapped in the space of the categories



Challenge guide: Portfolio considerations

- Specific approach for building the portfolio:
 - Diversity in some categories
 - Looking for overlaps to focus on some categories in order to build critical mass and maximum impact
 - Explore the synergies and complementarities in some categories



Pathfinder Challenges for 2022

- 1. Carbon dioxide and nitrogen management and valorisation
- 2. Mid-long term, systems-integrated energy storage
- 3. Cardiogenomics
- 4. Towards the Healthcare Continuum: technologies to support a radical shift from episodic to continuous healthcare
- 5. DNA-based digital data storage
- 6. Alternative Quantum Information Processing, Communication, and Sensing



What support will you receive if your proposal is funded?

- A grant for a Research and Innovation Action to cover eligible costs
- EIC considers proposals with an EU contribution of **up to EUR 4 million** as appropriate (larger amounts possible, if properly justified)
- Funding rate 100% of the eligible costs.
- Total indicative budget for this call: **EUR 167 million** (approximately equally shared across the six challenges).



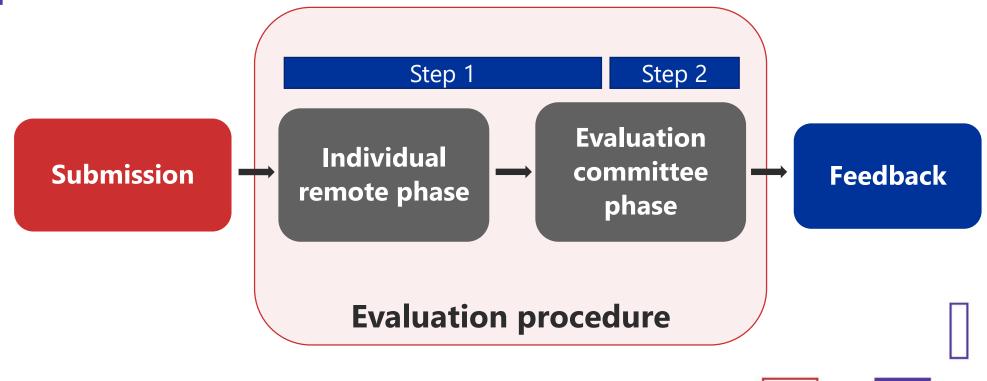
Additional opportunities for EIC Pathfinder projects

Projects or their beneficiaries funded by EIC Pathfinder are eligible:

- for **EIC Booster grants** with fixed amounts of up to €50,000 for complementary activities:
 - for potential pathways to commercialization
 - for portfolio activities
- to submit a proposal to the **EIC Transition** for transforming their research results into innovation opportunities
- to submit an EIC Accelerator proposal via the Fast Track scheme
- to receive free access to a wide range of Business Acceleration Services



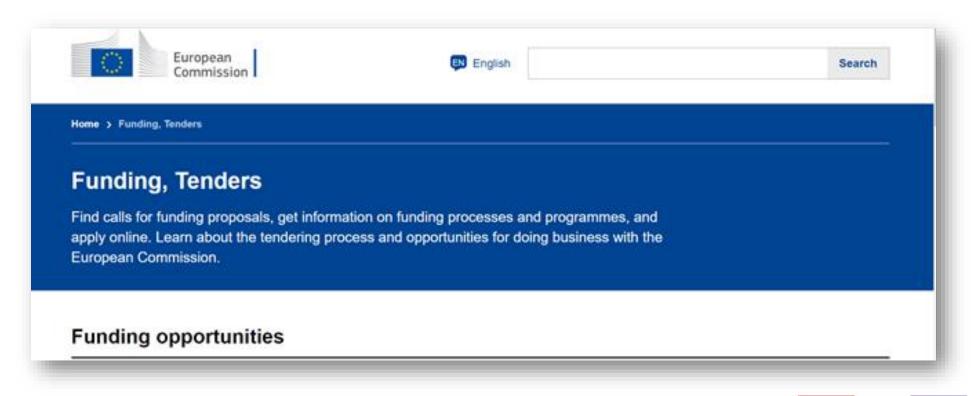
How to submit and how does the EIC decide if your proposal will be funded?



