

# Backing visionary entrepreneurs

The European Innovation Council  
EIC Accelerator

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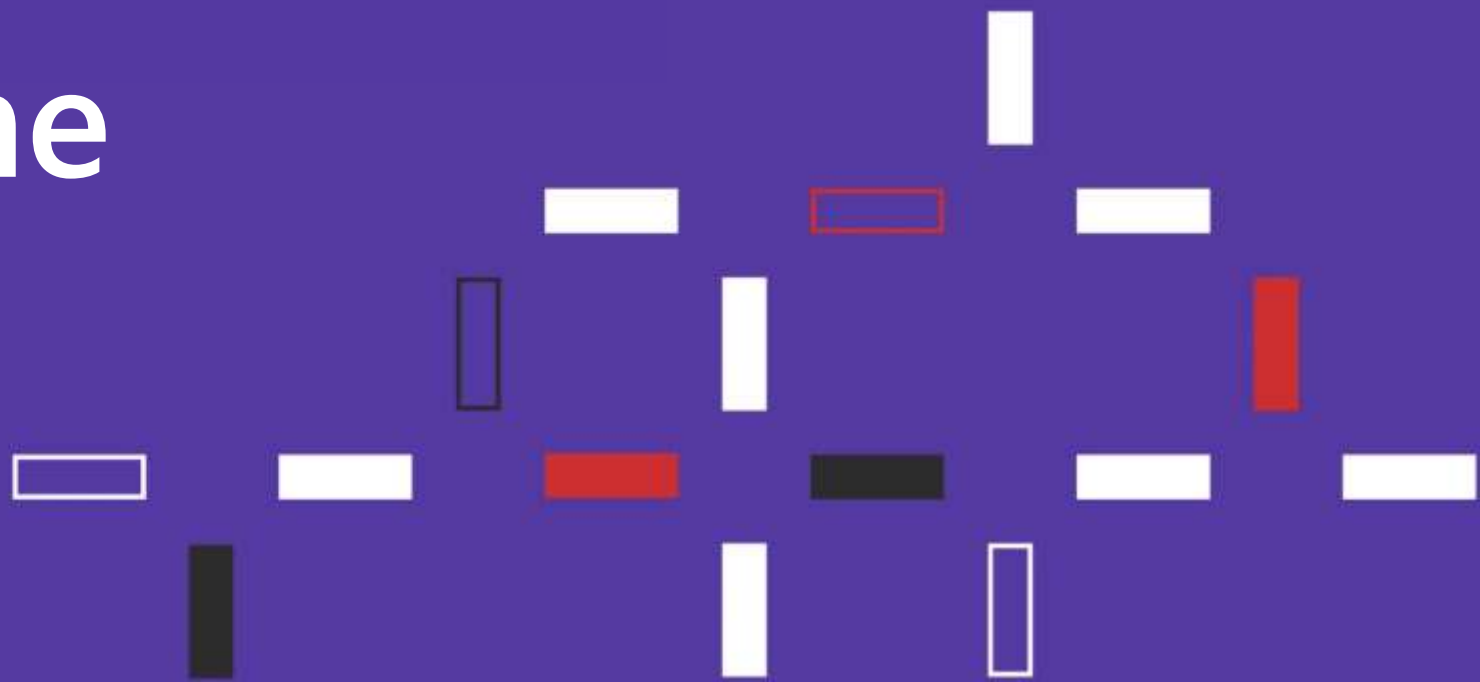
19/03/2021

European  
Innovation  
Council





# The EIC Accelerator Programme





# What are we looking for?

**Start-ups and SMEs** seeking to **scale up** high impact innovations with the **potential to create new markets** or disrupt existing ones

Innovations building on **scientific discovery** or technological breakthroughs ('**deep tech**')

Innovations where **significant funding** is needed over a **long timeframe** and are **too risky** for private investors alone



# What support can you receive?

## Grant and investment

If you need support for development (TRL 5/6 → 8), deployment and scale-up (TRL 9).

## Grant first

If your innovation still requires significant work to validate and demonstrate in relevant environments to assess its commercial potential.

## Grant only

If you can prove that you have sufficient financial means for deployment and scale-up (TRL 9).

