



Access2EIC

European Innovation Council online Info Day - Work Programme 2023

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APRE

Access2EIC is a 7-year coordination and support action which builds upon the foundations laid by previous EIC support networks and in line with the new Horizon Europe Framework Programme. It aims to:

- **Improve professionalisation and skills of NCPs** across Europe which in turn will help to simplify access to Horizon Europe calls, lowering the entry barriers for newcomers, and raise the average quality of proposals submitted particularly for women entrepreneurs and in widening countries.
- **Identify and share good practices, promote trans-national cooperation and raise the general standard of support to programme applicants**, taking into consideration the novelties under Horizon Europe, the third pillar “Innovative Europe” and the various stakeholders within the EIC-EIE.

Duration	84 months
Starting date	1st February 2022
GA n.	101046298
Work Programme	European Innovation Council Work Programme 2021
Topic	HORIZON-EIC-2021-NCP-01-01



ACCESS2EIC is the network of 16 partners who share the common purpose to work as a network of EIC NCPs supporting national applicants and raising the quality of applications submitted under the EIC 2021-2027.

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- **Improve NCP capacities** to gather and provide systemic knowledge (NCP Curriculum) to clients across different EIC-EIE calls.
- **Identify and share good practices**, key success factors for EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator proposal preparation based on the experiences of previously funded projects
- **Identify synergies between the EIC & complementary instruments, networks and knowledge communities** and to establish coordination mechanisms and develop case studies in order to enhance the competences of NCPs to **connect to various stakeholders within the European Innovation Ecosystem**
- **Identify most relevant novelties in the new generation of financial instruments (EIC Fund, InvestEU)** and communicate about them; **foster the use of financial instruments** to complete the EU funding continuum for high potential businesses actors participating or emerging from EIC calls, and to **develop a better understanding of VC co-investments with the EIC-Fund.**
- **Enhancing the outreach of this Network** through strategic information, communication and dissemination activities; to **provide support in establishing complementarities and capacity building between the EIC Network and stakeholders in the EIE**



Impacts

- **An improved, professionalised EIC NCP service across Europe** which helps simplify access to EIC calls including NCPs from less experienced low participation countries.
- **Availability of more effective tools for EIC potential applicants** leading to **lowering the entry barriers** for newcomers and organization located in those Countries participating insufficiently at EIC calls **including widening and women participants**, and **raising the average quality of proposals submitted**.
- **Further developing the role of NCPs within the EIE** and engaging the stakeholders to cooperate in order to strengthen the European innovation Ecosystem.
- **Maximizing the synergies between EIC companies, innovators with investors and more effective utilization of financial engineering instruments** and potential to unlock private investments and access to related investor's facilities, building further the European Innovation Ecosystem through targeting of these stakeholders.
- **Increasing awareness by potential applicants on EIC opportunities in Horizon Europe countries**, including tools, programmes & financial instruments, targeting widening and women entrepreneurs.



Specific needs

- NCPs need to be trained on the novelties of the EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator in order to improve the number and the quality of participants and applications, particularly from women and widening countries.
- Need to develop an understanding into the EIC including best practices, and to develop tools, guide and factsheet for NCPs and beneficiaries.
- NCPs have different level of knowledge and with a turnover of NCPs affecting knowledge base.
- Bridge the various programmes and support mechanisms within Horizon Europe and national/regional level to develop a cohesive European Innovation Ecosystem.
- Role of investors are fundamental in supporting successful breakthrough innovation.
- Need to create a targeted communication strategy of the EI in order to rise awareness of the programme and increase participation.



Target groups

- EIC-EIE NCPs including low performing countries and widening countries
- Applicant / potential applicant including researchers, SMEs, universities, innovators, women entrepreneurs