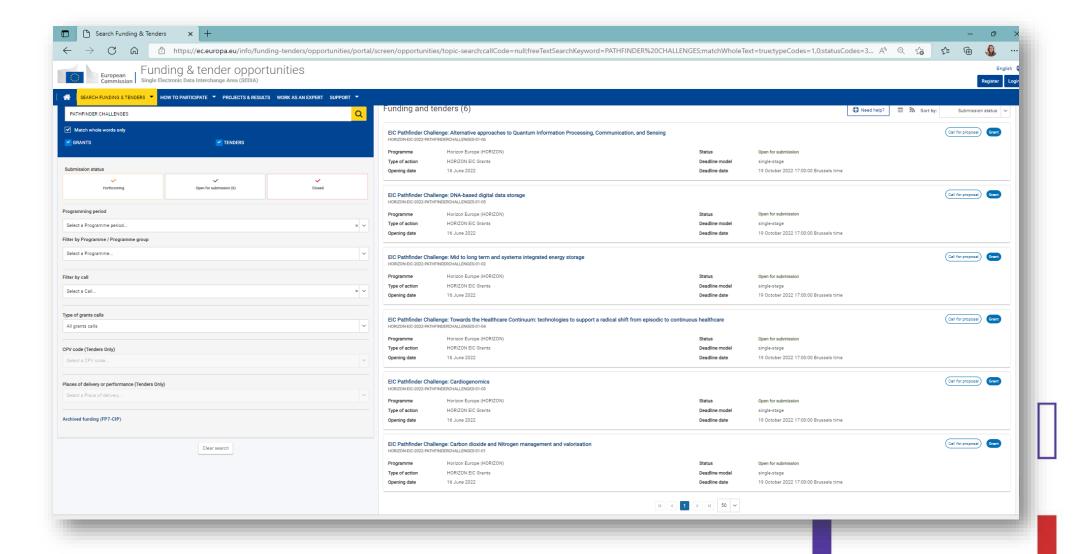




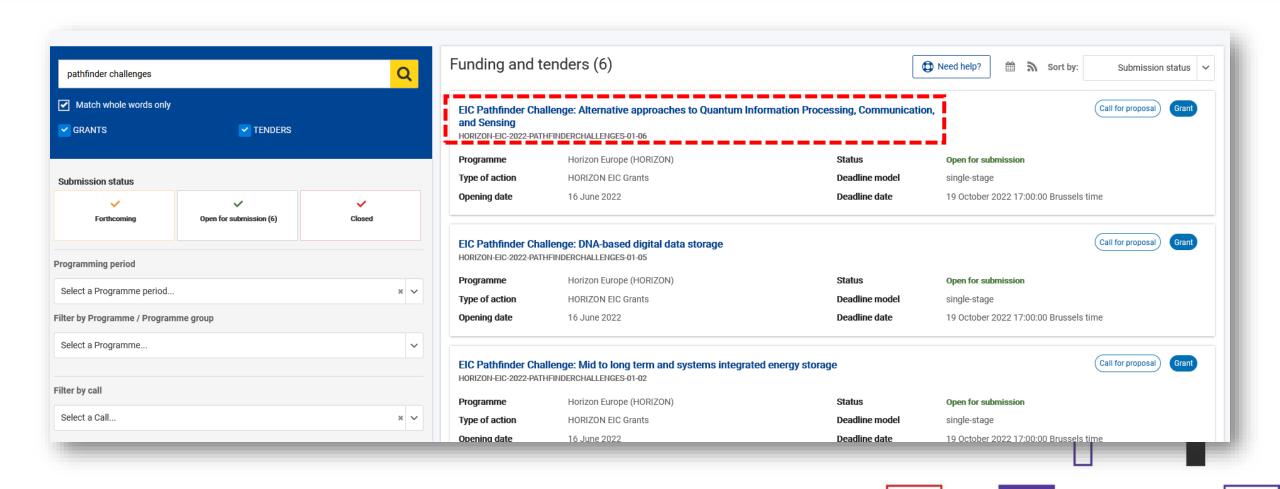
https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders



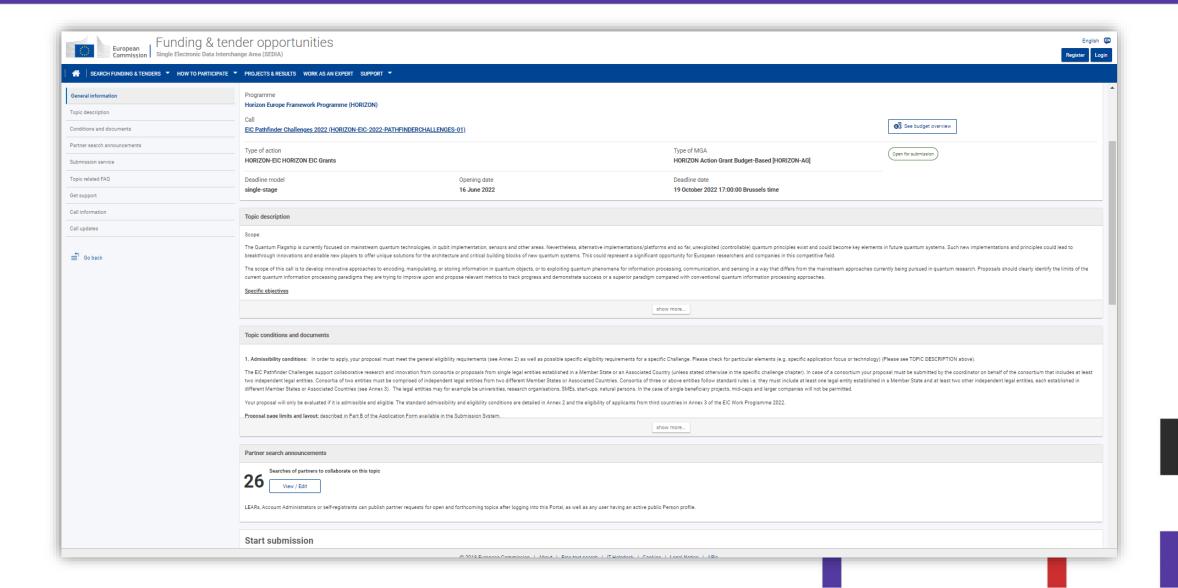














Start submission

To access the Electronic Submission Service, please click on the submission-button next to the **type of model grant agreement** that corresponds to your proposal. You will then be asked to confirm your choice, as it changed in the submission system. Upon confirmation, you will be linked to the correct entry point.

To access existing draft proposals for this topic, please login to the Funding & Tenders Portal and select the My Proposals page of the My Area section.

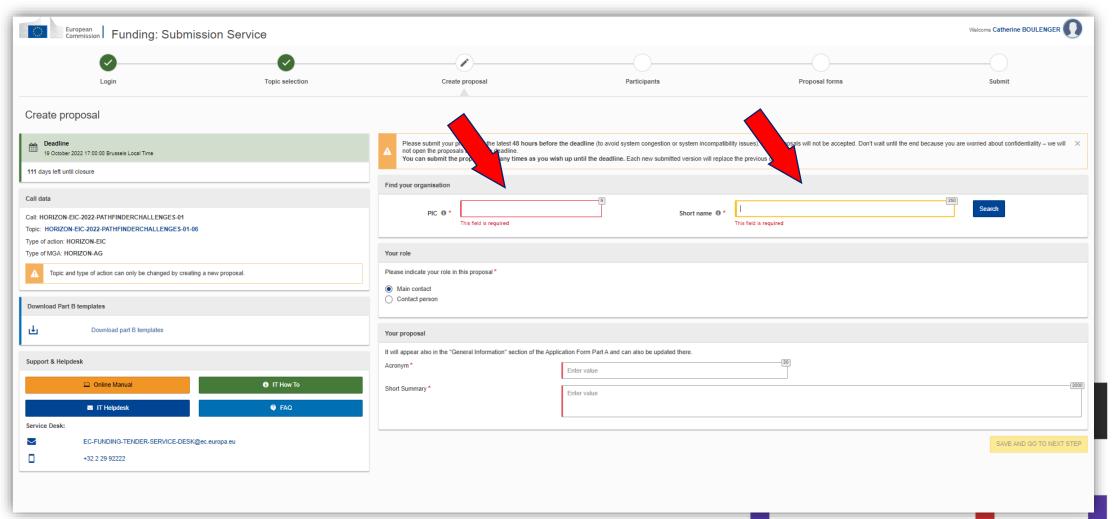
Please select the type of your submission:

HORIZON EIC Grants [HORIZON-EIC], HORIZON Action Grant Budget-Based [HORIZON-AG]









Application form (Part A and B)



- □ Part A: Administrative part of the proposal
- □ Part B: Narrative part of the proposal (core proposal)
 - > Section 1: Excellence
 - > Section 2: Impact
 - > Section 3: Quality and efficiency of the implementation
- Additional important aspects:
 - ➤ How to deal with ethical aspects? (in Part A)
 - ➤ How to protect and exploit Intellectual Property?
 - > additional provisions in Work Programme: Annex 7
 - > How to communicate and disseminate results?