## Investment only

If you are looking to fill the funding gap for rapid scale-up of your high-risk innovation and you don't need a grant.





## Investment component

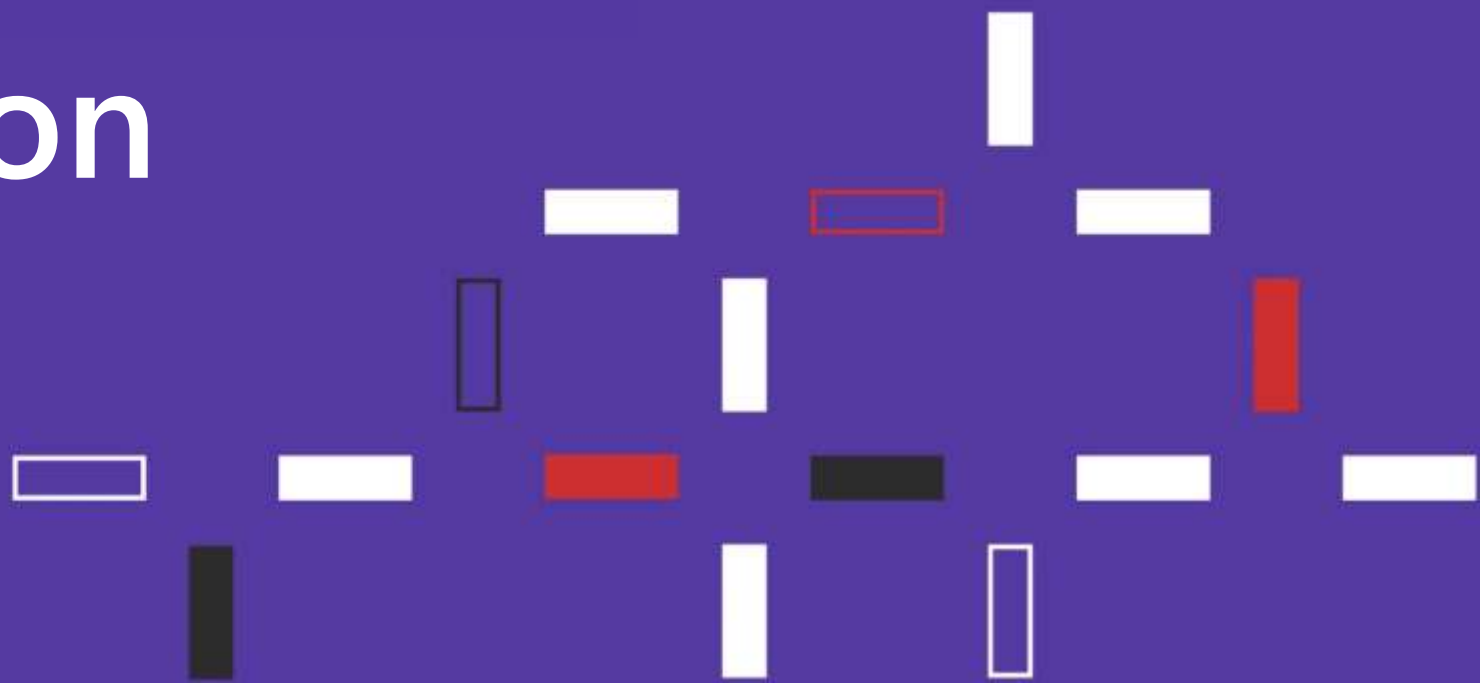
- minimum EUR 0.5 million and maximum EUR 15 million,
- usually in the form of direct equity or quasi-equity,
- maximum 25% of the voting shares of the company,
- “patient capital” principle (7-10 years perspective on average).

## Grant component

- maximum EUR 2.5 million,
- eligible costs are reimbursed up to a maximum of 70%,
- innovation activities supported should be completed within 24 months,
- small mid-caps are not eligible for grant (but can apply for investment only).