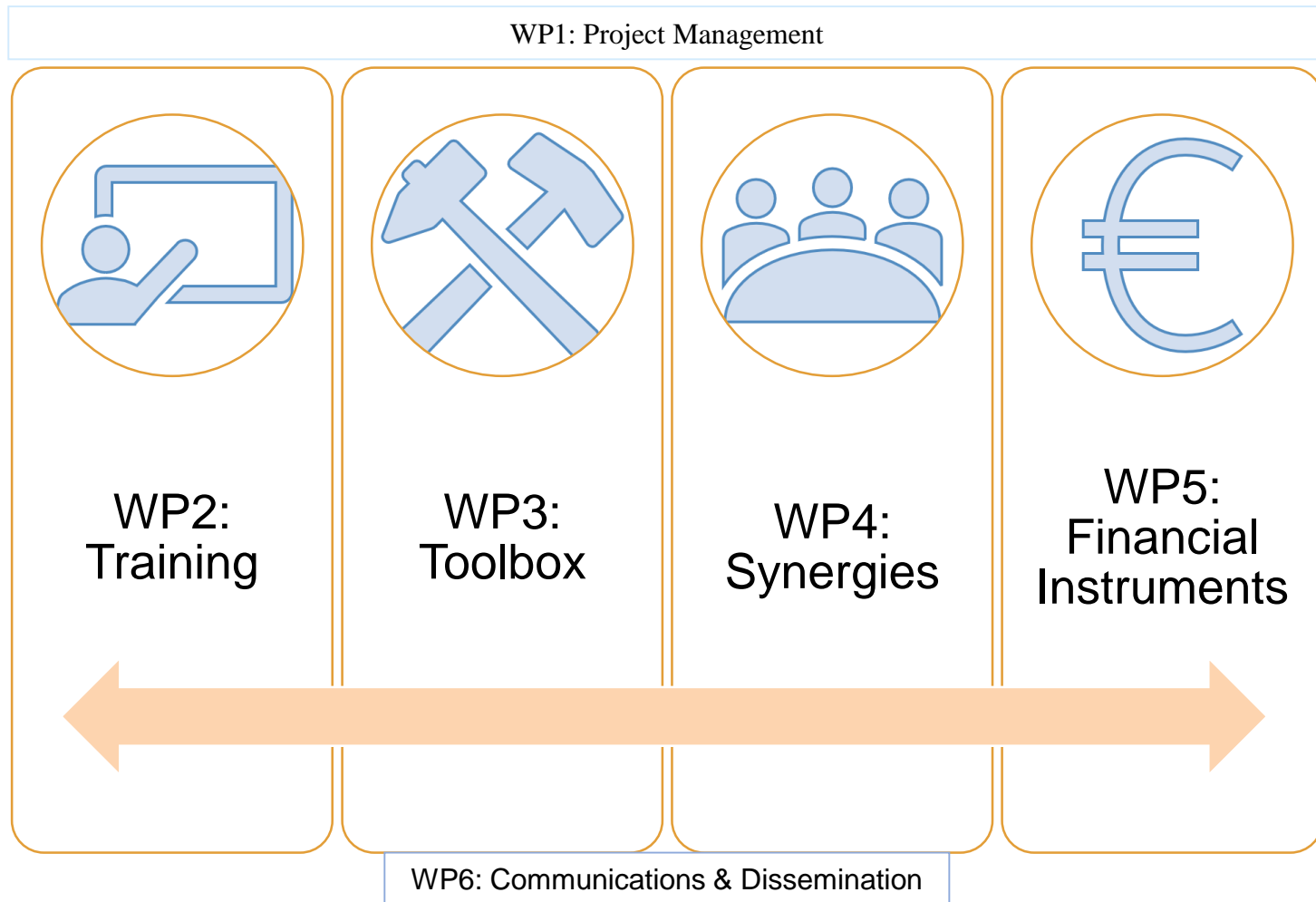
Multipliers: Other NCPs networks, Innovation agencies, chambers of Commerce.

Networks and Support Mechanism: IPR Helpdesk, Digital Innovation Hubs, Euroquity...

Key Stakeholders: EC (EIC Advisory Board, EISMEA, EIC Programme Managers, DG RTD/CONNECT, National/regional Governments, private/public VCs, InvestEU



Structure





Work packages

- **WP 2 – Training**

Increase the competence and quality of work of EIC NCPs analysing needs of the NCPs and organizing trainings & workshops

- **WP 3 – Project quality – identifying and sharing good practices in EIC projects**

Methods for better support in EIC project proposal preparation and develop a set of support measures for applications in EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator

- **WP 4 - Synergies between the EIC and Horizon Europe**

Identify synergies between the EIC and complementary instruments, networks and knowledge communities and to establish coordination mechanisms and develop case studies.

- **WP 5 - Fostering use of financial instruments**

Identifying novelties of financial instruments (EIC Fund, InvestEU) and communicate about them; matchmaking and understanding of VC co-investments with the EIC-Fund.



Expected results

- Successful organisation of training and M&E activities
- Development of dedicated support measures for EIC Pathfinder, Transition and Accelerator
- Analysis of applied solutions and best practices, development of case studies on SoE, EIC plugin and Fast-track
- Establishing exchange mechanism with EEN and thematic groups
- Guide to financial instruments, study on co-investments in the EIC, as well as on-site mentoring visits.
- Awareness raising activities on the EIC to stakeholders including widening and women entrepreneurs.



Follow the network

• **Website:**



Access2EIC
National Contact Points for Innovation

<https://access2eic.eu>

• **Contact us on our email:**



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Thank you for your attention!!!

Valentina Fioroni – APRE (coordinator)