Admissibility and Eligibility of proposals

Admissibility is checked by the Agency.

- Applications must be complete and contain the requested administrative data and the proposal description;.
- Applications must be readable, accessible and printable.
- A specific page limit of 25 A4 pages applies for part B of the proposal.



Admissibility and Eligibility of proposals

A proposal will be considered eligible if:

- Its content corresponds, wholly or in part, to the topic description for which it is submitted (so called in-scope, contrary to out-of-scope)
- Minimum number of partners as set out in the call conditions is respected.

Applicants for **mono-beneficiary** actions must be established in a Member State or Associated Country (mid-caps and larger companies are not permitted).

Proposals for **multi-beneficiary** actions:

- 2 beneficiaries: two independent legal entities, each established in two different Member States or Associated Countries;
- 3 or more beneficiaries: at least three independent legal entities, with at least one legal entity established in a Member State and at least two other independent legal entities, each established in different Member States or Associated Countries.

For calls with deadlines in <u>2022</u> and onwards participants that are public bodies, research organisations or higher education establishments from Members States and Associated countries must have a gender equality plan in place.



Who is eligible for funding:



COUNTRIES AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR FUNDING:

- Member States (MS) including their outermost regions.
- Countries associated to Horizon Europe (AC)
- Low and middle income countries. See <u>programme-guide_horizon_en.pdf</u> (europa.eu)







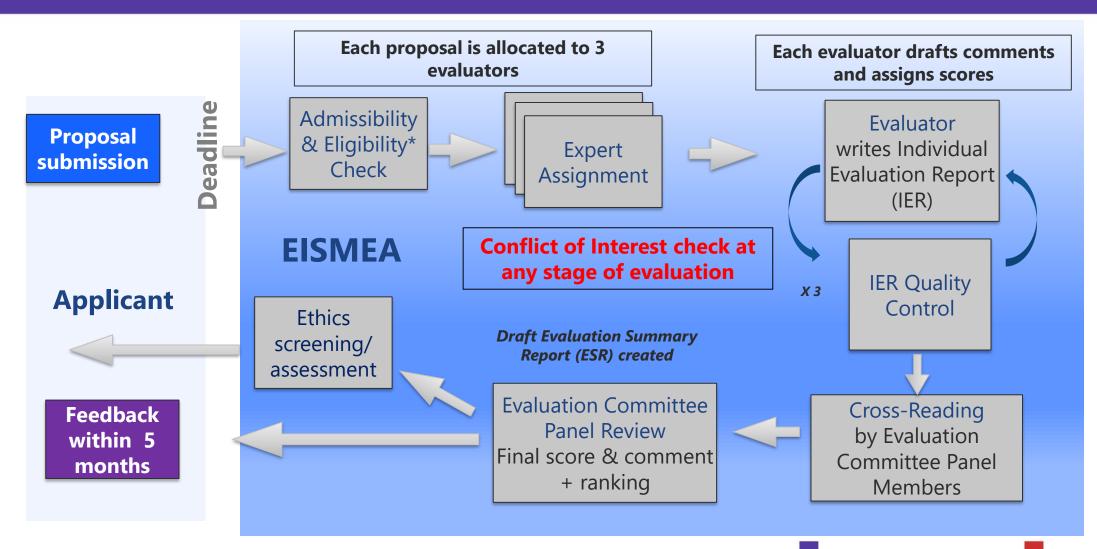
Applicants not automatically eligible for funding can still participate without funding (Associated Partner), or may receive 'exceptional funding'.