# The Business Acceleration Services





# Tailor-made services for all EIC beneficiaries

## Access to advise

- Coaching, mentoring, expertise and training

## Access to business partners

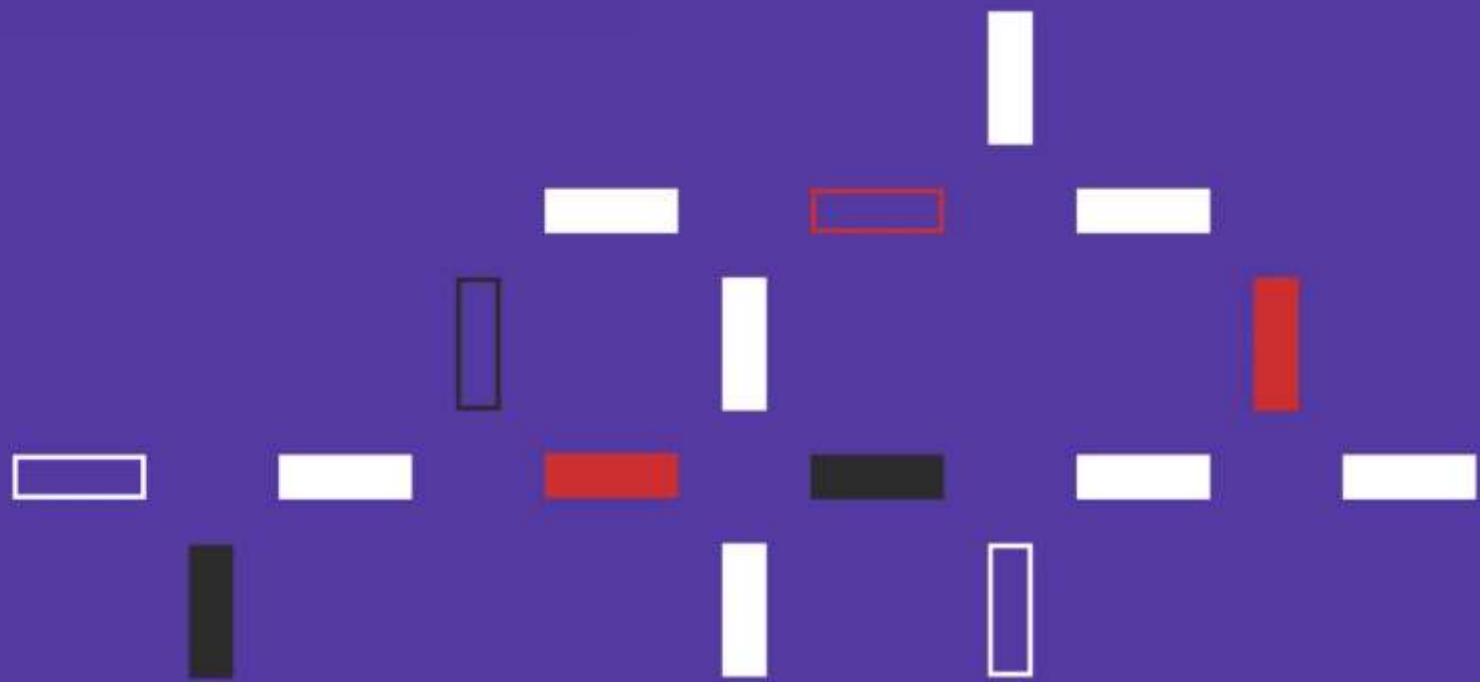
- Corporates, investors, distributors, innovation procurers, clients & more

## Access to innovation ecosystems & peers

- EIT KICs, incubators, accelerators, innovation agencies, associations, stock exchanges, EEN, IPR Helpdesk, EUIPO



# The Evaluation Process







## 7 guiding principles

1. **Timeliness**: continuously open call for ideas – innovators can submit their ideas whenever they wish. Just-in-time evaluations.
2. **Support services for innovators**: AI-based IT platform and business coaching to help applicants to further develop and improve their initial idea and draft their proposal.
3. **Enhance the quality of evaluation**: limit resubmissions of rejected proposals: drastic reduction in the number of proposals to evaluate, allowing more time to evaluate every proposal.



4. **Reward effort**: create a “second chance” for very good to excellent proposals failing to get funding at the interview.
5. **Encourage radical ideas and risk-taking attitude**: avoid forcing consensus between evaluators, allow dissent. This novel approach acknowledges that choices made during the various stages of the evaluation process cannot be 100% objective. GO/NO-GO decisions.
6. **Enhance transparency**: provide detailed feedback to applicants (even if evaluators dissent).
7. **Promote innovativeness and disruptiveness**: new state-of-the-art Artificial Intelligence-based platform for the submission and evaluation of EIC proposal.



# Calls and timeline

## Continuously Open Call

- **Short application**
- Call open as from adoption of the work programme
- Remote evaluation results within 2-4 weeks

## Accelerator Open and Challenges

- **Full application**
- **June 9 and October 6** cut-off dates
- Choose between Open or Challenges
- Remote evaluation results within 5 weeks
- Interviews 9 weeks after cut-off



# The evaluation step by step



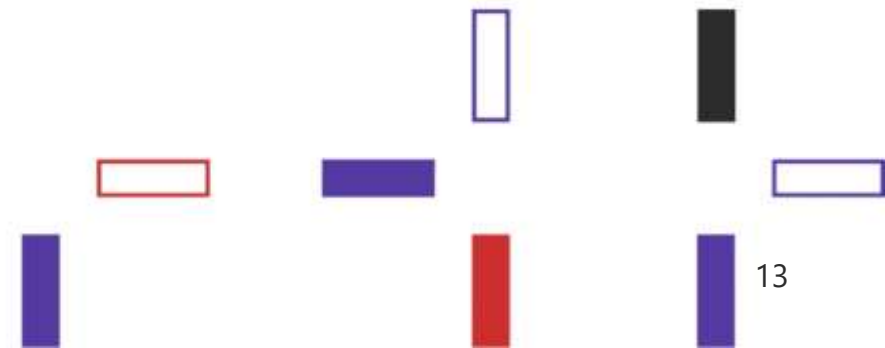


# Short application: your idea

STEP

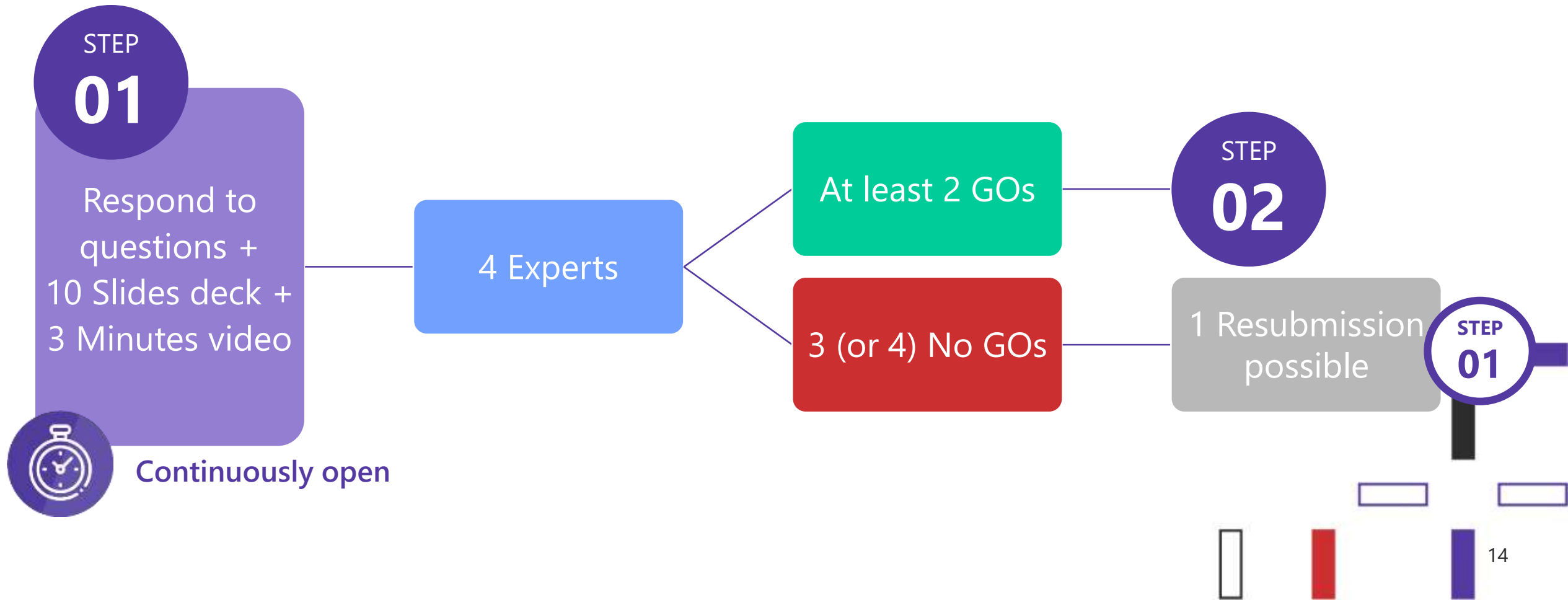
01

- Respond to a set of questions on the EIC AI-based IT platform
- Submit a 10 slides presentation
- Submit a 3 minutes video pitch





# Short application: evaluation process



# Full proposal: your business plan

STEP

02

- Prepare a business plan supported by the EIC AI-based platform and with the help of an EIC business coach (not mandatory)
- Submit your full proposal



Continuously open

STEP

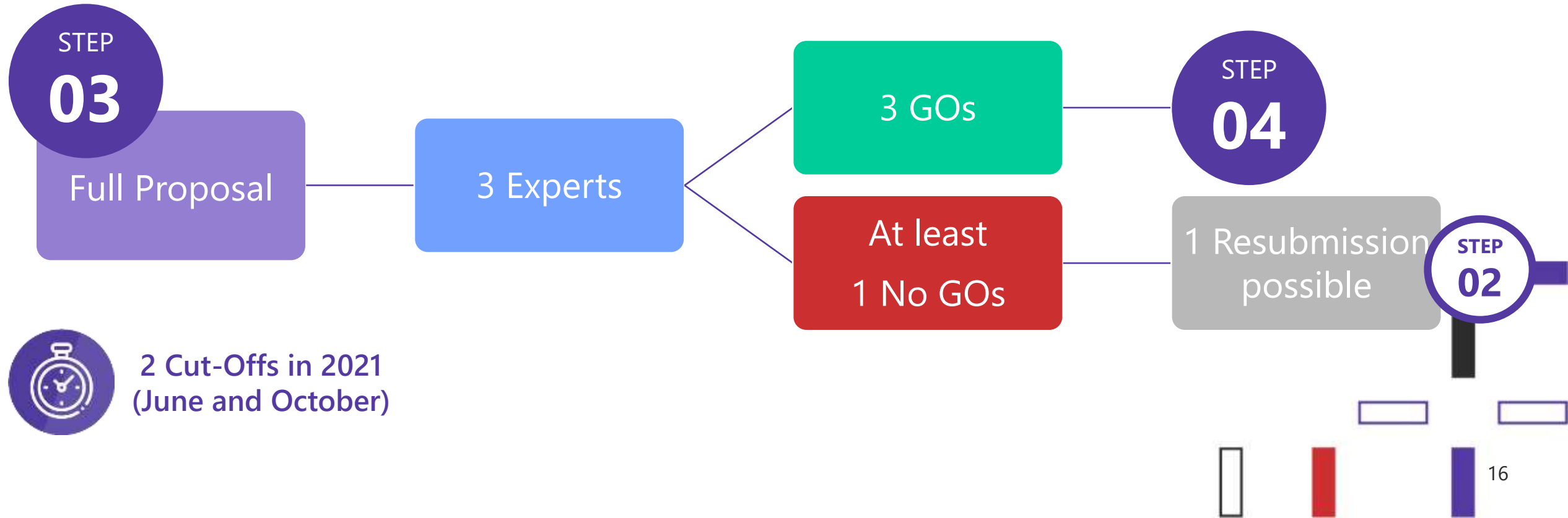
02

Prepare your  
business plan  
with the AI tool  
and a coach +  
Submit a  
proposal