In that case, the proposal should explain why exceptional funding should be granted. Participation is considered **essential** for the action if there are clear benefits for the consortium, such as:

- outstanding competence/expertise
- access to research infrastructure
- access to particular geographical environments
- access to data

Pathfinder Challenges Evaluation process





Step 1: evaluation against award criteria



- EIC expert evaluators to assess each application separately against the defined award criteria:
 - Excellence
 - Impact
 - Quality and efficiency of the implementation.
- Remote score for each award criterion is the median of the evaluators' scores.
- Overall remote score is weighted sum of three median scores from three award criteria.



Award criterion "Excellence"



- Objectives and relevance to the Challenge: How clear are the project's objectives? How
 relevant are they in contributing to the overall goal and the specific objectives of the
 Challenge?
- Novelty: To what extent is the proposed work ambitious and goes beyond the state-of-theart?
- **Plausibility of the methodology:** How sound is the proposed methodology, including the underlying concepts, models, assumptions, appropriate consideration of the gender dimension in research content, and the quality of open science practices?





Award criterion "Impact"



- **Potential Impact:** How credible are the pathways to achieve the expected outcomes and impacts of the Challenge? To what extent would the successful completion of the project contribute to this?
- **Innovation potential:** How adequate are the proposed measures for protection of results and any other exploitation measures to facilitate future translation of research results into innovations with positive societal, economic or environmental impact? How suitable are the proposed measures for involving and empowering key actors that have the potential to take the lead in translating research into innovations in the future?
- **Communication and Dissemination:** How suitable are the proposed measures, including communication activities, to maximise expected outcomes and impacts for raising awareness about the project results' potential to establish new markets and/or address global challenges?



Weight 20%



Award criterion "Quality and efficiency of the implementation"



- Quality of the applicant/consortium (depends if mono or multi-beneficiaries): To what extent do(es) the applicant/consortium members have all the necessary high quality expertise for performing the project tasks?
- Work plan: How coherent and effective are the work plan (work packages, tasks, deliverables, milestones, timeline, etc.) and risk mitigation measures in order to achieve the project objectives?
- Allocation of resources: How appropriate and effective is the allocation of resources (person-months and equipment) to tasks and consortium members?



Interpretation of the scores





The proposal **fails to address the criterion** or cannot be assessed due to missing or incomplete information.



Poor. The criterion is inadequately addressed, or there are serious inherent weaknesses.

- 2
- Fair. The proposal broadly addresses the criterion, but there are significant weaknesses.
- 3

Good. The proposal addresses the criterion well, but a number of shortcomings are present.

4

Very Good. The proposal addresses the criterion very well, but a small number of shortcomings are present.

45

Excellent. The proposal successfully addresses all relevant aspects of the criterion. Any shortcomings are minor.

Step 2: Selection of proposals for funding



- Ranking list of proposals will be established based on:
 - the **evaluation scores** from the first step;
 - **each proposal's contribution** to the setting up of a consistent Challenge Portfolio of projects.
- Portfolio considerations are detailed in Pathfinder Challenge Guide
- Evaluation committee to select a consistent portfolio of proposals to be funded
- Evaluation committee may also propose adjustments to the proposals.

Feedback to applicants Evaluation Summary Report (ESR)



> Letter to:

- ☐ Invite for grant agreement preparation
- ☐ Decision of rejection from funding (below threshold, or insufficient budget)
- ☐ Inform that proposal is on reserve list

> Evaluation Summary Report:

- □ Collation of all individual comments, per sub-criterion, from all 3 Individual Evaluation Reports (IER) may be mutually contradicting (no consensus): <u>full transparency</u>
- ☐ Final score, per criterion, as <u>decided by the final Evaluation Committee Panel Review</u> and the proposal total score is <u>calculated as a weighted sum of scores from all 3</u> criteria
- ☐ Final Evaluation Committee Panel Review adds also some additional comments





Further information and support

• Entry points

EIC website

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/index_en

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-funding-opportunities/eic-pathfinder_en

https://eic.ec.europa.eu/eic-frequently-asked-questions_en

Funding and Tender Portal

reference documents (Work Programme, guidance documents, templates) : https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/how-to-participate/reference-documents

support section (guidance and manuals, FAQs, support videos): https://ec.europa.eu/info/funding-tenders/opportunities/portal/screen/support/support

Ask your own questions via the Research Enquiry Service

National Contact Points (NCPs)
 https://horizoneuropencpportal.eu/



Thank you!

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