STEP

03

# Full proposal: remote evaluation process







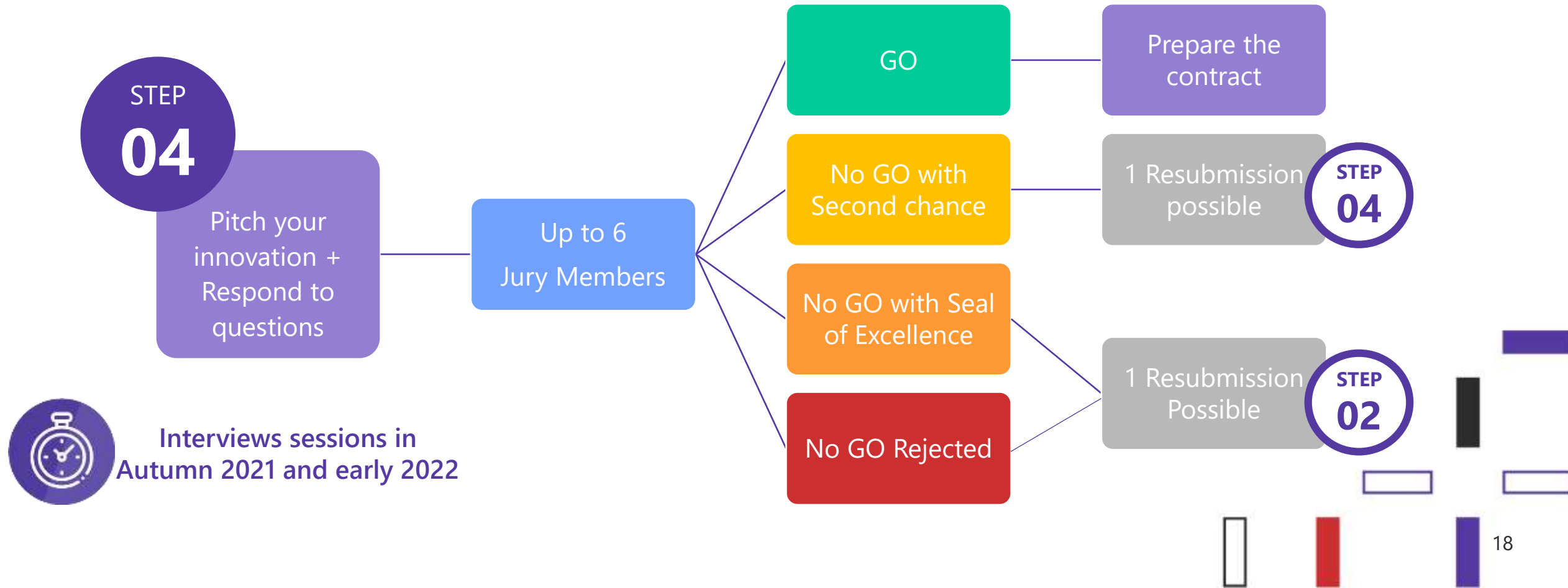
# Interview: pitch your innovation

STEP

04

- Pitch your innovation to the EIC Jury Members composed of serial entrepreneurs, innovation specialists and senior investors
- Answer the questions from the EIC Jury Members
- If selected, you will sign the contract

# Full proposal: remote evaluation process



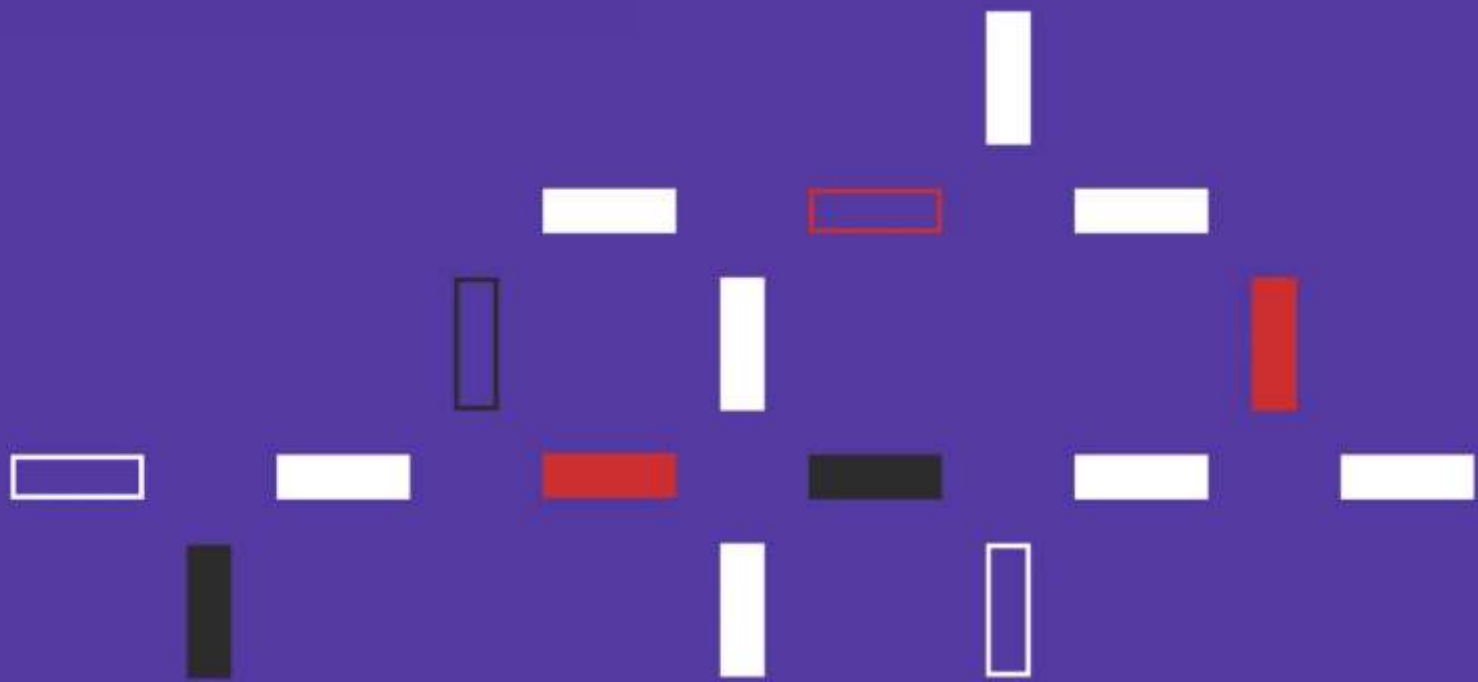


## Seal of Excellence

- Awarded to applicants with GO on all criteria at remote evaluation and GO on “excellence” and “impact” by the jury
- Seal of Excellence companies receive access to EIC Business Acceleration Services
- Seal of Excellence companies receive support from Enterprise Europe Network to secure other funding
- To be eligible for Seal of Excellence, applicants must give consent to share basic data to other funding & support bodies



# The Resubmission Rules





# Short application

STEP

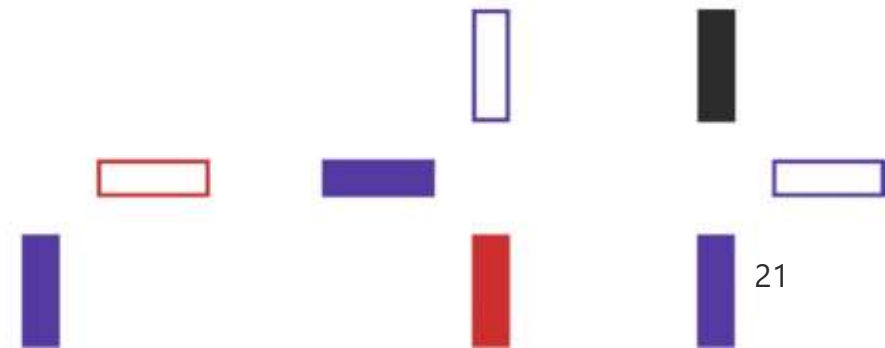
01

## 1. If rejected one time

One resubmission allowed at any time.

## 2. If rejected a second time

No new submission will be allowed for 12 months, at which point you may only submit a new or significantly improved proposal to the short application stage.





# Full proposal

STEP

03

## 1. If rejected one time

One resubmission directly to the remote evaluation at one of the following two cut-offs, but with an improved proposal.

## 2. If rejected a second time

No resubmission will be allowed for 12 months, at which point you may only submit a new or significantly improved proposal to the short application stage.



# Interview

STEP

04

## 1. If rejected one time but you get a second chance

Resubmission of a revised application directly to one of the next two interviews. The revised application must address the specific issues identified by the jury. Permitted only once.

## 2. If rejected one time but you get a seal of excellence

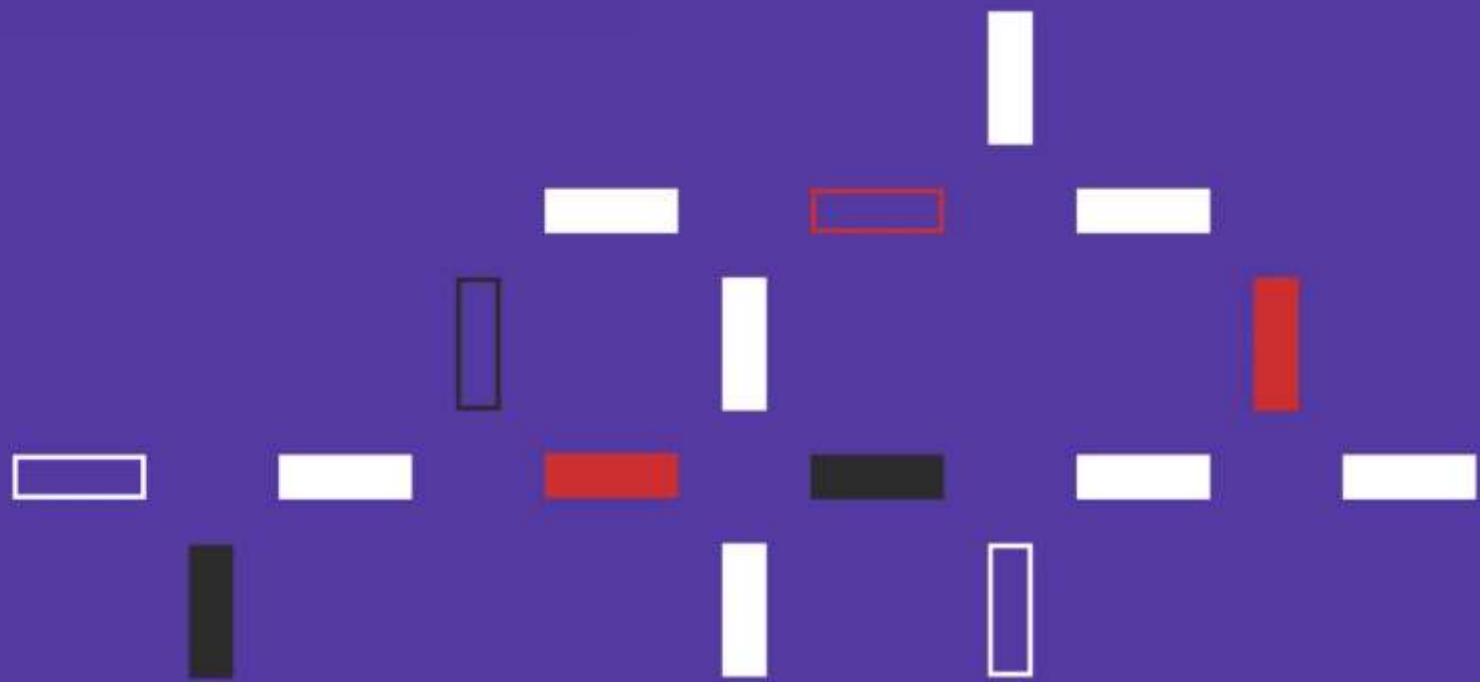
One resubmission directly to the remote evaluation at one of the following two cut-offs, but with an improved proposal.

## 3. If rejected a second time

No resubmission will be allowed for 12 months, at which point you may only submit a new or significantly improved proposal to the short application stage.



# The AI-based platform







# A tool for both Applicants and Evaluators





# Thank you!

@EUeic

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